

Minutes

Northampton County Planning Commission

Public Hearing

January 6, 2015

Those present – Chairman, Dixon Leatherbury, Vice Chair Jacqueline Chatmon, Mark Freeze, Sylvia Stanley, Kay Downing, Michael Ward

Also in attendance was Peter Stith, Long Range Planner and Nyoka Hall, Recording Secretary

A quorum was established and the agenda approved as submitted.

Concerns from the Public – Mary Miller of Eastville, submitted her written statement as follows:

To: Northampton County Planning Commission

From: Mary Miller, Eastville, VA

Re: Planning Commission documents available on county website

6 January 2015

I'm researching an article for Shoreline updating the progress of the County's Comprehensive Plan review. I've hit a brick wall. As of close of business today the last Minutes or Audio deadline with the Commission's work on this subject is dated Sept 17, 2014. I have seen no notices for public input or informational meetings. The Part 2 date was posted 2 years ago-much of that data is 3 years old or more. There is no timely information readily available to the public about your deliberations.

Some county elected and appointed bodies have been criticized for a lack of transparency in their work. I would not like to see the Planning Commission, the body charged with gathering public input, critiqued in that way.

So within the week I would anticipate seeing the remaining 2014 Minutes and Audio from your meetings and work sessions, posted on the county website. I would also expect that a Commission packet for every meeting and work session would be available for review at the Planning and Zoning office.

I thank you for your attention to this and I request that my comments be inserted in your Minutes for public record.

Ken Dufty of Exmore requested the Planning Commission take a path similar to that of the Town of Exmore. The Town has fostered a very open and inclusive dialogue with the community during its Comprehensive Plan review and update. In closing Mr. Dufy noted the success the Town has seen from this type of cooperation and hoped that the same relationship could be forged between the County and the community as the Commission moves forward.

Consideration of Minutes

November 3, 2014 Minutes - A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Chatmon and seconded by Commissioner Stanley. The motion carried with all in favor (6-0).

November 19, 2014 Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Freeze and seconded by Commissioner Downing. The motion carried with all in favor (6-0).

Comprehensive Plan Review –

A review of the goals that were handed out at the December work session commenced. Commissioner Ward inquired what the criteria were for these goals. Some of the goals are for the Board, some for the Commission and there is no particular ranking order. The goals need to be prioritized, ranked and specific directives need to be provided to the Board. Commissioner Chatmon agreed, noting that all citizens of NHCO are stakeholders and the list of specific individuals should be eliminated.

Commissioner Downing, noted that a narrative should be put in place informing the public of the elimination of the stake holders informing them in no certain terms that all are stake holders, no matter how great or small the interest. With discussion the Commission consented to include an introductory statement noting that all citizens from the individual, to businesses, community groups, etc. is a part of the stakeholders and have been considered during the process.

GOAL 3.1: Reduce poverty in Northampton County to no more than 10%.			
	Responsible Agencies	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Implementation Strategies:			
3.1.1 Give the Economic Development Department the resources necessary to Attract and support business and industry that pay livable wages.	BOS, Staff	Citizens	Ongoing
3.1.2 Support improvements in the educational system and development of workforce as covered in Goal 6.8.	BOS, ESCC, NCPs	Citizens	Ongoing
3.1.3 Create Poverty Task Force	BOS, Poverty Task Force	Citizens, CSB, A-NPDC	Ongoing
GOAL 3.2: Sustainable growth in the market value of products in the Agriculture industry.			
	Responsible Agencies	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Implementation Strategies:			
3.2.5 1 Facilitate and encourage economic growth such as a centralized local products market.	BOS	Citizens	1-2 years

3.2.2 Ensure zoning protects productive farmland	BOS, PC, Staff	Agricultural (Ag) Industry	Ongoing
3.2.43 Support development of farm oriented work force training programs.	BOS, ESCC, NCPS, Farm Bureau, Ag Extension Office	Ag Industry	1-2 Years
3.2.24 Support opportunities for vertical integration.	BOS, Farm Bureau, ESCC	Investors	Ongoing
3.2.65 Develop and implement a way finding signage program.	BOS, PC, Staff, VDOT	Local businesses	1 year
3.2.16 Continue to support Agriculture and Forest Districts or an alternative that preserves farm land and Agriculture industry.	BOS	Landowners, Ag Industry	Ongoing
3.2.37 Assist in marketing efforts on behalf of the industry through Economic Development.	BOS, Staff, Ag Ext., Farm Bureau	Ag Industry	Ongoing

GOAL 3.3: Sustainable growth in the market value of products in the Aquaculture industry.

