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## Press barred from Lake Davidson meeting

By Joe Marusak

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Mooresville commissioner Miles Atkins refused to enter a meeting of the Lake Davidson Working Committee this morning after the chairwoman of the committee told two news reporters that the meeting was private and they wouldn't be allowed to attend.

Standing outside the meeting room at Davidson Town Hall about 9 a.m., Atkins said there's no reason the meeting of Davidson and Mooresville staff members and elected officials should have been closed to the public. Atkins and fellow Mooresville commissioner Frank Rader are members of the committee, which has been studying ways to manage growth on the lake, which runs along Interstate 77 in both north Mecklenburg and south Iredell counties. Rader was inside the meeting room.

"Let's keep it open and let people see the process," Atkins said before driving from the town hall.

Davidson Mayor Pro Tem Margo Williams, the committee's chairwoman, said the committee has held public meetings to gather public input, but this wasn't one of them.

Before entering the meeting, Williams said the committee planned to discuss everything it had learned over the months before considering what it will recommend eventually to the Davidson and Mooresville town boards.

The committee would involve the Lake Norman Marine Commission before taking its recommendations to the elected boards, she said.

Davidson town attorney Richard Kline told the reporters outside the meeting room that the committee is an "ad hoc committee with a couple of elected officials" and is not legally required to keep its meetings open.

Miles said closing the meeting gives the wrong perception the committee is discussing matters the public shouldn't know about, he said. There's no reason to keep it closed, he said.