

Virginia: At a Joint Public Hearing meeting of the Accomack County Planning Commission and The Board of Supervisors held on the 14th day of May, 2008, in the cafeteria of Metompkin Elementary School in Parksley, Virginia:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Planning Commission Members Present:

Mr. Jim Frese
Mr. E. Phillip Hickman, Chairman
Mr. C. Robert Hickman
Ms. Tammy James
Mr. Leander Roberts, Jr.
Mr. Herb Thom
Mr. E. Bryan Turner

Planning Commission Members Absent:

Mr. Robert L. Nock
Ms. Stella Rohde, Vice Chair

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Mr. Ron S. Wolff, Chair
Mr. Steve D. Mallette, Vice Chair
Ms. Wanda J. Thornton
Mr. Grayson C. Chesser
Mr. John C. Gray
Ms. Sandra Hart Mears
Ms. Laura Belle Gordy
Mr. Donald L. Hart, Jr.
Mr. E. Philip McCaleb

Others Present:

Mr. Steven B. Miner, County Administrator
Ms. Yvonne N. Pennell, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Mark Taylor, County Attorney
Mr. James M. McGowan, Director of Planning
Ms. Tonya Taylor, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Robert Testerman, Land Use Planner
Mr. Tom Brockenbrough, GIS Coordinator
Mr. Norman Pitt, Environmental Planner
Mr. Milton Herd, Consultant

B. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Wolff called the meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order and Mr. Hickman called the meeting of the Planning Commission to order. The invocation was given by Mr. Gray, after which the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Statement Hon. Sandra Hart Mears

Mrs. Mears offered a disclosure statement noting that she owned property within the proposed Village Development area near Parksley, VA.

2. STAFF PRESENTATION :

A. Jim McGowan, Director of Planning: Mr. McGowan welcomed those present and presented the following overview of the Comprehensive Plan process:

- The Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2223 requires all local governments to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans, and to review those plans every five years. In Virginia, the purpose of comprehensive plans is to coordinate the harmonious development of counties, cities, and towns in accordance with present and probable future needs and resources in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants. The future land use map designates areas for public and private development and uses. One of the main purposes of the comprehensive plan and the future land use map is to guide decisions on rezoning applications.
- The 2008 plan is Accomack County's 4th Comprehensive Plan in the past 30 years. It is a huge step forward from the past plans, and takes advantage of the improved technology and information available today.
- The 1979 plan was the Typewriter Plan, 30 pages with hand-drawn maps, and the first attempt to look comprehensively at Accomack County's future. The County's first subdivision ordinance was adopted in 1973, the first zoning ordinance 1974. Before that, land could be simply divided, recorded by deed, and built upon with no regard to community needs, public safety, fiscal impacts, or environmental concerns. With a declining population there was little growth at the time. But development was already coming, as shown by the 4,000-plus lot development at Captain's Cove, which had already been platted before zoning or subdivision ordinances were in place.
- In 1989 the plan was the Computer Plan, greatly expanded and updated, the first plan done on a computer, with many more hand-drawn maps. The plan highlighted issues such as substandard housing, indoor plumbing, economic development, and ground water use, and called for focusing development around existing communities. The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act was being adopted, and the Eastern Shore was in the process of being designated a Virginia Ground Water Management Area.
- The 1997 plan was the Geographic Information System, or GIS, Plan. Knowledge and mapping of natural resources had greatly expanded and the plan included many maps to

illustrate county planning issues. The 200-page plan called for better community development and protection of natural resources through improved zoning and subdivision regulations. The U.S. Route 13 Corridor Plan was being developed, and there was increased interest in managing land development to improve highway safety, encourage economic development, and preserve Accomack County's rural character.

