

Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, November 13, 2023
Tamassee DAR School

Members Present

Charlie Whiten

Tessa Moxley

Kim Alexander

Josh Owens

Rex Blanton

Staff Present

James Coley

Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Ms. Alexander called the November 13 meeting to order at 6:01pm
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Approval of minutes-** November 6, 2023. Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Owens and approved 5/0.
6. **Announcements:**
 - **Mission goals and vision.**
 - **Members of the board and contact information.**
 - **Partner organizations.**
 - **Citizen initiated zoning.**
7. History of the Golden Corner Industrial Park and discussion about ramifications of Sewer South infrastructure
 - Jamie Gilbert is on our December agenda to discuss possible industry recruitments that will support Oconee County Agriculture.
8. **Public discussion Session** [*3 minutes per person*] *If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting the Planning Department at planninginfo@oconeesc.com or 864-638-4218, so that we may receive your comment and read it into the record.*
 - Discussion ensued about the state of logging in the county, and the decline in industry since the mid-1990s. Concerns were expressed about the over-importation of goods that are driving the prices down of domestically produced materials.
 - Energy generators that burn pulp wood/pellets to produce electricity, thus supporting the timber industry and creating energy.
 - i. Ms. Alexander-made phone calls to Blue Ridge Electric about the

possibility, but was told that we are not de-regulated, therefore cannot start this industry.

- ii. According to the Canton Mill, a "Wood Basket" is a 200-mile radius.
 - Ms. Alexander: Cargill could be a potentially good industry to recruit since Oconee County is number one in the state for poultry.
 - The price of land in Oconee County has gotten too high to afford to farm.
 - Sentiments were expressed that next to poultry, logging is one of the most disliked and misunderstood industries; folks are not educated in how it works. Discussion ensued about the importance of education for the public, so that they vote to support their interests. Trees are a renewable resource.
 - The lack of a pulp mill is going to severely impact the timber industry.
- 9. Adjourn:** Mr. Whiten made a motion to adjourn at 7:19pm, seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 5/0.