

Minutes

Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

September 6, 2012

This was a regular meeting of the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) held on Thursday, September 6, 2012, in the County Administration Complex Main Conference Room in Eastville, Virginia. Those present were Chairman Bill Parr, Vice-Chairman Bill Payne, Pat Coady, Billy Moore, Charles Bell and David Long. Absent from the meeting were committee members Butch Bailey, Peter Lawrence and Dick Drury.

Also in attendance were Peter Stith, Long Range Planner, Sandra Thornton, Director of Planning and Zoning and Ava Wise.

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. and a quorum was established. The committee reviewed minutes from August 30th. David Long made a motion to approve the minutes and with a second from Charles Bell, they were passed unanimously.

Ava Wise recapped the discussion from last week about the upcoming joint meeting with the Planning Commission on September 11 and the Board meeting on the 11th and 24th. The committee began a discussion of the points they want to present to the Board in their report on Sept 11. Mr. Parr asked Mrs. Thornton if she could elaborate on Springsted, the company who has been hired by the County to search for the Economic Director. Mrs. Thornton said Springsted is also making recommendations on consolidation of all the land use departments into one department under the new economic director.

The committee identified several points to present to the Board:

- Economic Development Staff is more expansive than business/industry recruitment alone
- Advocacy/Ombudsman role and responsibilities are as important as business and industry recruitment
- Job description and governance vetted by VEDP
- Ensure work of economic director and staff are well funded

The committee discussed funding for an economic development commission and said a unique funding model is necessary, like the Tourism Commission. The committee continued discussion about an economic development commission. Mr. Parr suggested adding to the third bullet "to include a review of the EDA model". Items discussed to present to the Board about an Economic Development Commission:

- Unique funding model
- Activity funds the work of department
- Commercial/industrial tax sales
- Revenue that is dedicated to economic development more with related activity
- A county EDC is imperative

There was discussion about the format of the Board meeting on the 24th and Mr. Parr said it would be good to try and get Sandi Mcninch on the phone and go through her power point she gave in Richmond. He said he would contact her. There was also discussion about inviting Liz Povar or Mary Rae Carter to the meeting on the 24th.

The discussion shifted to the joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Mr. Parr mentioned two additional people they met with. He said the committee needs to add Lyn Lewis and Sally McNeilan. He said some of the take aways from meeting with Lyn Lewis were: offshore wind development, spaceport, upgrading rail facilities, tunnel projects, more of a college presence in Northampton County and initiatives for tourism. Sally McNeilan presented efforts to develop wind turbine test facility and wind energy development in general.

Bill Payne wanted to officially thank Ava Wise for her support and leadership.

The committee briefly discussed the quarterly report. After discussion about the quarterly report to the Board, Pat Coady made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Payne seconded the motion. The next meeting is a joint meeting between the CPAC and the Planning Commission at 2 pm in the Social Services Building.