



Planning

Date: March 1, 2021

To: Members of the City Council

From: Brian Buzby, Chair, Durham Planning Commission

Subject: 2020 Planning Commission Annual Report

In compliance with the Planning Interlocal Agreement, I am submitting this report on behalf of the Durham City-County Planning Commission. The report covers the 2020 calendar year.

As you know, the year 2020 was challenging for everyone. The Planning Commission's ability to meet and conduct business was only briefly impacted from COVID-19. The staff worked diligently to set us up in a virtual environment quickly. We did not meet in April of 2020 but we were back up and running virtually by the end of May 2020. The Commission and staff worked many hours to bring cases to public hearings for review and action. Between June and September of 2020, the Commission met two to three times monthly to catch up on cases that were waiting for their appearance at the Planning Commission. In addition to regularly scheduled meetings and special meetings, we held several committee meetings and a retreat, with a focus on the new Comprehensive Plan.

Last year also saw two highly regarded members depart from the Planning Commission. Elaine Hyman was term limited, and George Brine decided (after several terms spread over many years) to not seek reappointment. Two other members relocated their residences outside of Durham. Following all these departures we have welcomed a total of four new members since July.

During the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, the Commission heard 13 plan amendments, 34 zoning map changes, eight UDO text amendments, and the Annual Work Program. In 2020, the Planning Commission acted on 17 more cases than we did in the previous year. Overall member attendance was good in 2020, with most members attending at least 90% of the meetings.

The Planning Commission looks forward to working closely with citizens, staff and elected officials to continue the work toward adopting a new Comprehensive Plan. Thank you for your support as we continue this important work for Durham.