

**Town of Onancock , Virginia**  
**Planning Commission**  
**AGENDA**  
**February 18, 2020**  
**5:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Review of the Minutes from the January 21, 2020 Meeting
3. Items of Business
  - a. Discussion of the Comprehensive Plan – Draft Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT)Text
  - b. Preliminary Discussion on Homestays in Business District Downtown (B 1)
4. Public Comment
5. Adjourn

Town of Onancock  
Planning Commission Meeting  
Tuesday  
January 21, 2020  
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 and Judith Grier were present.  
Commission members Ridgway Dunton and Matt Spuck were absent. A quorum was established.  
Town Manager William Kerbin and Deputy Clerk Mariellen Mearsheimer were present.  
Commission member Scott Schreiber arrived late.  
Town resident Jim McGowan, and residents and Onancock Main Street Initiative board members  
Barbara Johnsen and Janet Fosque were also in attendance.

Minutes:

*Chairman Grier asked for a motion to approve the October 15, 2019 minutes.  
Commission Member Robert Bloxom made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.  
Commission member Bill Bagwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice  
vote.*

Commission member Bagwell requested the Planning Commission look at modifying the regulations in the business districts to allow for living on the first floor of buildings with a business in front. He asked that it be a future agenda item.

Items of Business:

Chairman Grier introduced and welcomed Jim McGowan and stated he will be leading the visioning session. Mr. McGowan handed out copies of the input collected from residents at the workshop held in September 2019. He stated the group would use this information to develop a vision statement, consisting of one or two sentences, for the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. McGowan then had those in attendance split up into two groups to work on a vision sentence.

Discussion followed.

Group Ones' vision sentence: In ten years Onancock will be a quaint and cosmopolitan community that is vibrant, livable and safe.

Group Twos' vision sentence: In ten years Onancock will be a thriving year-round, waterfront community that embraces its historic character while poised for the future.

Mrs. Fosque read aloud the Onancock Mainstreet Initiative Groups' vision statement: Historic downtown Onancock is the commercial and cultural part of a thriving waterfront community.

Discussion followed.

The vision statement that the group agreed on after discussion; Onancock will continue to be a safe, thriving, year-round waterfront community that embraces its historic character and cultural assets while poised for the future

Mr. McGowan stated the next step would be to confirm existing land use.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn:

*Chairman Grier asked for a motion to adjourn. Commission member Bloxom made a motion to adjourn. Commission member Frey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.*

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

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Judith Grier, Chair

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Mariellen Mearsheimer, Deputy Clerk

## Draft Onancock CP RAFT TEXT

February 10, 2020

### 2019 Onancock RAFT Scorecard

In 2018-2019 the Town of Onancock participated in the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) project, coordinated by the University of Virginia, the College of William & Mary, and Old Dominion University. Accomack and Northampton Counties, and several Eastern Shore waterfront towns also participated. The RAFT project defines a resilient community as, "... one that is able to adapt, endure, and thrive in the face of change, uncertainty, and adversity – from being prepared for a hurricane to having policies that encourage appropriate land uses in the flood zone. To build resilience, localities need capacities in areas of emergency management, infrastructure, planning, policy, and community well-being."

The Town worked with RAFT to develop the [Onancock RAFT Scorecard](#), which assessed Onancock's capabilities in five resiliency areas, as outlined in Table ??? below.

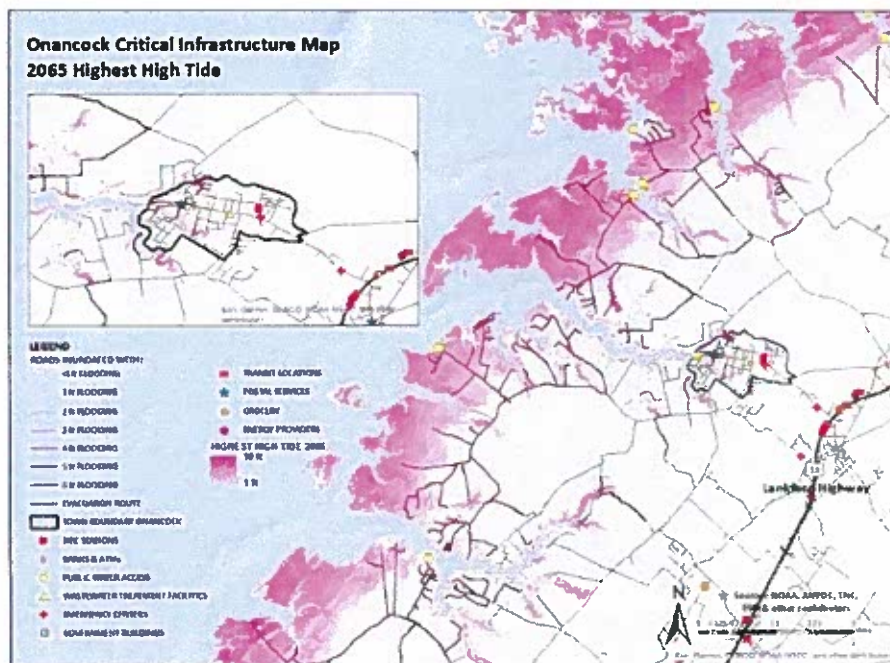
<b>Table ??? ONANCOCK RAFT PROJECT SCORES</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Score Received</b>	<b>Total Possible Score</b>
<b>1. Policy, Leadership, &amp; Collaboration</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>2. Risk Management &amp; Emergency Management</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3. Infrastructure Resilience</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>4. Planning for Resilience</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>5. Community Engagement, Health, &amp; Well Being</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>TOTAL SCORE OUT OF 100 POINTS</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

