

Minutes

Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

Work Session

September 27, 2012

This was a regular meeting of the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) held on Thursday, September 27, 2012, in the main conference room located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, Virginia.

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

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

Prior to the meeting being called to order, those present at 9:00 a.m. had time to review a letter from the Virginia Shellfish Growers dated September 18, 2012.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Long at 9:25 a.m., the meeting was called to order and a quorum established.

Discussion followed on the Virginia Shellfish Grower's letter. It was decided that a response was warranted which will be drafted by Mr. Coady and Mr. Parr then reviewed at the next meeting. Discussion followed on how aquaculture benefits the county. However, it was noted that no local seafood market exists within the county that serves both retail and wholesale customers. It was suggested that a privately owned seafood "super store" facility located on U.S. 13 could be promoted by a local Economic Development Authority and subsidized by local government with the right kind of tax incentives. Also, it was noted that an authentic farmers' market does not exist within the county.

Action:

Motion was made by Mr. Lawrence that consideration be given to the development of a county seafood super center as part of the economic development plan providing both retail and wholesale access. Second was made by Mr. Coady who noted that the center should locate on a parcel large enough to allow for future expansion.

Discussion followed. It was suggested that CPAC recommendations should have less specificity and not identify any particular projects. It was also suggested that since aquaculture is such a large industry perhaps the county should market itself as the seafood capital of the State.

The Chair called for the question and the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of September 11th were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Payne and second by Mr. Lawrence.

The minutes of September 13th were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Coady and second by Mr. Payne.

The minutes of September 20th were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Long and second by Mr. Coady.

Old Business

The Chair gave a brief summary of the meeting held with the Board held on September 24th which he described as productive. It was suggested that each individual Board member be contacted regarding the details of the information presented at the meeting. It was noted that during the meeting Sandi McNinch stated that the county should have an Economic Development Authority and also employ a strong Economic Developer answerable to the Authority while acting as the county's "salesperson". The Chair noted that the CPAC action memo of September 20 presented to the Board was not discussed at the meeting.

Discussion was then held on the official charge from the Board made to the CPAC. The need to hire a consultant was addressed. It was noted that a portion of the \$15,000 from the Association of Realtors could be used specifically for development of the economic plan. The CPAC is to focus on drafting a job description and work product at its next meeting in order to start the process of hiring a consultant. Also, interview questions should be drafted for discussion before consultant interviews begin. One of the goals is to present a twelve month economic development plan to the Board. It was hoped that all charge items would be addressed by December 15th; however, it was noted that the CPAC has no control over charge Item 7 which is based on the Planning Commission's work product.

Mr. Stith asked if the CPAC has determined a date of completion as requested by County Administrator Nunez. After discussion, it was hoped that the first goal, the twelve month plan, would be completed by November 15th. Focus on Charge items 3, 4 and 5 will be held in the near future when review of the current zoning maps begins. Discussion of an exact timeline and work schedule will be discussed at next week's meeting on October 4th.

Adjourn

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 upon proper motion by Mr. Payne and second by Mr. Lawrence.