

Accomack County Planning Commission Minutes of May 22, 2012

Virginia: At a meeting of the Accomack County Planning Commission held on the 22nd day of May 2012, in the Accomack County Administration Building School Board Conference Room, Room #201, Accomac.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Planning Commission Members Present

Mr. E. Phillip Hickman, Chairman
Mr. George Parker, Vice-Chairman
Mr. C. Robert Hickman
Mr. Alan Silverman
Mr. Pete Onley
Mr. David Lumgair

Members Absent:

Mr. Leander Roberts
Ms. Toni Trepanier
Mr. Tony Picardi

Others Present:

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development
Mr. Robert Testerman, Land Use Planner
Ms. Hollis Fate, Administrative Assistant

B. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

There being a quorum, Chairman Hickman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

3. ROUTE 13 DISCUSSION

Mr. Morrison gave a brief recap of the April 24, 2012 work session.

At the April 24, 2012 work session, The Planning Commission created a list of items to work from the ‘Things we like about Route 13’ and ‘Things we would like to change about Route 13’ lists that were created at the March 27, 2012 work session. The items were prioritized and are as follows:

1. Getting on and off Route 13 safely (safety and efficiency)
2. Setbacks
3. Right of ways
4. Signage

Mr. Morrison asked the Planning Commission to clarify the ‘right of way’ priority. It was discussed and ‘right of way encroachment’ was agreed upon.

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Mr. Silverman referenced that the dominant theme in the Route 13 Overlay District in the Comprehensive Plan was to preserve the nature of Route 13 as a through-road by avoiding the need for bypasses, more traffic lights, etc.

Mr. Morrison responded that there are always competing interests with business versus preservation. There is this push to contain growth and to put growth in places where it needs to be put and in Accomack County's case, growth wants to be on Route 13.

Mr. Silverman suggested the Planning Commission balance those interests to the extent possible. He further suggested considering frontage (or backage) roads, interconnections, requiring setbacks on new development for future frontage roads, and/or managing or reducing the amount of penetrations.

The Planning Commission further discussed growth along Route 13 and whether or not an overlay district is needed.

Mr. Parker suggested that a report be written stating why the Planning Commission will not be doing a Route 13 Overlay District and in the report outline some of the changes that the Planning Commission believes should be implemented throughout Accomack County, not just to Route 13.

Mr. Morrison suggested taking what changes the Planning Commission would like to implement and add them into the zoning ordinance.

Discussion on interconnections took place and the Planning Commission suggested requiring a developer/engineer to show where interconnections would be placed on the submitted site plans.

Mr. Morrison also suggested that the Planning Commission make an adjustment to the 100-foot setback regulation and the Planning Commission agreed.

Mr. Morrison also suggested that the Planning Commission consider parking lot landscaping – whether it be around the perimeter or internal and the Planning Commission agreed.

It was recommended that the Planning Commission incorporate what concepts they would like to implement into the Business District and requiring any Conditional Use Permits in Agriculture that are along Route 13 and/or along any other road that the Planning Commission desires to follow the same standards as in the Business District.

Mr. Parker recapped the most discussed topics of the night:

- Interconnections
- Parking lot landscaping
- Setback adjustments
- Conditional Use Permits in Agriculture along Route 13 (and any other roads that the Planning Commission desires)

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4. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Special Meeting – Tour of Wattsville Area

It was discussed and the Planning Commission agreed to schedule a special work session to tour the Wattsville area on Thursday, June 7, 2012.

5. NEXT MEETING:

A Planning Commission special mobile work session was scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. to tour the Wattsville area.

The next regular Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Accomack County Board Chambers, Accomac.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Chairman Hickman adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

E. Phillip Hickman, Chairman

Hollis Fate, Administrative Assistant