

Virginia: At a Public Work Session Meeting the Accomack County Planning Commission held on the 12th day of December, 2007, in the cafeteria of Arcadia Middle School in Oak Hall, Virginia:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Members Present:

Mr. E. Phillip Hickman, Chairman
Mr. William A. Sprague, Vice-Chairman
Mr. C. Robert Hickman
Mr. E. Bryan Turner
Mr. Jim Frese
Mr. Leander Roberts, Jr.

Members Absent:

Mr. Robert L. Nock
Ms. Stella Rohde
Mr. Herbert Thom

Others Present:

Mr. James M. McGowan, Director of Planning
Mr. Tom Brockenbrough, GIS Coordinator
Mr. Robert Testerman, Land Use Planner
Ms. Tonya Taylor, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Milton Herd, Consultant

B. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Hickman at 7:05 p.m. The Commissioners agreed to follow the Agenda.

2. PRESENTATION ON DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Mr. Milton Herd gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft Comprehensive Plan.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

The following comments and questions were received from the public and others present:

- ◆ The plan defines the problem as growth, but our population is less than it was in 1900. The big issue is taxes. The county looks to homeowners to get more revenue. People are fearful of development in the county. How can you run the county without taxing farmland?
- ◆ The plan leans toward farmers, who get tax breaks. Farmers don't offer anything for the economy. This is a good retirement area and we need to build on it. Eastern Shore offers intangibles that other places cannot offer.
- ◆ We need high speed internet.
- ◆ We need good paying jobs in the whole county, not just at Wallops.
- ◆ Consider illegal immigrants and the social issues and costs caused by them coming here.
- ◆ There seems to be confusion that conservation is opposed to economic development. Accomack is the third most viable agricultural county in Virginia. Economic Development and conservation are not in conflict.

- ◆ If shellfish condemnations are decreasing, why do you want the Chesapeake Bay Act on the Seaside?
- ◆ Do things to attract more federal government employees (like NASA employees) to move here from Maryland.
- ◆ Farmers don't pay taxes.
- ◆ The farmers present said they do pay taxes.
- ◆ Need a big industry to pay taxes.
- ◆ The county is trashy and it turns people off. We need better laws to control garbage.
- ◆ Accomack County has good assets but we need to use them more wisely.
- ◆ Villages are falling down. Need new development and need to beautify.
- ◆ Approve of plan's emphasis on conservation.
- ◆ Water is priceless. Farms are now using water. New development on farms will not use any more water.
- ◆ Land Use Value taxation is costing other taxpayers three cents per hundred today, and will cost them more with the new reassessments.
- ◆ People want to live on smaller lots.
- ◆ We won't have central sewer in five years.
- ◆ Teachers are moving to Maryland because of better salaries and housing.
- ◆ Congratulations to the Planning Commission on accomplishing the Comprehensive Plan update.
- ◆ Some Wallops employees like to live in Atlantic on small lots.
- ◆ Economics is driving out vegetable production.
- ◆ Five acres for a building lot is downzoning. Loudoun County imports workers from West Virginia.
- ◆ Look how you are defining the problem. We need a diverse economy, so add economic development.
- ◆ Some people feel that Accomack County makes it very hard to do business in.
- ◆ Chapter 5 Policies 7 & 8 cover economic development.
- ◆ Need incentives for businesses to move here.
- ◆ The government needs to be more responsible.
- ◆ Education is the key factor! Economic development depends on education. You need a good education to get a good job.
- ◆ The Planning Commission should be commended for their work on the plan.

Mr. Herd, Mr. Hickman, and Mr. McGowan responded to the comments and questions.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

On a Motion by Mr. Frese, Seconded by Mr. Sprague, those present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting to the Planning Commission Work Session Meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday, December 17, 2007, at Metompkin Elementary School in Parksley, Virginia.

Chairman Hickman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

E. Phillip Hickman, Chairman

Tonya Taylor, Administrative Assistant