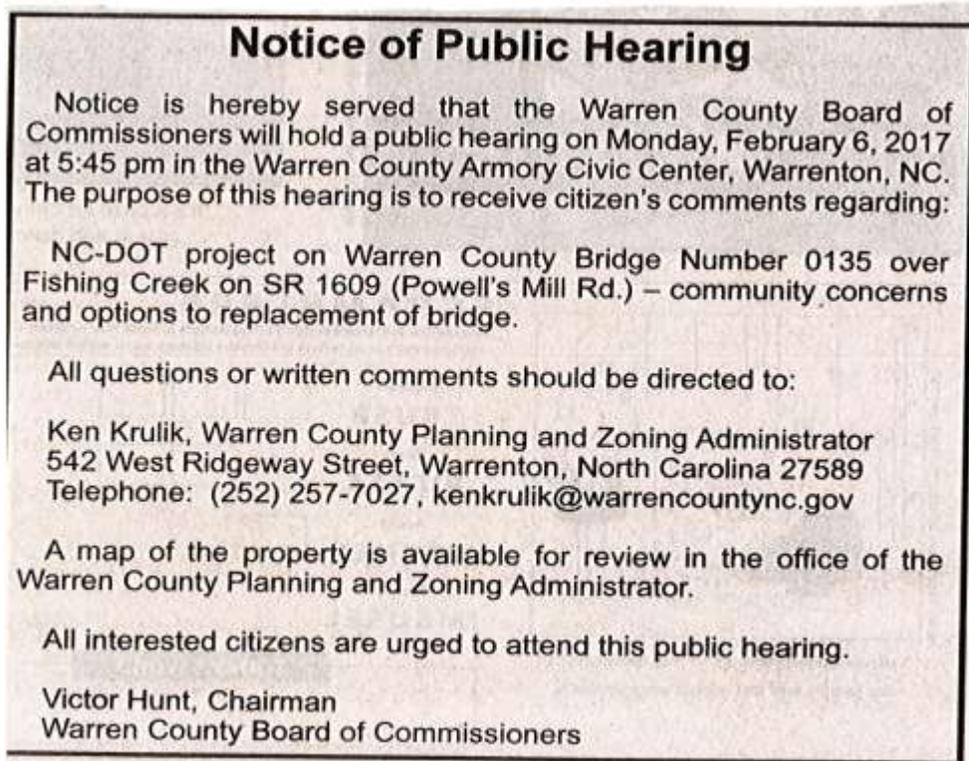


**MINUTES FROM A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN COMMENTS CONCERNING NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECT “REPAIR OR REPLACE BRIDGE # 0135” ON SR 1609 POWELL’S MILL ROAD, HELD BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF WARREN IN THE WARREN COUNTY ARMORY CIVIC CENTER MEETING ROOM ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017 AT 5:45 P.M.**

The public hearing was called to order by Chairman Victor Hunt. Other Commissioners present: Bertadean Baker, Tare Davis, Jennifer Pierce and Walter Powell. Others in attendance: Interim County Manager Robert Murphy, Finance Director Gloria Edmonds and County Attorney Jamie Wilkerson.

Clerk to the Board Angelena Kearney-Dunlap read the Notice of Public Hearing:



An overview of the request was given by Planning/Zoning Administrator Ken Krulik and Jonathan Williamson with Stewart Engineering representing NC DOT: 1) Warren County Historic Preservation Commission recommends – no replacement, keep historic value; 2) NCDOT records approximately 80 cars per day use the bridge; 3) bridge is single-lane; and 4) bridge closure creates a 13 mile detour.

Clerk to the Board read the Public Hearing Procedures, Public Comments were as follows:

**Charles Dean** (presented a petition with 11 signatures of residents) “we the undersigned residents of Powell’s Mill Road feel that the current bridge over Fishing Creek need be only repaired or replaced with a bridge that is appropriately conducive to or in character with, this historic setting. As last week’s Warren Record stated the site has been a grist mill and dam for approximately 200 years and is deserving of preservation and respect in honor of the strong and hard-working people who came before us and the natural beauty of the setting.”

**Kendra Davis** (presented a petition with 506 signatures of residents and members of Spring Green Church on road) Petition on file with Clerk to the Board.

**Jimmie Sidberry** – has been coming to the area since 1960s, moved here in 2009 after retirement to live on Greentown Road. His road was closed, which is very inconvenient. Powell Mill Road is his access to Highway 43, if closed the detour causes an extra expense in gas.

**Cliff Jackson** – Owner of Hamme’s Mill Museum and Taxidermy; no one wants to see the bridge closed; school buses come through and it rattles and shakes. The mark up presented by DOT looks good, stay consistent with historic value. The option to raise the bridge two (2) feet is preferred.

**Carolyn Cheek** – if bridge is closed, the 1<sup>st</sup> thing to happen is the community will be rendered inaccessible, the detour would complicate emergency response times for fire and EMS, which would endanger lives.

**Clyde Edwards** – been in that community all his life, involved in area community watch, bridge closure would create a safety issue for children that play at the bridge. Community holds special memories for long-time residents.

**Yarbrough Williams** – wanted to add to what was already said, people have been in the neighborhood all their lives. We want to see the bridge replaced. There are two (2) hunt clubs on road, one on each side of the bridge.

**Irene Weldon** – road is a beautiful natural area and like to see it preserved. More and more of the county's natural areas are being destroyed.

**Holly Williams** – Citizen and member of Preservation Commission Kimberly Hardin came to Williams Survey office with questions for clarification. Inform her of any changes.

Jonathan Williamson of Stewart Engineering rep for NC DOT informed the audience that the project could take from 1 to 1 ½ year to completion. Construction could add another 6 to 8 months.

**Kimberly Hardin** – If the bridge is moved it will impact her driveway which is located very near the bridge.

On motion of Commissioner Davis, which was seconded by Commissioner Baker and duly carried by unanimous vote, Warren County Board of Commissioners directed NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to replace bridge # 0135 on SR 1609 (Powell's Mill Road), with the understanding that NC DOT will meet with the community to ascertain desired design.

On motion of Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Powell, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:35pm.

  
Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Clerk