	Responsible Agencies	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Implementation Strategies:			
3.3.1 Ensure the zoning code continues to allow for Continue to support the development of aquaculture facilities, including hatchery and aquatic nursery operations.	BOS, PC, staff	Aquaculture Industry	Ongoing
3.3.4.2 Assist in marketing efforts on behalf of the industry through Economic Development.	BOS, staff	Aquaculture Industry	Ongoing
3.3.23 Support vertical integration of the industry.	BOS	Aquaculture Industry	Ongoing
3.3.4 Implement stormwater management initiatives	BOS, Staff	Citizens	Ongoing
3.3.35 Develop and implement public education programs regarding the maintenance of water quality, careful management of chemical applications, litter control in waterways, and maintenance of healthy dunes and beaches	BOS, Eastern Shore keeper, VIMS staff	Shore keeper, Agricultural Industry, Citizen	Ongoing

GOAL 3.4: Sustainable growth of expenditures by tourists in the Tourism industry.

	Responsible	Stakeholders	Timeframe
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	Agencies		
Implementation Strategies:			
3.4.21 Continue to fund marketing efforts for the tourism industry in Northampton County through the Economic Development Department.	BOS, Staff	NC Chamber, Tourism Commission, Tourism Industry	Ongoing
3.4.32 Continue support of public boat ramps, with adequate parking, sanitation facilities and trash collection facilities.	BOS	Tourism Industry, Citizens	Ongoing
3.4.63 Support and expand way-finding signage program regulations.	BOS, PC, staff	Towns, local businesses	Ongoing
3.4.4 Assist in marketing efforts on behalf of the industry through Economic Development.	BOS, Staff	Citizens	Ongoing
3.4.55 Continue the creation of biking and hiking trails.	BOS, A-NPDC, VDOT, USFWS	Citizens	Ongoing
3.4.46 Continue to protect conservation areas through zoning.	BOS, TNC, VESLT	Landowners	Ongoing
3.4.7 Continue to protect Seaside and Bayside from stormwater run off	Staff	Citizens	Ongoing
3.4.8 Maintain the safety of route 13 by continued implementation of access management strategies	VDOT	Citizens	Ongoing
3.4.79 Develop a litter prevention program.	BOS, Sheriff's Office	Citizens	Ongoing
3.4.101 Convene an annual Tourism summit to evaluate the needs and opportunities of the industry.	Tourism Commission, Economic Development Dept.	Tourism Industry	Ongoing

GOAL 3.5: Sustainable growth of new and existing business in Northampton County.			
	Responsible Agencies	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Implementation Strategies:			

3.5.21 Provide a framework for adequate and affordable rental housing.	A-NPDC,	Citizens	Ongoing
3.5.2 Support continuing education via the internet, ESCC, and internships	BOS, ESCC, NCPS	Citizens	Ongoing
3.5.3 Establish high school and ESCC courses/classes train students for jobs in existing industries	ESCC, NCPS	Citizens	2 years
3.5.34 Maintain the small business HUB zone and Enterprise zone designation.	SBD Center, BOS, Congressional Delegation, VDEP	Businesses	Ongoing
3.5.45 Expand broadband throughout the County.	Providers, BOS	Citizens	1-2 years
3.5.67 Development of a blight ordinance.	BOS, staff	Citizens	Ongoing
3.5.78 Provide water and sewer in areas designated for growth.	BOS		
3.5.879 Implement and support a “Buy Local” program	BOS	Local businesses	1-2 years
3.5.910 Expand way finding signage regulations.	BOS, PC, Staff	Local businesses	1 years
3.5.11 Streamline the zoning ordinance and permitting process.	BOS, PC, staff	Citizens	Within 6 months
3.5.1012 Support the efforts of the Small Business Development Center.	BOS, ESCC, NCPS	Citizens	Ongoing
3.5.13 Develop and implement and educational program regarding the use of incentives and loans that could assist a business in its expansion	BOS, Administration	Businesses	Ongoing
GOAL 3.6 New businesses will be established in Northampton County as measured by number of business licenses issued			
	Responsible Agencies	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Implementation Strategies:			
3.6.1 Develop marketing list of potential businesses/industries (marine based) Research and Development, High end specialty marketing healthcare, engineering and technical consulting) to solicit that will bring jobs with year round employment and livable wages	BOS	Citizens	Ongoing
3.6.2 Establish a health department certified commercial kitchen for use by consumers and businesses for catering, food processing,	BOS, Staff	Citizens	1 year

