

Town of Onancock
Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday
October 15, 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, Larry Frey, Judith Grier and Matt Spuck were present. Commission members Ridgway Dunton and Scott Schreiber were absent. A quorum was established. Town Manager William Kerbin and Deputy Clerk Mariellen Mearsheimer were present. Town Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Onancock residents Jim McGowan and John Bodie were also in attendance.

Minutes:

Chairman Grier asked for a motion to approve the June 18, 2019 minutes. Commission member Robert Bloxom made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commission member Matt Spuck seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Items of Business:

Discussion of the Comprehensive Plan

Discussion centered around the Comprehensive Plan Workshop for residents held at the Historic Onancock School on Tuesday September 17, 2019 from 5:30 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Chairman Grier organized the information gathered from the three discussion questions (Question #1; What do you like about Onancock? What are Onancock's strengths? Question #2; What do you not like about Onancock? What are Onancock's weaknesses? Question #3; What are three to five goals for Onancock that would help build on the strengths you identified and fix the weaknesses?) into five workshop themes; #1 Quality of Life, #2 Business and Cultural, #3 Transportation, #4 Housing and Neighborhoods and #5 Town Services / Governance. Chairman Grier then led the discussion based on the five workshop themes. One result of the discussion was the importance of gathering data in order to map out existing land use in town and the need to get someone to count. Examples given of what to count included developed land and undeveloped land, residential properties and commercial properties, occupied and unoccupied buildings, buildings that are owner occupied and buildings that are rented, the condition of buildings, derelict and abandoned buildings and accessory buildings.

Jim McGowan stated he is working on a draft of the Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Grier thanked him for his volunteer work on behalf of the Town. Mr. McGowan stated the next meeting of the Planning Commission should be to draft a vision for the Town based on comments collected from the residents.

Public Comment:

Mayor Fletcher Fosque requested the Planning Commission take up a discussion about the Historic Preservation District. He stated the Commission should include it in the Comprehensive Plan and decide whether to pursue more regulations.

Mr. John Bodie stated the importance of having a cohesive, overarching vision of what we want the Town to look like in the future, a solid theme we want to reach for, then sharing the vision and finding a way of communicating it.

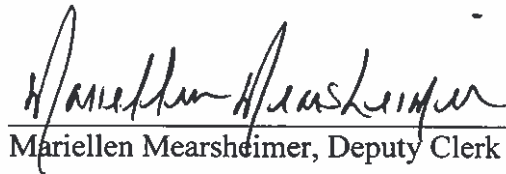
Adjourn:

Chairman Grier asked for a motion to 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 adjourned at 7:00 P.M.



Judith Grier, Chair



Mariellen Mearshimer, Deputy Clerk