

Minutes

Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

April 12, 2012

This was a regular meeting of the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) held on Thursday, April 12, 2012, in the Main Conference Room located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, Virginia. Those present were Chairman Bill Parr, David Long, Pat Coady, Peter Lawrence, Billy Moore, Butch Bailey, Charles Bell, and Dick Drury. Absent from the meeting was Vice-Chairman Bill Payne.

Also in attendance was invited guest Sally McNeilan from FUGRO Atlantic and Peter Stith, Northampton County Long Range Planner.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. and a quorum was established. Several handouts about wind energy were handed out to the committee for their review. The minutes of March 22nd were considered. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Charles Bell and they were approved unanimously after a second by Peter Lawrence.

The committee moved down to the Board Room to hear a presentation from Sally McNeilan from FUGRO Atlantic. She gave a presentation on wind test facilities and showed examples from the Netherlands. She also explained how the facility would test different turbines. After the presentation, the committee returned to the main conference room.

The committee discussed various issues with wind development and asked Mrs. McNeilan several questions about the test facility. Mrs. McNeilan explained what testing has already been done and what was ongoing. She stated there is a LiDAR machine collecting information on wind speed, temperature and height. She also stated there have been some soils testing in the Eastville area.

Mrs. McNeilan was asked how far along are they in the process. She stated the FAA is one of the big hold ups currently. Mr. Parr led a discussion on the project as a whole and how it could provide economic impacts later, such as manufacturing and production. Mrs. McNeilan also stated it would be a good tourist opportunity.

Mr. Coady asked how suitable this area is for a site. Mrs. McNeilan indicated they need to get through the various agencies and have Old Dominion upgrade the grid, but as far as soil and wind it is a suitable site. She also indicated the turbines would most likely be around 550 feet tall. Mr. Coady asked what the CPAC can do to assist in preparation of harbor, transport, flex warehouse space, and workforce prep. Mrs. McNeilan said all of these things are important. The question was asked if the County could possibly land a blade production facility. Mrs. McNeilan stated some areas that people do not think about are electrical components, and HUET safety certification. She said this will be in demand as no one will be able to go offshore without safety training.

Bill Parr asked what the timeline is for submitting a Special Use Permit application to the County. Mrs. McNeilan stated one would possibly be submitted this fall. There was discussion about protest and how

to keep the argument based on fact rather than myth. Mrs. McNeilan stated there is a field trip on Saturday up to Wye Mills, Md. and she invited the committee to attend if they were interested.

The committee discussed the upcoming trip to Richmond on Tuesday, April 17th. Mr. Parr laid out the potential scheduled and the committee decided it would be best to depart at 7 am.

Mr. Parr gave a brief summary of the State of the County breakfast and the discussion of “devolution” – the state handing over secondary roads to the county and the possible economic impacts of that.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

DRAFT