

Town of Onancock
Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday
July 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, Judith Grier and Scott Schreiber were present. Commission member Ridgway Dunton was absent. Commission member Larry Frey arrived late. A quorum was established.

Town Manager Matt Spuck and Deputy Clerk Mariellen Mearsheimer were present. Onancock resident and Main Street Representative Carol Tunstall was present for the meeting. Onancock resident Jim McGowan participated via phone.

Minutes:

Chairman Grier asked for a motion to approve the February 18, 2020 minutes.

Commission member Bloxom made a motion to approve the February 18, 2020 minutes as presented. Commission member Bill Bagwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Items of Business:

a. Discussion of the Comprehensive Plan

Chairman Grier introduced resident Jim McGowan who has volunteered his time to help the Planning Commission with the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. McGowan shared with the group that the census data is sparse and many of the maps available have bad resolution. He had four items to discuss with Commission members.

Item 1: Read and Comment on the Word draft Main Street text and background information sent to them for review for the cancelled March 17, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. Chairman Grier asked if Commission members had reviewed the Word draft Main Street text and background information sent to them. Commission members were OK with the draft and had no additional comments.

Item 2: Ground truth the existing Land Use Map discussed at the January 21, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. McGowan stated we need to have a current Land Use Map.

Town Manager Spuck asked if there was an existing Land Use Map.

Mr. McGowan stated the last one is in the 2004 plan.

Mr. Spuck stated the Town should have a current map and he would get the Department of Public Works (DPW) team to update it with current information and at better resolution for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan

Mr. McGowan asked that the team understand the Land Use categories.

Item 3: Create a Derelict Building Map.

Mr. McGowan stated that he would not include this in the Comprehensive Plan but it would be good to know where they are located. It could include data about the condition of the homes / buildings and whether they are occupied or unoccupied. He added the information would give you a good baseline for future grants.

Town Manager Spuck stated that while DPW updates the Land Use Map, we would include this information.

Item 4: Create a Business Occupancy / Vacancy Map of the downtown area and the uptown Market Street area. Include all floors.

Town Manager Spuck asked Mrs. Tunstall if the Main Street Group had any data they could share.

Mrs. Tunstall said they have data on the identified Main Street area and an extensive database of business occupancy / vacancy. She stated that Onancock Main Street Initiative will get it to Mr. Spuck.

Mr. Spuck stated he will get the information to the Planning Commission.

Town Manager Spuck stated we need to move forward aggressively and get the Comprehensive Plan finished. He asked Mr. McGowan for a copy of everything he has done so far.

Mr. McGowan stated he needed a flash drive because there was a lot of information.

Mr. Spuck will get a flash drive to Chairman Grier for Mr. McGowan's use.

Town Manager Spuck wants to talk about the Comprehensive Plan with the Commission members chapter by chapter.

The Commission members agreed with Mr. Spuck that this was a good plan.

Chairman Grier stated the Planning Commission needs a new Commission member since Mr. Spuck had resigned his position.

Commission member Bloxom stated the Planning Commission makes a recommendation to the Town Council, then the Town Council votes on it.

Town Manager Spuck stated he would send out a notice by various means with a deadline of August 10, 2020, meet with all interested individuals and pass all information to the Planning Commission for discussion and final recommendation to Town Council.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn:


Chairman Grier asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commission member Scott Schreiber made a motion to adjourn. Commission member Bloxom seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.



Judith Grier, Chair


Mariellen Mearsheimer, Deputy Clerk