

Town Council:

Bob Bloxom  
Ray Burger  
Thelma Gillespie  
Catherine Krause  
Joy Marino  
Maphis Oswald



Mayor: Fletcher Fosque  
Town Manager: Matt Spuck

15 North Street  
Onancock, VA 23417

757-787-3363  
[www.Onancock.com](http://www.Onancock.com)

Town of Onancock

Planning Commission Meeting

February 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING – NO IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81369730983?pwd=RHR5eXUrN05RZVRGaW13dE5XVk5vQT09>

or by telephone

+1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 813 6973 0983

Passcode: 121386

Agenda

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes from:
  - a. September 15, 2020
3. New member consideration
4. Honorary membership
5. Special Use Permit application 02:21, Onancock Baptist Church, 67 Market St.
6. Comprehensive Plan
  - a. Review Goals and Actions
    - i. Full plan scheduled to be adopted by Town Council on June 28, 2021
7. Public comment
8. Adjourn

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Town of Onancock  
Planning Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting

September 15, 2020, 5:30 PM

Onancock Town Hall Council Chambers

- 5:30 PM Chairperson Judith Grier called the meeting to order
- 5:31 PM Mr. Spuck, Town Manager, took roll call.
- Commission members Bagwell, Bloxom, Frey, and Grier were in attendance; a quorum is present. Commission members Dunton and Schreiber were absent.
- 5:31 PM Robert Bloxom made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 21, 2020. Mr. Bagwell seconded the motion. No discussion was held and the vote to accept the motion was unanimous.
- 5:35 PM Commission member Schreiber joined the meeting
- 5:35 PM Chairperson Grier introduced the topic of discussion for the meeting, which is to review 2 separate Town Codes as they relate to the Planning Commission's draft Comprehensive Plan.
- Mr. Spuck elaborated on how the Comprehensive Plan (CP) relates to the Town Code. He referenced one of the Goals and Objectives listed in the CP which reads "Promote and preserve the existing character of Onancock's residential neighborhoods." One of the Objectives listed under this goal reads, "Enforce the town's Zoning Ordinance regulations which protect the character of the existing neighborhoods." Three Town Codes were brought before Planning Commission (PC) to discuss as they relate to this objective: Trash (11-2, 11-3); Weeds (11-13 through 11-18); and Vehicles (13-8, 13-9).
- The question before PC for discussion is what enforcement of Code would balance the need to maintain the character of the town and allow for individual property owners to maintain the property as he or she sees fit.
- 5:40 PM PC members openly discussed the merits of a well-enforced Town Code but are cautious about becoming a "planned community." PC divided the areas of concern into three different levels that cause concern:
1. Occupied, Substandard Care

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2. Unoccupied, Standard Care
3. Unoccupied, Substandard Care

Each level cause different concerns ranging from property owner ability and resources available to care for the property to health and safety concerns for the community.

It was suggested by PC that Mr. Spuck communicate with other similar towns to learn what enforcement tools are being used effectively and how to clearly differentiate levels of care between health and safety concerns and simply poor care.

What are the legal rights of the town for a property deemed to be a health and safety concern?

What enforcement practices are effective in managing nuisance ordinances such as abandoned vehicles, overgrown weeds, or mismanaged trash and debris?

It was clear that PC is interested in maintaining the town in a proud manner all the while respecting the individuality of property owners.

- 6:15 PM Chairperson Grier invited public comment. One member of the public (Carol Tunstall) introduced herself as being the representative from the Onancock Main Street Initiative (OMSI) and she is please to hear that PC is considering the vision and mission work that OMSI has prepared thus far in its work on the Comprehensive Plan.
- 6:17 PM Mr. Bagwell moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Frey seconded the motion with unanimous vote from all other members.

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Judith Grier, Chairperson

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Matt Spuck, Deputy Clerk