

Town of Onancock, Virginia  
Planning Commission Meeting  
Tuesday  
April 17, 2018  
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairman Fletcher Fosque called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Commission members Bill Bagwell, Ridgway Dunton, Fletcher Fosque, Lawrence Frey, Judith Grier and Scott Schreiber were present. A quorum was established.

Minutes:

Chairman Fosque asked if there were any changes or additions to the January 16, 2018 minutes as presented.

A motion was made by Commission member Scott Schreiber to approve the minutes as presented. Commission member Judith Grier seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Items of Information:

Chairman Fosque informed the group that at one of the last few Council meetings there had been an application for an Airbnb on 7 Kerr Street and an issue with parking and right of way was discussed. The issue was resolved with the owners and the concerned citizens and council approved that Airbnb, however, a council member was concerned about her vote on the Airbnb ordinance and wanted the Planning Commission to revisit the issue. Chairman Fosque stated that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the Airbnb's had to be owner occupied. Council approved the ordinance that stated owners did not have to live in the house but could only have one Airbnb in town. Chairman Fosque stated he did not see any reason for the Planning Commission to revisit the issue and recommended that the council member should bring the issue up with the Town Council for further discussion. Planning Commission members felt that response was appropriate.

Chairman Fosque also informed the commission members that he would be resigning from the commission due to the fact if elected as the Town's new Mayor he will be off the Town Council. He stated that the Town Council would appoint someone to replace him and the commissioners would have to choose a new chairman. He also stated there would be additional appointments to the Planning Commission and asked if anyone had any suggestions about residents willing to serve to inform the members of Town Council.

Chairman Fosque asked if there were any zoning issues coming up.

Town Manager William Kerbin stated there were none he knew of.

Commission member Bill Bagweli asked if a speculative (spec) house was being built on the property subdivision north of Kerr Street?

Chairman Fosque stated that the Fireman's Field (Carnival Grounds) property was still for sale.

Chairman Fosque asked if anyone had attended the Main Street Program kickoff event and then stated the group was in the process of putting out a survey of all the business owners in town and would survey residents later. He stated that the survey could provide a lot of useful information to the Planning Commission.

**Items of Business:**

**Comprehensive Plan Review  
Section 2 - Land Use: Discussion**

Chairman Fosque asked if anyone saw any issues with this section. Commission member Judith Grier asked what the Historic Onancock School was classified as. Town Manager Bill Kerbin stated it was classified as a cultural recreational community facility.

Chairman Fosque asked for discussion specifically about section C, Goals and Objectives: the first goal being to promote and preserve the existing character of Onancock's residential neighborhoods and the second goal to ensure that vacant land and open space is protected from inappropriate development which detracts from Onancock's small town character. Encouraging innovative residential development techniques which are compatible with the character and design of existing neighborhoods in town.

Commission member Scott Schreiber asked if that meant architectural standards.

Commission member Bill Bagwell asked about condos and stated there had been different discussions and proposals over the years and stated a condo development in the middle of an existing neighborhood might not be what we want. He also stated that one of the needs we have is more people living in town. He said we have an aging population, people who are still active who do not want to cut grass, who like being in walking distance to businesses in town (location) and who would add to the tax base but have nowhere to downsize to. He asked are we interested in multi-family developments?

Chairman Fosque stated that we are not doing anything to stop this type of development in the Business 1 (B1) district and stated we could encourage it but there is not a lot of space. William Kerbin stated we are in an enterprise zone. Chairman Fosque stated not many people had taken advantage of that.

A general discussion followed about the lack of this type of development on the Shore and about what could be done to encourage this type of development.

A general discussion followed about how to attract more people to the town.

A general discussion followed about the Main Street Program and how it might help the town.

Chairman Fosque asked for general agreement that one goal should be to promote mixed use in the Business 1 (B1) district and the Business 2 (B2) district and to encourage growth in the Residential 1 (R1) district without changing the character of the district.

Chairman Fosque stated that the commission should hold off on some of this until the Mainstreet Program gets their survey completed.

Public Comment:

None

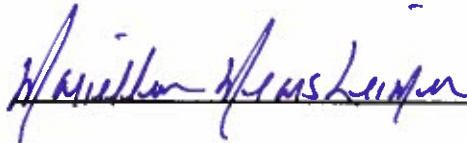
Adjourn:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.



Fletcher Fosque, Chair



Mariellen Mearsheimer, Deputy Clerk