



COUNTY OF BATH, VIRGINIA
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Bath County Planning Commission

Bath County Courthouse – Room 115

June 24, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Grist, Trudy Woodzell, Jeff Wilson, John Cowden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ronnie Dunnagan

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

STAFF PRESENT: Sherry Ryder

Vice-Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT—MATTERS UNRELATED TO THE AGENDA.

PUBLIC HEARING: No public hearing

Chairman's Report: None

STAFF REPORT: Mrs. Ryder went over her report in the packet

OLD BUSINESS: Comprehensive Plan

Mrs. Ryder: Your packet includes the summary from the two meetings at Hot Springs. We will be having another in Millboro on July 8th at 7pm in the Library at the Elementary School.

The board discussed the reasons behind the comprehensive plan and what the plan is designed for.

Mrs. Ryder: Central Shenandoah has asked specifically what chapters we want them to do. Demographics are one since it is based off census. As far as the two other sections we would want them to focus on, what would that be?

Mr. Wilson: Housing could maybe be one.

Mrs. Ryder: I thought Demographics would be a good one for them to complete. The charts would be good to keep with updated numbers. Are there any other charts you would want in here?

The board as a whole discussed various aspects of affordable housing.

Mr. Grist: I would feel comfortable with the comprehensive plan having the most up to date data.

Mrs. Ryder: Economy doesn't have a lot of numbers, so I don't see why they couldn't fill that one in. I'm going to put it down as well.

Mr. Wilson: That one would be good since it is just updating numbers.

Mrs. Ryder: Government Structure and Finance would be another good one since it is just numbers. So do we want to go in order of Demographics, Housing, Economy and then Government? We do need to look at goals and objectives under Government Structure and Finance.

Mr. Wilson: That gives them something to start with.

Mrs. Ryder: We do need to look at goals and objectives under Government Structure and Finance. When going to do CIP requests for the county you really have to read into it as to where it goes. We don't have anything in comprehensive plan about courthouse.

The board as a whole discussed the growth area and potential changes but will discuss it at further length at a future meeting.

Mr. Grist: Do we not have the overlay maps that show the growth areas?

Mrs. Ryder: It is in the old comprehensive plan.

Mr. Grist: The maps from 2004 would be helpful in developing the new comprehensive plan and would be beneficial to have back in the comprehensive plan.

Mrs. Ryder: I will get color copies made and sent out to you.

Mr. Grist: I read the email in the packet this morning and there was nothing new. Again, I think that some people would like the comprehensive plan to be a regulatory document and it can't be. They are good comments but they are asking to get too detailed. The one we have in front of us tonight, I agree 100%, if your county decides to do away with Land Use- I would like to see it go deeper than it is now.

Mr. Cowden: I agree whole heartedly. It is in conflict with the rural nature in the comprehensive plan.

Mr. Grist: People want to keep Bath County rural and one way to do that you need to encourage farmers to continue.

Mr. Wilson: There are some people who hold the minimum land and do what they have to do to get the tax break on Land Use Taxes. We might need to look at putting some more controls on the Land Use Tax.

Mr. Gilcrest: The County passed Land Use Tax in 2005 or 2006. It was put in place to recognize farmers in the county. Our intent was to provide relief and encouragement to people who weren't independently wealthy. I had a conversation with a gentleman who may be the only real farmer in the county.

The board as a whole discussed various aspects of farming and how to attract people to farm.

The board as a whole also discussed fracking and the negative impacts of fracking.

The board as a whole also discussed Telecommunications. They discussed how the county has poor internet service. They discussed how CSPDC has applied for a grant with all involved entities regarding a feasibility study on Telecommunications.

NEW BUSINESS: Next Visioning Session will be on July 8th at 7pm at Millboro Elementary School in the Library.

MINUTES: John Cowden made a motion to approve minutes of April 22, 2013. Trudy Woodzell seconded the motion.

VOTE: Approved 4-0

Trudy Woodzell made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chairman Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Jeff Wilson, Vice-Chairman

Date