

The City of Downs Planning Commission met in regular session June 30, 2014, 5:30 p.m. at city hall. Members present: Bill Cushing, Don Heiland, Linda Miller, Tim Parker, and Doug Brush. Members absent: Randy Koops, Jennifer Cooper. Also in attendance: Mayor Jennifer Brush, John Riggs, Frances Meyeres, Jack Gracey, Bruce Berkley, Vickie Oviatt.

Chairman Bill Cushing called the meeting to order.

Bill introduced discussion regarding allowing garages/accessory buildings on vacant lots by special use permit. Linda said there are pros and cons to it. Bill said that there would need to be some kind of control to it, maybe through an overlay. John Riggs was present for questions. Frances Meyeres had reviewed areas of town and suggested that the commission start with sending out questionnaires. She also said that she is a grant writer and could check on grants for demolition.

Bruce presented information for an overlay zone covering which could be allowed, with restrictions, by special use issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals. One problem noted was the matter of enforcement.

John Riggs asked about a building code, but there has to be the will to enforce it. Bill noted the financial burden of enforcement. John Riggs said that the City of Medicine Lodge recently allowed accessory buildings in all zoned areas except R-1 zones with a special use review. That would allow the city to control and review the buildings.

There was lengthy discussion. Frances presented a notebook of research she had collected along with tax information and pictures.

John Riggs finalized the process. First the planning commission should designate the areas and once the proposal is solid, they would hold a public hearing. After the hearing they would present their findings to the city council.

Don moved, seconded by Doug, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

Vickie Oviatt
DPC Secretary