10-21-2020 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #2: Continue Discussion of Chapter 160D Updates to Land Use Management Ordinance and Town Code of Ordinances

Council Question:

What is the default rule for approvals with vested rights in terms of length of time approvals are valid?

Staff Response:

The default rule for approved plans, which are not designated as site-specific vesting plans, is one year. After one year, the approval expires if the applicant has not substantially commenced work. If the approval expires, an applicant would be required to reapply, and any new/revised development regulations would be applicable to the new application.

Council Question:

Do we have a sense of what Planning Commission thinks of the options, including the suggested alternative? If not, can we get their input before Council makes a decision on the suggested alternative, earlier than later?

Staff Response:

Staff has not yet presented to the Planning Commission regarding Advisory Board review of SUPs. We are interested in getting direction from Council before seeking input from the Planning Commission and other Advisory Boards. A Joint Advisory Board meeting on 160D is tentatively scheduled for early December, which would be an opportunity to discuss this topic. We can share the input received at that meeting with Council, and we welcome any suggestions for further Advisory Board engagement. In addition, the Planning Commission will need to review the draft 160D text amendment ordinance before it goes to Council Public Hearing.

Council Question:

How many bona fide farms are in Chapel Hill's ETJ? Where are these farms?

Staff Response:

There are nine bona fide farms in Chapel Hill ETJ. The attached map identifies bona fide farms in Chapel Hill town limits and Chapel Hill ETJ. A portion of one bona fide farm in town limits, along Seawell School Rd, extends into the Town of Carrboro ETJ.

