

## Minutes

### Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

#### Work Session

October 18, 2012

This was a regular meeting of the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) held on Thursday, October 18, 2012, in the main conference room located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, Virginia.

Those attending were Chairman Bill Parr, Vice-Chairman Bill Payne, Charles Bell, Peter Lawrence and Pat Coady. Those absent were Butch Bailey, Richard Drury, Billy Moore and David Long.

Also in attendance were Ava Wise, consultant; Peter Stith, Long Range Planner; and Kay Downing, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. and a quorum established.

The Chair reported that the letter to Mr. Osterling of the Virginia Seafood Association was mailed and that the Board did receive the Committee's memo about the Walla Walla, Washington initiative.

Ms. Wise explained work session notes and presented a draft summary report for review. She noted that each section of the report would be completed during future meetings with the goal of presenting the document to the Board of Supervisors in mid-December.

Using work session notes, discussion continued on emerging themes and identified challenges. Under public incentives the following ideas were listed: HUB zone, Enterprise Zone, and a tax incentive program to promote the retail and value-added seafood industry.

Under Policy & Legislation the following ideas were listed: accelerated review process; relaxation of regulations; tax abatement on property, machinery and tools, etc.; and creation of a county directory of incentives and related criteria that can be shared with potential industry candidates.

Mr. Lawrence left the meeting at 9:50 a.m. and returned at 10:37 a.m.

It was noted that the Board of Supervisors had voted to change the title of the Director of Development to Director of Economic Development (DED), but no changes were made to the job description. Also, the Board voted to move ahead with the process for the elimination of the older Industrial Development Authority and the renaming/reissuance of a new charge for the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Northampton County and its Incorporated Towns to become an Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Discussion followed on the Board's decisions. It was noted that the EDA should have its own ordinance, funding and charge as well as a strategic or business plan. Operational standards should be implemented to require minimum meetings and minimum attendance with membership replacement options. Also, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (ANPDC) and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) should be engaged and a designated liaison person is needed to interact with the ANPDC. It was suggested that a model charge be drafted by Ms. Wise.

Industry development and innovation along with strategic recommendations were discussed. Value-added agricultural and aquaculture products were mentioned such as a potato chip factory, viticulture industry sector growth, and retail seafood operations. It was noted that shovel ready plots with infrastructure in tact are needed and that negotiations for allocated infrastructure capacity should be implemented with water and sewer providers. Industry growth within the county should be fostered such as winemaking and culinary services.

The minutes of the October 11, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously as submitted upon motion by Mr. Payne and second by Mr. Bell.

Ms. Wise informed those present that she would accept the offer to help the CPAC complete its charge.

Motion was made by Mr. Peter Lawrence that the CPAC engage in a professional services contract with US Sustainable Development Corporation to assist in changes to the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan which include drafting an Economic Development Plan called out for in Section 3.5.5 of the Comprehensive Plan. US Sustainable Development Corporation will also guide the Committee in completing its charge which involves reviewing and updating the Comprehensive Plan. US Sustainable Development Corporation will assist in delivery of the Economic Development Plan and final report. Ten-thousand dollars from the National Association of Realtors Grant will be used with a \$5,000 initial payment and a \$5,000 payment upon completion of product. With a second from Mr. Charles Bell the motion carried unanimously.

It was decided that review of the zoning maps would be conducted on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Adjourn**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m. upon proper motion by Mr. Payne and second by Mr. Lawrence.