

MINUTES

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

February 24, 2011

This was a recessed meeting of the Northampton County Planning Commission held on Thursday, February 24, 2011 in conference room #2 at the former Northampton County Middle School located at 7247 Young Street in Machipongo, Va. The main purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session on review of the comprehensive plan, Part 2 Data, specifically Section 7 – Community Facilities & Services; and Part 1, Section 6 – Community Facilities & Services Plan time allowing.

Those present were Chair David Fauber, Vice-Chair Martina Coker, Roberta Kellam, Robert Meyers, John Wescoat, Jr., Michael Ward, David Kabler and Mary Miller. The member absent was Severn Carpenter.

Also attending were Sandra G. Benson, Director of Planning & Zoning; and Kay Downing, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and a quorum established.

The agenda was reviewed and accepted by an 8 to 0 vote upon motion by Commissioner Meyers and second by Commissioner Wescoat.

The commission began review with Part II, Section 7. It was noted during discussion that in the past the plan has always assumed that the county's population would increase. However, early census data shows that the population at this time is declining with a sizeable drop in the African-American population but some increase shown in the Hispanic population. It was decided that such trends and data be represented in the plan perhaps using any available models for declining population. Ms. Benson suggested that such information be clearly defined in the demographics section and also summarized in the introduction addressing population shifts in terms of both numbers and where people live.

It was noted that the Governor has appointed a Tourism Development Specialist specifically for the Eastern Shore. It was suggested that this person be invited to attend a planning commission work session. By consensus the commission agreed that Commissioner Miller should issue an invitation on behalf of the commission to meet with the tourism representative.

Other topics mentioned during discussion were road capacity and suitability to handle increased traffic and emergency services, the over-projected capacity of the jail, importation of

labor force, and the possible need for a qualifying statement on the “planning horizon” or expected life span of the plan.

The following recommendations were made to update the current comprehensive plan:

7.1 Introduction: address population shifts in terms of both numbers and where people reside; paragraph 2, should reference the county’s CIP

7.2 Arts, Culture & History: title should be changed to “Arts, Culture History and Science Resources” and the last paragraph should be separated into 2

- last paragraph in 7.2 insert “literary” in first sentence and “music” in third

- Indiantown Park information first Native American settlement

- list other historical sites on the Virginia and National Historic Register such as Pear Plain House owned by APVA

- mention Garden Club of Virginia and Annual Garden Tour

- list other cultural events and celebrations as part of culture that spotlight regional specialties, specifically local cuisine, produce and seafood

- insert a new paragraph on historic architecture and state where information is available

- list structures containing historical architecture, both public and private

- include historical structures located in the Town of Cape Charles, Victorian and “Sears Catalogue” homes

- note access available to the Eastville Courthouse greens and historic structures

Each incorporated town and village should be mentioned along with services and attractions of each such as:

- Nassawadox: superior multiple sports field and organization, cabinetry shop, library information, restaurant(s), shops, etc. (status of old saw mill to be investigated)

- Cheriton: day spa, dance studio, annual festivals

-Village of Oyster: World Healing Institute in the Cobb's Island Life Saving Station, educational programs and seminars, the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center of the University of Virginia provides facilities to support a wide variety of research activities in the coastal bays, salt marches and barrier islands of the Eastern Shore.

7.3 Churches: -update number of churches and move information about historic churches from 7.2 to 7.3

- provide information on special architectural features such as Tiffany windows,

-mention services provided by local churches: food banks, Cape Charles Christian School, entertainment and civic venues, center of community organization and volunteer programs

-Northampton Social Ministries working in concert with the Dept. of Social Services

-comprehensive guide to historic graveyards and cemeteries should be added referencing Frances Latimer and Jean Mihalyka's books

-history section should include connection between the church and the early government structure

It was noted that Section 4 – Economic Analysis should reference the county's food base industry as well.

Additional information was provided by Commissioners Miller and Coker specific to background information and data that should be added to each commissioner's comp plan folder.

Commissioner Miller's information contained:

> pie charts representing the various census tracts

> population changes from 2000-2010 for all six voter districts (Weldon Cooper)

> a 2000 census tract outline map

> report by Carol Vaughn on hospital doctor dearth for the Eastern Shore according to information from Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital

Information from Commissioner Coker concerned hospital and health data as follows:

> Hospital drive times chart

- >Community health status indicators data from the U. S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
- >Diabetes Mortality rates from the Virginia Dept. of Health, 2005
- >Diabetes Data and Trends from the U. S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- >Vulnerable population data/community health status indicators 2009
- >Assumptions & Methodology: bed need determination, primary service area, health status of Eastern Shore residents, county population centers, state medical facility plan criteria

The next recessed meeting was scheduled for March 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Commissioner Kabler and second by Commissioner Kellam at 9:15 p.m. until March 1, 2011.

Chair

Secretary