

ACCOMACK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2016

At a meeting of the Accomack County Planning Commission held on the 10th day of August 2016 in the Accomack County Administration Building Board Chambers, Room #104, in Accomac, Virginia.

1. CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Planning Commission Members Present:

Mr. David Lumgair, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Brantley Onley
Mr. C. Robert Hickman
Mr. Lynn Gayle
Mr. Stephen Corazza
Mrs. Angela Wingfield
Mr. Leander Roberts, Jr.

Planning Commission Members Absent:

Mr. Roy Custis
Mr. Spyridon Papadopoulos, Vice-Chairman

Others Present:

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development
Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner
Ms. Jessica Taylor, Administrative Assistant

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, Chairman Lumgair called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Corazza requested that an update on Environmental Assessment for NASA's proposed expansion of the Restricted Area Airspace at Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Wallops Island, Virginia be added to the agenda.

On a motion made by Mr. Onley and seconded by Mr. Gayle, the Planning Commission voted to adopt the agenda, as amended.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (not a public hearing)

Chairman Lumgair opened the floor for the public comment period.

No one signed up or requested to speak.

4. MINUTES

A. July 13, 2016

On a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Hickman, the Planning Commission voted to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2016 regular meeting.

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5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Utility-Scale Solar Report to Board of Supervisors

Staff presented the Planning Commission with a draft report had been prepared and a list of optional additions had been given to them. Mr. Morrison stated that the Commission did need to send the report to the Board soon.

After a brief discussion, it was requested that staff incorporate the following into the report:

- The first four (4) items and number six (6) from the list should be specifically included in the report;
- Alter wording regarding 'lost revenue' to express 'substantial';
- The Commission agreed that without a cut in electricity, additional jobs, etc, it sees no major benefit of solar for the County and its citizens;
- Wording needs to be stronger when expressing that solar should not be placed on large acreage of 'prime' farmland.

On a motion made by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Mr. Corazza, the Planning Commission voted to forward the Utility-Scale Solar Report, with modifications, to Board of Supervisors.

After a brief discussion on 'rezoning' options for solar projects, the Planning Commission decided that it will also begin the process to rezone windmills at the same time.

On a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Hickman, the Planning Commission voted to forward the Utility-Scale Solar Report, with modifications and the addition of windmills, to Board of Supervisors.

6. OTHER MATTERS

A. Atlantic Town Center – Judge's Opinion

Mr. Morrison announced that while the Order of the Court (final determination) is not yet complete, the County prevailed in the Atlantic Town Center case. Mr. Morrison and the Commission briefly discussed one area of vulnerability, Alternative Onsite Septic System (AOSS). He stated that staff and the County Attorney are working on a fix for this.

B. Update on NASA's Environmental Assessment – Restricted Area Airspace

Mr. Morrison informed the Planning Commission that NASA has requested additional Restricted Area Airspace so that it is able to conduct experimental flights/training with lower risk of encountering non-participating (commercial, private) aircraft. No changes are proposed to the types of aircraft or number of operations conducted within the airspace adjacent to Wallops Flight Facility (WFF). Discussion ensued.

Mr. Morrison stated that Wallops has extended the public comment period on the draft environmental assessment until September 1, 2016, and the next information session is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, August 11, at the Wallops Visitors Center.

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7. NEW BUSINESS

A. VDOT 2016 Safety Study – Route 13 and Route 175 (Chincoteague Road)

Staff gave a presentation with information from VDOT’s 2016 Safety Study and informed the Commission that while this study covered the entire Eastern Shore, they were only presenting site specific information on site in Accomack County. Chairman Lumgair inquired as to whether or not the Planning Commission will need to make changes to the County’s Comprehensive Plan, after a brief discussion, staff recommended that the Commission decide whether or not they would like to discuss this topic at a future work session.

A copy of this study may be found at the Department of Planning and Community Development or online at: <http://www.co.accomack.va.us/departments/planning-and-community-development/land-use-planning>

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Accomack County Board Chambers, Room 104, in Accomac.

The next Planning Commission work session is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Board Conference Room, Room 201, in Accomac.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Mr. Gayle, the Planning Commission voted to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

David Lumgair, Jr., Chairman

Jessica Taylor, Administrative Assistant