

**ACCOMACK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
OF MAY 23, 2017**

At a meeting of the Accomack County Planning Commission held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2017, 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. Spyridon Papadopoulos, Vice-Chairman

Mr. Brantley Onley

Mr. C. Robert Hickman

Mr. Lynn Gayle

Mr. Stephen Corazza

Mrs. Angela Wingfield

**Planning Commission Members Absent:**

Mr. Roy Custis

Mr. Leander Roberts, Jr.

**Others Present:**

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development

Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner

Ms. Jessica Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Paul Muhly, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 4

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

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

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**On a motion made by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Mr. Onley, the Planning Commission voted to approve the agenda as presented.**

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Begin Comprehensive Plan Scoping Discussion**

Staff informed the Planning Commission that an update to the Comprehensive Plan is required every five (5) years and they should determine how in-depth it would like for the update to be this period. Staff recommended that the Planning Commission begin with a review and discussion of the 'Vision for the Future' (and executive summary) and then, review the Table of Contents.

The Planning Commission began discussion of the Vision Statement as it agreed the statement seemed very limiting and expressed the need for it to express emphasis on businesses as well in order to attract them. It would like to see a very brief and direct vision statement versus the currently repetitive and flowy.

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Commissioner's expressed the following items that they have concern about or would like to discuss more in-depth:

- Decrease in population projection from the census (discussed the difference between 2000 and 2008 census), birth rate is down and skilled workers are being lost.
- Barrier Islands are diminishing and the County should recognize that to protect the environment's beauty, we forego the money that comes from development.
- Poultry houses are not mentioned in the Agricultural district and while not everyone has a positive outlook on poultry, it has increased the tax base and provided jobs.
- The number of abandoned houses and derelict structures has increased and people are choosing modular homes over renovating. Staff will provide building permit information at a later meeting.
- The rural community attracts retirees, but once they need assistance, they move to be with their children or family members.
- Address the zoning of Route 13 to show that the County has interest in business.
- High crime rate in Accomack County; Is there a way to address some of these issues with land use? Is there concern of opioids locally?
- The Shore relies on Federal (NASA, Army Corps, Nature Conservancy, etc); concern that Army Corps has stopped working on intercostal waters; federal employees do not want to move to the area due to the lack of options and school system.
- Give notice to Assateague and Wallops Island for what they offer to the Shore.
- Address 'coastal resiliency' in the Comprehensive Plan as a notice to areas subject to its effects: Wachapreague, Onancock, Chincoteague, etc. and address in the Building Codes for safety.
- Address fiber optic.
- Consider the value and options of saving Tangier; reference Poplar Island, Maryland and Dutch communities.

The general consensus was that demographics are changing, but the population is not. Businesses want to come to the area, but they need employees.

**4. OTHER MATTERS**

Mr. Morrison informed the Planning Commission that Gary Pusey, Zoning Administrator, had submitted his resignation and his last day with the County would be May 24, 2017.

Supervisor Muhly stated that he was in attendance to discuss private and secondary roads. His main concern is that these roads are rarely built to VDOT standards and emergency personnel are at times unable to reach a residence due to the road conditions. The Planning Commission agreed that this was a concern and discussed the cost of building and maintaining roads built to VDOT standards, VDOT adopting secondary roads. Staff agreed to research this topic further and place the item on a future agenda.

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**5. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Accomack County Board Chambers, Room 104, in Accomac.

**6. 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 9:22 p.m.

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David Lumgair, Jr., Chairman

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Jessica Taylor, Administrative Assistant