canning, etc.			
3.6.3 Proactively solicit green businesses	BOS, Staff	Citizens	Ongoing
3.56.54 Continue to provide incentives for rehabilitation of real estate.	BOS	Citizens	Ongoing
3.6.5 Provide support to entrepreneurs through the process of business startup	SBDC	VEDC, Business Owners	Ongoing
3.6.6 Streamline the zoning and permitting process	BOS, Staff, PC	Citizens	Within 6 months of adoption
3.6.7 Provide education to the public regarding the startup of a new business	BOS, Staff	Citizens, SBDC, ESCC	Ongoing

GOAL 3.7: Sustainable growth in the research industry as measured by employment

	Responsible Agencies	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Implementation Strategies:			
3.7.1 Protect resources that support scientific research industry by managing land use in environmentally sensitive areas.	BOS, PC	TNC, UVA, VIMS	Ongoing

GOAL 3.8: Develop a health care system that will meet the needs of Northampton County.

	Responsible Agencies	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Implementation Strategies:			
3.8.1 Recruit a health care provider to ensure implement health care services, especially emergency services to meet the needs of Northampton County citizens.	BOS, Staff	Citizens, EMS, ESRH, Healthcare providers	1-3 years
3.8.2 Recruit a continuum of care community (personnel and facilities) to provide options for the aging population as increased support is needed with activities of daily living.	BOS	Citizens	1-3 years

Housing

GOAL 4.1: Eliminate Blight and Depressed Neighborhoods

	Responsible Agencies	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Implementation Strategies:			
4.1.1 Allocate funds to demolish dilapidated houses and structures as	BOS, staff	Citizens	Ongoing

allowed by State code.			
4.1.2 Establish a process to locate adequate housing for displaced tenants/residents	BOS, Staff, ANHRHA	Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.3 Utilize list from Establish a the Community Housing Committee to study the status of neighborhoods and develop lists of neighborhoods for revitalization.	BOS	Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.4 Continue to enforce codes that eliminate litter, abandoned vehicles and overgrown vegetation.	BOS, Staff	Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.5 Establish a process for using prison/jail population to eliminate litter and overgrown vegetation.	BOS, NCPD	Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.6 Provide additional police presence.	BOS, NCSD	Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.7 Incentivize the reuse/repurpose of vacant structures throughout the County	BOS, Towns, Staff, PC	Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.8 Address inadequate stormwater drainage to alleviate standing water issues.	BOS, Staff, VDOT	Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.9 Continue to provide incentives for Incentivize landlords to rehabilitate real estate. Invest in housing improvements.	BOS, Staff	Landlords, Tenants, Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.10 Work to ensure future state funding for the indoor plumbing replacement fund	BOS, staff, A-NRHA	Citizens	Ongoing
4.1.11 Create a County Blight Ordinance as referenced in 3.5.	BOS, Staff	Citizens	1 year
4.1.12 Address the need for more street lights and sidewalks in residential neighborhoods.	BOS, VDOT, Staff, Towns, Community Organizations	Citizens	Ongoing

The monthly staff report was submitted to the Commission with information items. The Chairman inquired where the Board was on the Zoning Ordinance review. Peter Stith informed the Commission that at the December 9th meeting the Board of Supervisors voted to extend the application for 6 months. They are still reviewing the document.

A motion to recess till January 21st was made by Commissioner Downing and seconded by Commissioner Freeze and carried with all in favor (6-0).

Chairman

Secretary