

Meeting Notice

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday

June 18, 2019

At 5:30 p.m.

The Onancock Planning Commission will hold a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday June 18, 2019. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 15 North Street, Onancock, VA 23417.

Town of Onancock, Virginia
Planning Commission
AGENDA
June 18, 2019
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Review of the Minutes from the May 21, 2018 Meeting
3. Items of Business
 - a. Discussion of the Comprehensive Plan
4. Public Comment
5. Adjourn

Town of Onancock
Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday
May 21, 2019
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairman Judith Grier called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Commission members Bill Bagwell, Robert Bloxom, Ridgway Dunton and Judith Grier were present. Commission members Larry Frey, Scott Schreiber and Matt Spuck were absent. A quorum was established.

Town Manager William Kerbin and Deputy Clerk Mariellen Mearsheimer were present.

Onancock residents Jim McGowan, Barbara Johnsen, Carol Tunstall and Onancock Town Council member Catherine Krause were also in attendance.

Minutes:

Chairman Grier asked for a motion to approve the March 19, 2019 minutes.

Commission member Ridgway Dunton made a motion to approve the minutes. Commission member Robert Bloxom seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Items of Business:

Discussion of the Comprehensive Plan

Chairman Grier welcomed the members of the Main Street Group; Barbara Johnsen, Catherine Krause and Carol Tunstall. Chairman Grier invited them to share what their group is doing and what they would like to see in the comprehensive plan. Mrs. Krause informed the commission members that the Main Street Group has received its 501c3 (non-profit status). Mrs. Krause stated the group is trying to build a pathway to economic development in the town starting with small steps such as street scaping, which might include stamped crosswalks and signage. Other areas of importance were broadband, WiFi, filling empty buildings and parking. Mrs. Johnsen spoke about the importance of getting input from the community. Mrs. Krause asked if there was a master plan of the Town with surveys of all the properties owned by the Town, businesses and individuals. She stressed the importance of good maps. Mr. McGowen stated that better surveying and mapping is an issue that could be discussed to help with future planning. Mrs. Krause asked if the Main Street Group's ideas could be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Grier stated that is what the planning commission wants to do. Mrs. Krause told the group that Mr. Chuck Dupree would be doing a pro-bono assessment of Onancock and stated the Main Street Group was looking for an executive director to help with implementation. She invited members of the Commission to join them for a meeting of the Main Street Group on June 03, 2019 from 10:00A.M. until 1:00P.M. at Mrs. Janet Fosque's house.

Mr. Jim McGowan stated the purpose of the Comprehensive plan is to provide a basis for the zoning ordinances and to have a future land use map.

Commission member Bob Bloxom felt there was a lot of information in the plan but not all of it germane to what a comprehensive plan is supposed to be.

Chairman Grier agreed and felt there was a lot of history included that did not belong. She also wanted it to be a searchable document when completed.

Commission member Bill Bagwell asked what the first step would be.

Mr. McGowen felt the first thing that needed to be done was to create an outline. Then decide what to keep, what to delete as well as reducing the size of the document to about thirty pages.

Some commission members voiced concerns about losing some of the important institutional information.

Mr. McGowen stated deleted information could be put into different formats such as an appendix or operations manual.

Mr. McGowan asked where the current comprehensive plan adopted by the Town Council was located. He stated his copy said Draft at the top of the page. He also stated it was important to have stamped at the top of the plan a header with the date and whether it is a draft or the adopted version and to include the adoption resolution in the plan.

Commission member Ridgway Dunton stated the importance of including dates on all work done by the planning commission.

Some commission members want the document in an electronic format. Mr. McGowen stated getting it from a PDF into a word document was difficult. Commission member Bloxom stated he might know someone who could help.

Discussion followed about maps and where to find them, general resource information, public participation in the plan and when to get people involved. Population information needs to be updated. Chairman Grier and Jim McGowan agreed to work on an outline together and get that to commission members.

Mr. McGowan went through each of the sections and highlighted important aspects. He also asked for a copy of the 1980 downtown Onancock plan and asked if there was an original copy.

Mr. McGowan stated it would be a good idea to have a map of occupied and unoccupied buildings, accessory buildings and the Historic district.

Mr. McGowen stated the plan should also address sea level rise and coastal resiliency, broadband, the Historic Onancock School, as well as the issue of Airbnbs.

Chairman Grier stated she would get a copy out electronically and she and Mr. McGowen would work on a rough outline of the plan and figure out what we are going to do at our next meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn:

Commission member Robert Bloxom made a motion to adjourn. Commission member Bill Bagwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6: 41 P.M.

Judith Grier, Chair

Mariellen Mearsheimer, Deputy Clerk