

MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2008
(Revised December 31, 2008)
Old Northumberland Courthouse
Heathsville

Welcome: Call to Order.

Chairman Lee Allain called the August 19th meeting of the Northumberland County Economic Development Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: William Kling, Vice Chairman/District II, Kathleen M. Hanley, Secretary; C. Bruce Andrews/District V; John A. Hendrickson/District IV; Melissa Bunns, District III; Susan Christopher, Ambassador; Kenneth Eades, County Administrator and Joseph Madej, Executive Director.

Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the July 15, 2008 meetings were approved as mailed. Motion by Andrews.

Second by Hanley. Vote, unanimous

Executive Directors Report:

- A revised Economic Development Commission contact list was provided to each commissioner.
- Project Progress
 - Mid-Bay Marine Center
 - Dr. Greg Haugan's opinion is that the Commission will should obtain 501(C) 3 status. And a tax ID number. The Commission decided to obtain both. Motion by Hendrickson. Second by Bunns. Vote, unanimous.
 - T-SYSTEMS corp.
 - Joy Corprew of the Small Business Development Center sent contact information to George. "International Center for Assistance Inc... Loans up to \$50K. Susan Carlson, President, 1-757-498-1800 office or 1-877-543-5748 toll free." George attempted to call but received "disconnected" messages. Joy Corprew has been asked for updated contact information.
 - George called 1st Capital Bank who has been airing "financing available" ads on T.V... The result was a dead end.
 - James Minor, Branch Manager of EVB bank in Heathsville evaluated a refinancing loan application but a new appraisal reduced the market value from \$230,000 to \$160,000. The mortgage amount is \$125,000. George is still pursuing refinancing.
 - The Commission suggested that George and Carol Seymour investigate the potential for a grant for T-SYSTEMS.
- New Business / Project Opportunities
 - Farmer's Market Pavilion: Construction will begin shortly after a contractor is selected. Completion is anticipated in time for the 2009 summer season. The Commission anticipates that the Pavilion will stimulate local farmers, waterman and artisans to plan to direct sell to consumers at the Farmers Market.
 - Commissioner Andrews discussed with Supervisor Jett the opportunity for a new business of filleting the fish from the fish farm. Lake Cowart might also be informed of the opportunity.
 - The video dealing with the economic development aspects of historic preservation still is being passed around to members of the Commission.
- Local Business Contacts / Support
 - Fish Farm: Northern Neck sites are being considered for fish processing. The organically grown designation imposes exceptional cleanliness requirements. The

- Kelly Seafood facility, which is close to the ponds, is in need of extensive renovation.
 - Visit to Business: “Tommy’s/Daddy O’s” & “DeGaetani’s”
- Liaison Highlights:
 - The Economic Development Commission considered recommending the following zoning changes to the Planning Commission but decided not to recommend:
 - Disallowing “Auto conditioning, truck repairing, retreading” as conditional uses in R-2 Residential Waterfront District.
 - Clear-up the Sign Regulations definition of height as “above grade”.
 - A draft of the text on a plaque for Tanya Creasy has been revised. Commissioner Kling volunteered to revise the text. Supervisor Jim Long has purchased a number of plaques from the Sport Center in Kilmarnock. Tony Creasy will be invited to the September Economic Development Commission monthly to receive the plaque.
- Metrics Highlights
 - Employment: Northumberland County’s June unemployment rate of 5.0% is shown on the included chart of unemployment data from June 2007 to June 2008. Also shown is the average for Virginia (4.2%) and the United States (5.7%). Northumberland County’s unemployment rate for June 2008(5.0%) was higher than June 2007(3.7) but lower than the rate for May 2008(5.6%).
 - Building Permits: Included in the portfolio is a summary which tabulates the number of homes permitted and construction costs for the month of July and Year-to-Date. For July 2008, the number of homes (13) is less than the number of homes (16) permitted a year ago. The estimated value of these 13 homes is \$8 million; the estimated value of the 16 for July 2007 was \$6.1 million. The estimated cost year-to-date is \$37.5million versus \$46 million a year ago. Note: A 12,645 sq ft home is to be built at 2055 Ditchley Road.
- News Articles:
 - The first graduate class of high school students from Marine Trades School.
 - Quarterly taxable sales and unemployment statistics compared to other three counties in Northern Neck, State of Virginia and US.
- Progress of Annual Objectives
 - First Grant: The Farmers Market Pavilion construction grant has been approved and the check was officially signed at a big check ceremony on August 18. The signatory and keynote speaker was Congressman Rob Wittman. Commission Chairman Allain also spoke at the ceremony.
 - Web Site: The Economic Development Commission web site is being completely revised.
 - Sewer System Grant: A grant has been requested to fund a feasibility study for a sewer system in Heathsville.
 - Community Event: The first was the “big check” ceremony on August 18th. The second will be the awarding of a plaque to Tonya Creasy at the September 16 Economic Development Commission meeting.
 - Hotel: A permit is outstanding for a hotel/restaurant/marina at Glebe Point. Negotiations are underway to operate the restaurant. Bulkhead and piers have been installed as well as piles to support the hotel/restaurant.
- Upcoming Activities
 - 8/20 Northern Neck Migrant and Seasonal Workers Council monthly meeting
 - 8/21 Northumberland County Planning Commission monthly meeting
 - 8/21 Northern Neck–Middle Peninsula Workforce Network quarterly meeting

9/8 Vision 2048 "Better Models for Development" Committee monthly meeting
9/11 Board of Supervisors monthly meeting

Ambassador Program Report

Susan Christopher reported distributing flyers at the Arlington County Fair and refilling some of the permanent distribution sites.

Commissioners' Reports

Andrews: The cabinet shop being built in Burgess is progressing well.

Bunns: Has Northumberland County ever considered hosting a county fair.

Hendrickson: The construction of the Farmers Market Pavilion should be erected by local contractors.

County Administrator's Comments:

School construction is progressing well.

Public Comments

Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 16, 2008

Minutes recorded by: Joseph J. Madej, Executive Director