- The 2008 plan is the first Internet Plan, using on-line resources to update data and maps, as well as to make the 300-page plan available to citizens on-line. Increased residential and commercial development over the past ten years has resulted in new community support for better planning and growth management. GIS technology allowed us to do a buildout analysis and land use analysis to base the plan on a realistic assessment of future land development needs and natural resource conservation. The 2008 plan updates and expands previous information on a wide range of community issues, including economic development, affordable housing, transportation, agriculture and forestry, fisheries, water quality, ground water, natural resources conservation, fiscal impacts of growth, and the protection of Accomack County's rural character and unique way of life.
- Tonight we will present the updated 2008 plan and hear comments from the public. After the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission may make a recommendation on the plan to the Board of Supervisors. After receiving a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors may adopt the plan as presented, adopt the plan with revisions, or return the plan to the Planning Commission for further work.
- The 2008 plan update was developed by the Planning Commission over the past two and a half years with the assistance of planning consultant Milton Herd and Department of Planning staff members. I'd like to thank the Planning Commission, the Stakeholder Group, Mr. Herd, the Department of Planning staff, the County Administrator's Office, and the County Attorney's Office for all their hard work on the plan update. I'd also like to thank the Board of Supervisors and the taxpayers of Accomack County for providing the resources to update the plan, and the citizens of Accomack County for attending the many public meetings during plan development.
- The process to update the Comprehensive Plan began on October 24, 2005, at a Planning Commission/Stakeholder Group workshop that identified land use issues and options. The results of this workshop are available on page A-1 of the plan update. Comprehensive Planning Workshops were held in September 25, 2006, at Nandua High School and on September 26, 2006, at Arcadia High School. The results of these workshops are on page A-5 of the plan update.
- Based on the results of the Comprehensive Planning Workshops, the Draft Future Land Use Map was developed and a series of four Public Meetings to present and discuss the maps were held in January and February 2007, at Nandua Middle School, Metompkin Middle School, and Arcadia Middle School.
- As the Comprehensive Plan update was developed, chapter drafts and maps were distributed regularly to the Planning Commission, Stakeholder Group, and Board of

Supervisors and discussed at monthly Planning Commission meetings and work sessions throughout 2007. Drafts of the plan were posted on the Accomack County website in September and November 2007. A Joint Workshop was held by the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission at Nandua Middle School on November 20, 2007, and the draft plan was presented at two Public Meetings on December 11, 2007, at Nandua Middle School and on December 12, 2007, Arcadia Middle School. Based on the discussions at these meetings, the Planning Commission approved final revisions to the draft plan on January 2, 2008 and requested the Board of Supervisors to schedule a Joint Public Hearing. The revised plan, dated January 9, 2008, was copied and distributed to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Stakeholder Group, and was posted on the Accomack County website, on January 16, 2008.

- On April 16, 2008, the Board of Supervisors scheduled tonight's Joint Public Hearing. Additional copies of the draft plan were printed and distributed to incorporated towns, Northampton County, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, libraries, and community gathering places throughout Accomack County for public review.

Mr. McGowan presented some corrections to the draft plan, as well as comments received from the Accomack County Airport Commission and the Eastern Shore Tourism Commission.

Mr. McGowan introduced Milton Herd of Herd Planning Design.

B. Milton Herd, Herd Planning and Design: Mr. Herd gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft Comprehensive Plan, including summaries of each chapter.

3. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Updated Accomack County Comprehensive Plan (Revised January 9, 2008)

Chairman Wolff read the rules governing conduct during Public Hearings and opened the Public Hearing for the Board of Supervisors to afford interested persons the opportunity to be heard or to present written comments concerning the Draft Accomack County Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Hickman opened the Public Hearing for the Planning Commission.

Comments of support for the Draft Comprehensive Plan were offered by:

Katherine Croak	John Shire
David Lumgair	George T. Parker
John C. Schnieder	Darlene Van Werkhoven
Linda K. Smith	Miriam Riggs
Lois Cooper	Joan Keane
Robert Lentz	Jerry Hartman
Wesley Edwards	Toni Trepanier
Susan Mastyl	Kathy Phillips

Janet Rochester
Audrey Leonard
Linda Gordon

Ellin McFord
Nancy Duncan
Joan Pace

Comments in opposition to the Draft Comprehensive Plan were offered by:

Jim Belote
Mark Glackin

Chairman Wolff closed the Public Hearing for the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Hickman closed the Public Hearing for the Planning Commission.

4. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Thom made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the revised Comprehensive Plan be adopted. Mr. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mrs. Rohde and Mr. Nock absent.

Mr. Turner made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Agricultural and Airport Commission requests be included in the adopted Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Thom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mrs. Rohde and Mr. Nock absent.

Mr. McCaleb made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission and adopt the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Mallette seconded the motion. Ayes: Mr. Wolff, Mr. Chesser, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Mears, Mr. Mallette, Mrs. Gordy, Mr. Hart, Mr. McCaleb. Nays: Mrs. Thornton.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Gordy made a motion that the Accomack County Board of Supervisors adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Ms. Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Wolff adjourned the Joint Public Hearing.

Mr. Thom made a motion that the Planning Commission adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Ms. James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mrs. Rohde and Mr. Nock absent. Chairman Hickman adjourned the Joint Public Hearing.

Phillip Hickman, Chairman

Tonya Taylor, Administrative Assistant