



PLANNING COMMISSION
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORK SESSION WITH
ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Town Hall
August 25, 2014

At 6:03 p.m. in the Town Hall, Vice Chairman Mike Strub, having established a quorum, called to order the Work Session of the Planning Commission with Ms. Elaine Meil, Executive Director of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC). In addition to Vice Chairman Strub, present were Commissioners Dan Burke, Joan Natali and Sandra Salopek. Chairman Dennis McCoy and Commissioners Andy Buchholz and Bill Stramm were not in attendance. Also present were Town Planner Rob Testerman and Town Clerk Libby Hume. There were no members of the public in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Strub turned the meeting over to Ms. Elaine Meil of the A-NPDC.

The Commissioners reviewed the following text revisions and additions resulting from the July 28, 2014 Comprehensive Plan Work Session:

II.6 Public Utilities

The added language was reviewed and additional changes were made as follows: i) A grammatical change was made in the first sentence; ii) The last sentence regarding the long term plans were deleted since the timeframe was at least 10-15 years in the future; and iii) The last sentence of the current language was also revised to read "The Town should continue to monitor and, where necessary, protect the existing groundwater stocks, the Chesapeake Bay and its resources."

II.3 Housing

Several minor grammatical changes were made and language in the final sentence was changed to "quality affordable housing" for continuity. For clarity, the Commissioners requested that the percentages shown representing the number of cost burdened groups of households with mortgages, renters and homeowners without mortgages be replaced with the actual number of households.

II.4 Economy

The fifth sentence of the existing language was revised to include the Town of Cape Charles and lower Northampton County. A minor change was made in the last sentence of the new language. Ms. Meil stated that she could add levels of household income sources and would also include language stating that Bayshore Concrete Products had increased employment since the data was compiled. Joan Natali suggested that more demographic information could be included in the appendixes.

III-B.5.8 Goal: Continue to Foster Prosperity and Strengthen Households

The following changes were made: i) The first sentence of the opening paragraph was changed to show "Cape Charles continues to prosper...;" ii) The second bullet was deleted; iii) The fifth bullet was divided into two bullets; and iv) A new bullet was added stating "Develop a campaign to encourage more families to purchase property and relocate to Town." The subject of retirees was discussed and Ms. Meil would also add language regarding encouraging second homeowners and new homeowners to retire here in § III-B.5.5 Goal: Attract Retirees.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Basketball Court: § III-D.6 Recreational, Cultural and Youth Activities

Language regarding basketball was not currently in the Town's Comprehensive Plan and would not be added at this time.

b. III-E – Active and Engaged Partnerships:

III-E.4 Civic Partnerships

New paragraphs would be added for the Cape Charles Christian School, New Roots Youth Garden, Cape Charles Yacht Club and Eastern Shore Eventacular, Inc. Ms. Meil would work with Rob Testerman to draft the new language for review. Joan Natali stated that she could provide some information to them regarding the Eastern Shore Eventacular, Inc.

The Commissioners continued to review the other subsections as follows: i) In III-E.4.3 Historical Society and Museum, "Cape Charles" was added to the heading as the correct name for the Historical Society; ii) III-E.4.5 Youth, Recreation and Churches – Reference to the Northampton Anglers Club was deleted since the group had been dissolved. Language from § III-E.4.12 Cape Charles Food Pantry would be merged into this section; iii) III-E.4.8 Concerned Citizens of Cape Charles would be deleted since the organization was no longer active; iv) III-E.4.10 Arts Enter – The name was corrected to Arts Enter Cape Charles; and v) There was discussion regarding the addition of paragraphs for Boat Builders and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Waterman's Memorial and the Commissioners agreed not to include language at this time.

The Commissioners discussed the Eastern Shore Healthy Communities and the Walkability report. Rob Testerman stated that the Eastern Shore Healthy Communities group utilized grant funding and installed signage around town regarding walking trails. Ms. Meil stated that she could add language under the Civic Partnerships section and include a reference to the Walkability Report. The Walkability Report had already been added as part of the Appendixes.

c. IV – Implementation:

IV.1 Town Council Priorities: The Commissioners reviewed the existing listing of priorities and Councilwoman Natali and Libby Hume gave updates on a number of items. The items were in no particular order so the Commissioners agreed to replace the numbers with bullets. Rob Testerman suggested taking the list to the Town Council to be updated to which the Commissioners agreed.

V – Appendixes: The Bike Trail Plan and Economic Statistics/Analysis would also be added to the Appendixes.

Timeline:

Ms. Meil stated that she would send the full text of the Comprehensive Plan for review. Everything could possibly be finalized at the next meeting and the Commission could possibly move forward with a public hearing in October.

The next Comprehensive Plan Work Session was scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2014, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Motion made by Joan Natali, seconded by Dan Burke, to adjourn the Planning Commission work session. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Vice Chairman Mike Strub

Town Clerk