

Minutes
Northampton County Planning Commission
Work Session
October 23, 2012

This was a recessed meeting of the Northampton County Planning Commission held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 in the main conference room in the County Administration Building located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to continue review of the comprehensive plan.

Those present were, Vice-Chair Michael Ward, Sylvia Stanley, Severn Carpenter, Mary Miller, Dixon Leatherbury and Roberta Kellam. Absent from the meeting was Chair Martina Coker.

Also attending were Sandra Benson Thornton, Director of Planning & Zoning; Peter Stith, Long Range Planner; and Kay Downing, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. and a quorum established.

The agenda was unanimously accepted as presented upon proper motion by Commissioner Kellam and second by Commissioner Carpenter.

The first order of business was the appointment of Nominations Committee so that elections can be held in December with new officers being seated in January 2012. Commissioners Miller and Carpenter volunteered and will report to the commission at the November meeting.

Review and discussion of revised Data (Part 2), section 3, Population & Demographic Analysis was held first. It was noted that Tables and Figures should be numbered in consecutive order as each appears throughout the document and several typographical errors corrected. Minor changes were noted throughout the document as follows.

In Section 3.1 Introduction, switch the first paragraph with the second one; add the word "health facilities" to the third line before the word "recreation"; begin the new paragraph one with the word "Good".

In Section 3.2 Population by Age, Race & Sex, second paragraph, first sentence, change the words "shifting of" to "shift in" and correct "nas" to "has".

In Section 3.3 Population Trends, first paragraph, add "from 2000" at the end of the first sentence; and in the last sentence, delete "Aside from two minor increases in population (1930-2000),"; on page 3-3, insert "U. S." in the title of the Historical Census Data chart, and in the paragraph below the chart the word "increase" should be changed to "decrease". In the next to the last full paragraph on page 3-3, in the first sentence delete "the" before 2000 and delete "Census" after 2000; at the end of the last sentence add "or 23.2%". At the end of the section,

in the last paragraph, add a new sentence, “These numbers include children from both Accomack and Northampton Counties.” It was noted that home-school data should be included in this section as well.

(Ms. Stanley arrived at 7:40 p.m.)

Section 3.4 Population Projections, should include age projections as well.

Section 3.5 Households – no change noted.

Section 3.6 Families – no change noted.

Section 3.7 Marital Status, add percentage change column in the Table 3.4; move the paragraph under Chart 3.4 to the poverty section.

In Section 3.8 Poverty, clarification is needed concerning the 90% margin of error notation under the Demographic Table 3.5 which should be ascribed to the American Community Survey. Commissioner Kellam will forward a report on poverty for the Commission’s information that she wrote several years ago that can provide some historical data as well.

Section 3.9 Health, the second paragraph should be checked for conciseness; the following chart related to Chronic Disease/Conditions should have dates.

Under Conclusions, in the next to the last bullet, change the word “increased” to “high”; and it was determined that the elderly should be mentioned and more research is needed on the last bullet statement related to poverty by looking at historical data to predict a trend.

Also, it was noted that a bibliography at the end of the comp plan is needed to identify the Weldon Cooper Center among other sources.

Discussion and review of Section 4 Economic Analysis was conducted with the following revisions made.

Section 4.1 Introduction, first paragraph, first sentence, second line, change “growth” to “changes” and in the third line change “changes” to “decisions”; in the second sentence, add the word “may” before “trigger”, change “and” at the beginning of the fifth line to “which”, make “creates” singular and correct punctuation.

Section 4.2 Civilian Labor Force, Unemployment Rate, and Wages, it was decided that Commissioner Miller would draft some new language as appropriate to clarify the definition of civilian labor force. Also, a pie chart showing what constitutes income will be added. New commuter data should be inserted when available in Table 4.2. Also, data on “non-employer employed” as “self-employed” should be included.

Section 4.3 Major Industries, the last sentence of the first paragraph should be relocated to Conclusions and expanded. Also, there needs to be confirmation that Table 4.3 Major Industries includes aquaculture. Also, education information may need to be included in this section.

Section 4.4 Agriculture, in the second paragraph, clarify that the second sentence includes sales from oysters and clams. Also, payments made by the government for conservation should be included in the last paragraph of this section. In the last Table 4.4, updated VEC data should be cited. A definition for "farm" should be included.

Section 4.5 Aquaculture, the first sentence should be re-worded since aquaculture products come from the sea and define "aquaculture". Also, it should be clarified if leased-bottom acres are included in the number of farm acres; in the last paragraph, last sentence, include dollar signs; and add a new section about seafood. Also, determine if clams and oysters are included in livestock data and include crabs and finfish sales if available. It was suggested that "traditional waterman" should be included.

A short break was taken at 9:03 p.m.

Section 4.6 Tourism, in the first paragraph, third sentence, insert "by tourists" after "expenditures" using Virginia Tourism Commission analysis; second paragraph, second sentence, delete "aquatic" and insert "coastal and agriculture"; correct punctuation; third paragraph delete "climbing" and list "Hunting, Carolina Bays, Meteor Strike Effects"; last paragraph on page 4-9, at the beginning of the third line, change "to" with "in"; the third sentence should read, "Heritage tourism engages travelers in the historic, archeological, spiritual, arts and culinary culture of an area as well as the community's values, lifestyles, traditions and events."; in the last sentence, add "and weekly" after the word "resort"; in the next paragraph add "scores of weekly house rentals and beach cottages" after the word "sites"

Section 4.7 Research, begin the first sentence with "the National Science Foundation Long-Term Ecological Research Station housed at..."; at the end of the first paragraph add, "This station is one of only 25 or 26 in the world." Commissioner Kellam will provide the correct number to be inserted. Also, add at the end of the section "The Virginia Institute of Marine Science: College of William & Mary also performs coastal research in Northampton County."

Section 4.8 Commercial and Industrial Development, title should be changed to Development; also component tables on commercial, industrial and residential should be done related to Table 4.8. "Clam industry" should be changed to "aquaculture". The sentence on employment should not be deleted.

Commissioner Ward suggested that data on how much citizen money is spent within the county versus outside the county should be included if available.

Also, conclusions should be added for each section including a notation that tourism is adding to county tax revenues.

The Commission received a draft of the updated Eastville Plan and Mrs. Thornton noted that updated graphics would be provided by Mr. Stith. The town proposes to include additional commercial areas, focus on preserving its historic character and repurposing its vacant structures.

The next work session will involve review of Chapters 4 and 5 of Section I, Housing and Environment.

Adjourn:

At 10:05 p.m., motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kellam and seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

Chair

Secretary