

**HARRIS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION**

May 17, 2023  
7:00 PM

Members Present: Gene Weldon, Nancy McMichael, Becky Langston, Tommy Hutcherson, Mark Harris, Jarrod Lloyd.  
Members Absent: Paul Dasher. Staff Present: Brian Williams, Community Development Director; Andrea Dzioba, Recording Secretary.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Gene Weldon called the meeting to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 Regular Session was made by Vice-Chair McMichael, seconded by Mr. Hutcherson, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Decisions by Board of Commissioners of May 2, 2023**

- (1) Application of John Clarence Wilkes, III, for a Special Use Permit for a private kennel to breed five dogs on a 4.94-acre parcel located at 20320 GA Hwy 116, Shiloh, GA; Located on Map 094, Parcel 044, Land Lot 250, Land District 22, and zoned A-1 (Agricultural/Forestry)

Motion to approve the application for a Special Use Permit for a private kennel to breed five dogs passed unanimously with conditions that the applicant shall maintain the existing wooded buffer on the eastern, southern, and western sides of the facility site; and that the number of dogs are not to exceed five dogs.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Preliminary Plat (Renewal) - Coca Lake - Section Two - Mountain Lake Addition (5 Lots); Location - South end of Mountain Lake Court, Cataula, GA; Developer - Harris Developers, LLC.** Anthony Slaughter, Moon Meeks & Associates, Inc., appeared before the Commission to provide information and to respond to questions.

A motion to approve the Preliminary Plat (Renewal) - Coca Lake - Section Two - Mountain Lake Addition (5 Lots); Location - South end of Mountain Lake Court, Cataula, GA; Developer - Harris Developers, LLC. was made by Vice-Chair McMichael, seconded by Mr. Lloyd, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Preliminary Plat (Renewal) - Coca Lake - Second Addition to Section Ten (19 Lots); Location - South end of Pinewood Way, Cataula, GA; Developer Harris Developers, LLC.** Anthony Slaughter, Moon Meeks & Associates, Inc., appeared before the Commission to provide information and to respond to questions.

A motion to approve the Preliminary Plat (Renewal) - Coca Lake - Second Addition to Section Ten (19 Lots); Location - South end of Pinewood Way, Cataula, GA; Developer - Harris Developers, LLC. was made by Vice-Chair McMichael, seconded by Mr. Lloyd, and passed unanimously.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING at 7:15 p.m.**

- A. **Explanation of Public Hearing.** Chairman Weldon explained the procedures involved for the Public Hearing.

B. **Application of Jon Haralson, to rezone a 2.73-acre parcel, located on Map 060, Parcel 042, Land Lot 62, Land District 21<sup>st</sup>; Rezoning from A-1 (Agricultural/Forestry) to C-4 (Highway Commercial); Current use is vacant property; proposed use is for a wildlife rehabilitation business; property located at 303 Hudson Mill Road, Hamilton, GA.**

Chairman Gene Weldon called the Public Hearing to order and introduced the proposed application. Jon Haralson, Applicant, and Laura Daggerhart, Founder and Executive Director of Savage Hart, appeared before the Commission to provide information and to respond to questions. Discussion included that Savage Hart was stated in 2020; that it has three rehabilitators; that the business is not open to the public; that there is no signage; that the property abuts the walking trail and the business is preferred to not be seen from the trail; that Savage Hart does not want to draw attention; that there is a gate and there is no access without a key; and that everything is toward the rear of the property.

Chairman Weldon asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of this application.

Angie Tommey, citizen who lives on Mount Airy Road, appeared before the Commission and advised that she found a fawn that had been hit and Savage Hart came out. She advised that she has had a personal experience with Savage Hart and it has been “a blessing” to have someone to call.

Dr. Laura Johnson, citizen who lives on Lane Circle in LaGrange and works at the Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, appeared before the Commission and stated that she received two to three calls per day related to injured wildlife and constantly refers them to Savage Hart for foxes, peacocks, and others.

Gregg Austensen, citizen who lives on Peed Smith Road, appeared before the Commission and advised that he did not have any objections; that the services are needed here; and that he was curious about signage.

There being no additional speakers in favor of the application, he asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition to this application. There were no individuals wishing to speak in opposition.

There being no additional speakers Chairman Weldon closed the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m. and asked that the Impact Sheets be completed.

A motion to approve the Application of Jon Haralson, to rezone a 2.73-acre parcel located at 303 Hudson Mill Road, Hamilton, GA from A-1 (Agricultural/Forestry) to C-4 (Highway Commercial); with the conditions that the property be used for wildlife rehabilitation and conservation efforts as stated on the application; and that the property maintain its vegetative buffer as well as construct any privacy fencing around the proposed kennels and existing shed as provided in the submitted plan was made by Vice-Chair McMichael, seconded by Mrs. Langston, and passed unanimously.

6. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hutcherson, seconded by Mrs. Langston, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Gene Weldon, Chairman

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Andrea R. Dzioba, Recording Secretary