

**Northumberland County Planning Commission
August 20, 2009
Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Northumberland County Planning Commission was held on August 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse at Heathsville, VA with the following attendance:

Thomas Basker	Absent	Bill Kling	Present
Chris Cralle	Present	George Kranda	Present
Kevin Elmore	Present	Garfield Parker	Present
Alfred Fisher-Chairman	Present	Jim Stone	Present
Ed King	Absent	Charles Williams	Present

Others in attendance:

W.H. Shirley (Zoning Administrator)

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Al Fisher, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

RE: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' REPORT

W.H. Shirley gave the Board of Supervisors' Report.

RE: MINUTES

With a motion from Bill Kling, seconded by Jim Stone, and approved by all with changes, the Planning Commission approved the July 16, 2009 monthly meeting minutes. The vote on the matter was as follows:

Thomas Basker	Absent	Bill Kling	AYE
Chris Cralle	AYE	George Kranda	AYE
Kevin Elmore	AYE	Garfield Parker	AYE
Alfred Fisher-Chairman	AYE	Jim Stone	AYE
Ed King	Absent	Charles Williams	AYE

RE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 54 ARTICLE IV, SECTION 54-17B OF THE COUNTY'S CHESAPEAKE BAY PRESERVATION AREA ORDINANCE.

W. H. Shirley explained the proposed amendments to the Planning Commission.

Al Fisher opened the public hearing.

Patsy Self asked why the amendment was necessary.

W.H. Shirley explained to her that the Board of Supervisors asked the Commission to review this amendment, and that the Board would like to have more control over these projects.

Greg Haugan supported the amendment. He noted that it would take the pressure off of the individual having to make the decision.

Colston Newton questioned the difference between the landward and seaward 50' area.

W.H. Shirley explained the difference between the two 50' areas.

With there being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

With a motion from Bill Kling, seconded by Garfield Parker, and approved by all, the Commission is recommending to the Board of Supervisors that the proposed amendment to Chapter 54 Article IV, Section 54-17B of the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Ordinance be accepted.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

Thomas Basker	Absent	Bill Kling	AYE
Chris Cralle	AYE	George Kranda	AYE
Kevin Elmore	AYE	Garfield Parker	AYE
Alfred Fisher-Chairman	AYE	Jim Stone	AYE
Ed King	Absent	Charles Williams	AYE

RE: ZONING REVIEW

With a motion from George Kranda, seconded by Jim Stone, and approved by all, the Commission decided to carry over the working session to the September 17, 2009 meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

Thomas Basker	Absent	Bill Kling	AYE
Chris Cralle	AYE	George Kranda	AYE
Kevin Elmore	AYE	Garfield Parker	AYE
Alfred Fisher-Chairman	AYE	Jim Stone	AYE
Ed King	Absent	Charles Williams	AYE

RE: OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be brought before the Commission

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Larry Moore commented that he hoped that emotionalism will not enter into the decision made by the Planning Commission due to the remarks made by Becky Bowles at previous meetings. He also noted that the Zoning Ordinance should not be bound by the Comprehensive Plan.

Greg Haugan stated that the Comprehensive Plan is general in nature. The map boundaries should be given careful consideration when modifying the areas (referring to the previous months rezoning request). Changes to the Comprehensive Plan should be made as a whole.

Al Fisher noted that the Comprehensive Plan is not a perfect document. The public input sessions of the last Comprehensive Plan were unsurpassed to the best of his memory.

Larry Moore questioned why the Commission is revamping the Zoning Ordinance on an imperfect document. Conditional Uses take away peoples' rights. However, Mr. Moore agrees that there are some uses that do need to be handled by Conditional Use, but not of the uses that are currently proposed. He felt the input to the Comprehensive Plan was one sided. Working people were not involved and did not participate in hearings on the Comprehensive Plan.

Ginny Estelle thanked the Commission for their work. People were invited to participate in the discussions of the Comprehensive Plan. We can live anywhere, but we chose to live here and we would like to keep things the way they are with more employment opportunities and services.

Becky Bowles stressed to the Commission that A-1 (Agriculture Zoned land) has a lot of uses that need to be by Conditional Use. The Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission know best where these uses should be placed. Why shouldn't the Board of Supervisors have a say in where uses are placed? A lot of people feel that these changes are taking away property rights, but they are really protecting what we have. People move here for the quiet and beauty. Please continue with the proposed changes.

Wayne Burgess stated that he really doesn't have the time to be here tonight; however, he expects the governing body to do the right thing. My Conditional Use was done properly and was approved by the Board of Supervisors. We need to protect the right to start a business on our home property. A lot of us were born and raised here; however, the "come heres" want to make changes to the way things are.

No further public comments were received

RE: ADJOURNMENT

With a motion from Garfield Parker, seconded by Kevin Elmore, and approved by all, the meeting was adjourned. The vote on the matter was as follows:

Thomas Basker	Absent	Bill Kling	AYE
Chris Cralle	AYE	George Kranda	AYE
Kevin Elmore	AYE	Garfield Parker	AYE
Alfred Fisher-Chairman	AYE	Jim Stone	AYE
Ed King	Absent	Charles Williams	AYE