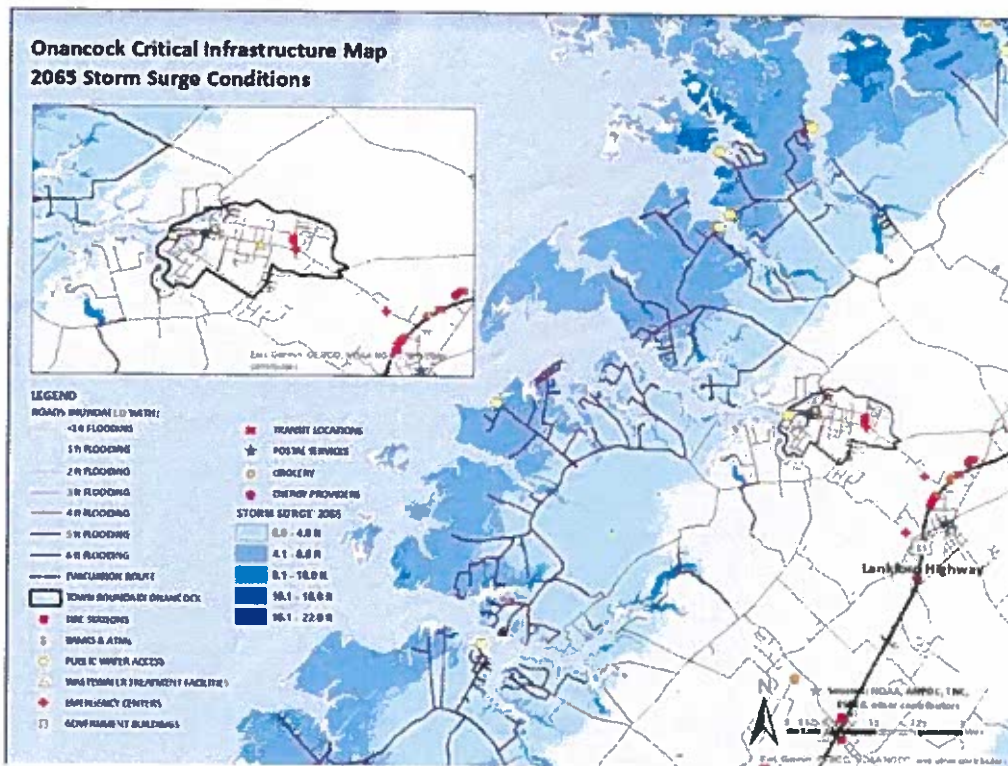
Onancock scored 40 out of 100 possible points, a low score meaning there's plenty of opportunity for improvement. The following summarizes RAFT's Onancock assessment for each of the categories:

- 1. Policy, Leadership, & Collaboration: 8/20** The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission offers training and education events for local staff and elected officials. The Town defines the roles of its members of the Accomack County Emergency Management Program. It is not evident whether Town staff and/or elected officials meet at least once per quarter to coordinate planning specifically on resilience issues.
- 2. Risk Management & Emergency Management: 13/20** The Accomack-Northampton Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) includes a flood exposure and vulnerability assessment that was completed, mapped, and updated within the last five years. The HMP identifies flooding for different return period storm events and identifies additional vulnerabilities, including cultural, historic, and economic assets. It is not evident that sources of flooding have been identified and updated within the last five years.

3. **Infrastructure Resilience: 9/20** Accomack County and **VDOT** manage stormwater for the Town. It is not evident that the County offers any incentives for private property activities that manage stormwater; funds projects through utility fees, user fees, or grants; has an educational demonstration BMP; or has a policy that goes above and beyond minimum state requirements. The Town has identified critical transportation infrastructure and assessed its vulnerability within last 5 years in the Accomack-Northampton Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Town informs residents which infrastructure to use via local media outlets and social media. It is not evident whether the Town has a contingency plan for critical transportation infrastructure or has a plan to protect critical infrastructure.
  
4. **Planning for Resilience: 5/20** The Town has conducted an economic impacts assessment of coastal storm hazards, as discussed in the Accomack-Northampton Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Town has identified specific actions for coastal resilience (pre- and post-flooding mitigation) in its Hazard Mitigation Plan by identifying education outreach for low-income residents in high occupancy housing. It is not evident whether the Town has incorporated coastal resilience funding into a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) or identified funding for non-CIP projects.
  
5. **Community Engagement, Health & Well Being: 5/20** The Town has staff dedicated to public engagement and input on coastal resilience and uses its website and social media to inform and engage the public. The Town does hold at least one public meeting per year, but it is not evident whether such meeting is held in a vulnerable resident area. It is not evident whether the Town has a written policy regarding public engagement for coastal resilience.

The RAFT project developed the following maps summarizing Onancock's and the surrounding area's Critical Infrastructure under 2065 Highest Tide and 2065 Storm Surge Conditions. **What sea level rise scenario are they using? Do the colors indicate water level above ground level?**





Based on the RAFT analysis, the Town developed the following **Onancock Locality Resilience Action Checklist**:

<https://raft.ien.virginia.edu/system/files/Onancock%20Resilience%20Action%20Checklist.pdf>

1. **Complete Comprehensive Plan:** Work with Town Manager to complete Onancock Comprehensive Plan update.
2. **Design Resilient Wharf Waterfront:** The wharf needs repairs to bulkhead and boat ramp, and drainage could be improved to prevent flooding of parking lot. Additionally, the historic Hopkins Store building needs repairs to the waterfront.
3. **Projected Economic Impact Analysis:** Investigate how investments in resilience now will promote economic development in the future.
4. **Community Education & Outreach:** Provide information to the community about resiliency, promoting continuity between Town Council decisions and resilience.