

Minutes

Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

April 17, 2012

This was a meeting of the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, in Richmond, Virginia at 1111 E. Broad Street, Patrick Henry Building. Those present were Chairman Bill Parr, Vice-Chairman Bill Payne, David Long, Pat Coady, Billy Moore, Butch Bailey, Charles Bell, and Dick Drury. Absent from the meeting was Peter Lawrence.

Also in attendance was Peter Stith, Northampton County Long Range Planner.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 a.m. and a quorum was established after members were picked up from Eastville and Cape Charles McDonalds. The committee traveled to Richmond for scheduled meetings with various state agency representatives.

There was brief discussion on the trip about Pat Coady's white papers he distributed at an earlier meeting about the Tamarack rest stop in West Virginia and Mr. Fairchild's presentation on entrepreneurship.

The first meeting in Richmond was with Liz Povar, Director of Business Development for Virginia Economic Development Partnership. Ms. Povar gave the committee a power point presentation and gave some background on her department and its vision and goals. There was discussion about the potential wind energy industry and its impacts for Northampton County. Ms. Povar indicated there would be opportunities for many support businesses of the industry such as IT services, maintenance/repair shops, and advanced manufacturing. Mr. Coady asked what could be done to prepare for such businesses. Ms. Povar said constant and effective communication between the County and those businesses is important, whether it is a committee, individual, task force or the local chamber. The committee asked if there was a staff person who could talk to them about wind development and Ms. Povar indicated Jerry Giles. She stated she would get the committee in touch with Mr. Giles to set up a meeting.

The next presentation was from the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) and Jean Bass, the Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Relations and Stephanie Bush, Financial Analyst were there to present to the committee. Ms. Bass presented some background information on VRA and what programs they offer. Ms. Bush presented information on the process and how financing works for the Authority.

During lunch, Jimmy Rhee, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade, joined the committee for an informal discussion. Mr. Rhee asked some questions about the County to suggest what sectors or types of businesses or industries the County should attract. He mentioned a program called EB5 where you get foreign investors to invest in business and they receive green cards for creating jobs.

The next presenter was Sandi Mcninch, General Counsel for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. She presented information on Industrial Development and Economic Development Authorities and incentives for localities to attract businesses. She discussed several programs that are offered through VEDP.

Representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development presented information on programs they offer. Deputy Director Lisa Atkinson, Louellen Brumgard, Associate Director and Keith Sherrill, Policy Analyst were there for DHCD. Mr. Sherrill and Ms. Brumgard presented several of the programs offered through DHCD like the Main Street Program, Community Development Block Grants, and Enterprise Zones. Ms. Atkinson indicated it would be good to come and visit the County to see firsthand what help DHCD could be for Northampton.

The final presenter was Richard Weeks, Chief Deputy for the Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Weeks stated it is important to get involved with any and all environmental issues in the beginning of a project rather than later. He said there are more options when planning on environmental issues is done early. Mr. Weeks said that water supply and wastewater are key issues for Northampton in terms of economic development.

After the presentations the committee traveled back to Eastville. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:13 pm.

Several Power Point Presentations are referenced as additional material for these minutes.