

Minutes

Northampton County Planning Commission

March 24, 2014

This was a joint work session of the Northampton County Planning Commission with the Board of Supervisors held on Monday, March 24, 2014 in the board chambers at the County Administration Building located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, VA at 5:00 p.m.

Those present were Chairman Dixon Leatherbury, Michael Ward, Roberta Kellam, and Jaqueline Chatmon, Hank Heneghan, Sylvia Stanley, Martina Coker. Also attending were Charles McSwain, Director of Development and Peter Stith, Long Range Planner.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

Commissioner Kellam moved to amend the agenda under item 4 to include: a) Annual report, b) Consultant review for zoning ordinance, c) Affordable housing, and d) Comp Plan. With a second from Commissioner Coker the motion passed 3 -2 with Commissioners Kellam, Coker, and Stanley voting in favor and Commissioners Ward and Heneghan voting against.

Planning Commission Chairman Dixon Leatherbury indicated that with the 100-day review period stipulated by the Board, he wondered if there was funding available to hire an outside consultant to assist the Planning Commission with its review of the zoning ordinance. He has received a quote of \$15,000 to perform this diagnostic review with a 3-4 month timeline. The County Administrator confirmed that the Code of Virginia stipulates a 100-day review period with no apparent provision for extension; she offered to query the County Attorney to see if there was any other applicable Code provision. She also noted that she believes that additional quotes can be obtained by the end of the week and that funding could be available through the contingency fund.

Chairman LeMond questioned the Board as to a consensus on providing the requested funding to hire a consultant. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Hogg stated that they would prefer to wait until after the legal opinion is obtained. Mr. Hubbard and Chairman LeMond were agreeable with providing the requested funding. Mr. Trala was not agreeable, indicating that "we do not need an outside consultant to tell us we're wrong."

At this time, Planning Commissioner Roberta Kellam indicated that since her term would be expiring June 30th, she wanted to make sure that the following affordable housing material submitted in memorandum was placed before the Board. The memo in short suggested the County play an active role in supporting affordable housing by reconvening the Community Housing Committee, work with elected officials to obtain funding for the IPR program, support expansion of William Hughes Apartments, identify roads in need of upgrade that serve low income housing and request funding for improvements, in addition to ensuring abandoned properties are put through tax sales to clear title and inventory vacant lots that were counted as part of the Comprehensive Plan to determine how many lots are one acre or less and not on waterfront, to ensure affordable housing is made available in areas where it is sought. A list of revitalization areas were submitted to the Board of Supervisors by Sandra Benson in 2009, but no action was taken; a copy of the memorandum was submitted for review. There was some discussion about homes that still did not have indoor plumbing with Roberta Kellam noting there being over 100. Mr. Bennett requested that a copy of that list be provided to the Board. Dixon Leatherbury proceeded with an update to the Board on the Planning Commission's review status of the Comprehensive Plan. Due to focus being on the Zoning Ordinance review, the commission hopes to have the document completed by

August and after CPAC, stake holders group and other legal processes have been done, it's anticipated that it will be ready for final public hearing by December. There were no further questions or comments.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kellam to adjourn the meeting. With a second from Commissioner Coker, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman

Secretary