

MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2008
(Revised October 21, 2008)
Old Northumberland Courthouse
Heathsville

Welcome: Call to Order.

Chairman Lee Allain called the September 16th 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; Susan Christopher, Ambassador; Kenneth Eades, County Administrator and Joseph Madej, Executive Director. Also present was guest Tonya Creasy.

Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the August 19, 2008 meetings were approved as mailed. Motion by Kling. Second by Hanley. Vote unanimous.

Executive Directors Report:

- Project Progress
 - Mid-Bay Marine Center
 - Dr. Greg Haugan's was reminded on 9/8 that he agreed to obtain 501(C) 3 status and a tax ID number.
 - T-SYSTEMS corp.
 - Joy Corprew of the Small Business Development Center verified the contact information for International Center for Assistance Inc. The information was emailed to T-SYSTEMS.
 - The Executive Director forwarded to George information about Dogwood Equity even though David Cox stated in a phone conversation that a small loan for them is \$4 million.
- New Business / Project Opportunities
 - Farmer's Market Pavilion: The Board of Supervisors meeting of 9/11 included dealing with the contract for the Tavern to operate the Farmers Market Pavilion. The decision was tabled to allow time for the concerns of the Tavern Board to be resolved.
 - 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: The owner of the fish farm is considering sites for possible expansion.
 - Visit to Business: "Ingram Bay Marina" & "Little River Market"
 - The owners of Dove Cottage, (a two room B & B) have asked the Commission to intervene in being charged \$405 for application for a conditional use permit to add a third bedroom. The Executive Director will advise the owners that the fee is for the Health Department and that it has a mechanism for waiving the fee for qualified applicants.
- Liaison Highlights:
 - An appreciation plaque was presented to Tonya Creasy, Regional Program Manager of the Northern Neck Adult Education Program for enabling 75 men and women to qualify for GEC certificates in 2008.
 - The Workforce Investment Board is presently evaluation potential locations for a Comprehensive One Stop Center for the entire Workforce Investment Board Region. The region consists of Fredericksburg, Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shore.

- Metrics Highlights
 - Employment: Northumberland County's July unemployment rate of 5.2% is shown on the included chart of unemployment data from July 2007 to July 2008. Also shown is the average for Virginia (4.4%) and the United States (6.0%). Northumberland County's unemployment rate for July 2008(5.2%) was higher than July 2007(3.4) and higher than the rate for June 2008(5.0%).
 - Building Permits: Included in the portfolio is a summary which tabulates the number of homes permitted and construction costs for the month of August and Year-to-Date. For August 2008, the number of homes (12) is less than the number of homes (16) permitted a year ago. The estimated value of these 12 homes is \$5.4 million; the estimated value of the 16 for August 2007 was \$7.3 million. The estimated cost year-to-date is \$43million versus \$53 million a year ago.
- News Articles:
 - "Trustees of the Jessie DuPont Fund recently awarded more than \$180,000 to two Northern Neck churches to help increase the availability of affordable housing in the Northern Neck."
 - The Economic Development Commission will submit a news release of the awarding of the plaque to Tonya Creasy, Regional Program Manager of the Northern Neck Adult Education Program. The news release will include a photograph of the presentation.
 - Economic Development Commission considered using the Carry-on Trailer success story (one million trailers shipped) the economic development article for the 2009 Chamber of Commerce Guide. The Economic Development Commission decided to center the 2009 guide article on the Farmers Market Pavilion.
- 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 has been completely revised. See www.co.northumberland.va.us click on Government services then Economic Development Commission. Thank Luttrell Tadlock and Dana Wilson. Future modifications will include the Farmers Marker Pavilion, the brochure, the MiniLoan fund information and updating the Sites and Buildings link.
 - Sewer System Grant: A grant request has been approved and the feasibility study has been conducted for a sewer system in Heathsville.
 - Community Event: 1.Big check ceremony with Congressman Rob Wittman. 2. Plaque presentation to Tonya Creasy.
 - Hotel: A permit has been issued and renewed for a hotel/restaurant/marina at Glebe Point. Bulkhead and piers have been installed as well as piles to support the hotel/restaurant.
- Upcoming Activities
 - 9/17 Northern Neck Migrant and Seasonal Workers Council monthly meeting
 - 9/18 Northumberland County Planning Commission monthly meeting
 - 9/18 Va Employment Commission Workforce Partners meeting on a Comprehensive One Stop Center
 - 9/20 Fisherman's Museum Oyster Gardening Workshop
 - 9/22 Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership special meeting with tour of Carry-on trailers
 - 10/4 NAPA's fall social
 - 10/6 Vision 2048 "Better Models for Development" Committee monthly meeting
 - 10/9 Board of Supervisors monthly meeting including quarterly report from the Commission

Ambassador Program Report:

The supplies of brochures are being replenished and new sites are being established in stores.
Brochures are not being placed in sites where a charge would be incurred.

Commissioners' Reports:

Andrews: Cockrell's Seafood interested in being considered for partnering with the fish farm to do fish filleting in Reedville. Commissioner Hanley will contact Cockrell's Seafood.

Will determine if Quarles has an interest in establishing a service station in Reedville.

Hanley: A Department of Defense subcontractor is seeking a manufacturing site to manufacture water purification equipment. Potentially 40 new jobs.

Could Jarvis Point be a reasonable site for fish raising ponds?

Hendrickson: Local contractors want to bid on the Farmers Market Pavilion.

Kling: A program is being planned to teach budgeting to Northumberland's 9th & 11th grades.
Waterman will be asked if an aquaculture seminar would be beneficial to them.

County Administrator's Comments:

Heathsville Sewer system: Even with a 72% grant for the \$2.8million system, the connection fee would be \$4000 and the monthly fee would be \$40.

A Dollar General store will be built in Callao next to the Right Aid

Chairman's Comments:

A draft of a paper was written and distributed suggesting a plan for energy independence beginning with the utilizing of rooftop solar cell shingles for electrical generation on individual homes. All Commissioners will read the paper.

Adjournment 9:15 pm

Next Meeting: October 21, 2008

Minutes recorded by: Joseph J. Madej, Executive Director