PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Matthew McKirahan
Town Manager
(828) 890-2901
(828) 337-4567
townmanager@millsriver.gov

TOWN OF MILLS RIVER SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT AT DECEMBER 10th PUBLIC FORUM ON ZONING UPDATE PROJECT

MILLS RIVER, North Carolina – The Town of Mills River is seeking public comments and feedback from the community on new zoning maps, new zoning districts, and updated land use regulations at a public forum scheduled for Wednesday, December 10th at the Mills River Elementary School Gym at 94 School House Road from 6PM – 8:30PM.

The zoning update project, known as *Imagine Mills River*, has been in development for about a year. The project involves comprehensively updating all of the Town's land use, development, and zoning codes for the first time in the Town's history into a new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). This large-scale update also includes a new proposed zoning map and new zoning districts across the whole Town.

While the Town already has a set of development regulations, the Town aims to update, standardize, set clear processes and procedures, and provide a user-friendly document to guide future development decisions. The *Imagine Mills River* UDO and zoning update project revamps the existing regulations into a new UDO and also implements land use policies in the *Making Mills River* comprehensive land use plan adopted by Town Council in May 2021, which was shaped by two years of community input. The primary goal identified by the community in the *Making Mills River* land use plan is to "protect and enhance the rural and small-town character of Mills River."

"Now is a crucial time for public input and community feedback. The Town is currently drafting new land use regulations and has already completed the first draft of the proposed zoning map. These changes will affect how the Town of Mills River develops and how it will look for the next decade and beyond. It is vitally important for members of the community to engage with this project, provide public comments on the proposed changes and updates, and shape the future of Mills River" – Michael Malecek, Planning Director, Town of Mills River.

The first draft of the proposed zoning map and other documents are available for public review and feedback on the project website at www.imaginemillsriver.com. Community members can also submit public comments and sign-up for email updates on the project website.

Further information on the December 10th public forum is available at www.millsriver.gov. Interested parties may reach out to Town of Mills River Planning staff at planning@millsriver.gov with questions.

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