

**Northumberland County Planning Commission  
March 19, 2015  
Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Northumberland County Planning Commission was held on March 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse at Heathsville, VA with the following attendance:

Chris Cralle	Absent	Garfield Parker	Present
Vivian Diggs	Present	Albert Penley, Jr.	Present
Alfred Fisher	Present	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	Present
Ed King	Present	Heidi Wilkins	Present
Bill Kling	Present	Charles Williams	Absent

Others in attendance:

Richard Haynie (Board of Supervisor Liaison)

Luttrell Tadlock (Assistant County Administrator)

**RE: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Bill Kling, Chairman.

Ed King gave the invocation.

Albert Penley led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**RE: AGENDA APPROVAL**

With a motion from Wellington Shirley, Jr., seconded by Heidi Wilkins, and approved by all, the March 19, 2015 agenda was approved. The vote was as follows:

Chris Cralle	Absent	Garfield Parker	AYE
Vivian Diggs	AYE	Albert Penley, Jr.	AYE
Alfred Fisher	AYE	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	AYE
Ed King	AYE	Heidi Wilkins	AYE
Bill Kling	AYE	Charles Williams	Absent

**RE: MINUTES- January 15, 2015**

With a motion from Alfred Fisher, seconded by Wellington Shirley, Jr., and approved by all, the January 15, 2015 minutes were approved. The vote was as follows:

Chris Cralle	Absent	Garfield Parker	AYE
Vivian Diggs	AYE	Albert Penley, Jr.	AYE
Alfred Fisher	AYE	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	AYE
Ed King	AYE	Heidi Wilkins	AYE
Bill Kling	AYE	Charles Williams	Absent

**RE: COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

The Commission welcomed new member Vivian Diggs.

**RE: STAFF MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Staff comments.

**RE: CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

There were no Citizens' comments.

**RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were no Public Hearings Scheduled.

**RE: WORK SESSION ITEMS**

Dance Hall Ordinance

Luttrell Tadlock stated the Board of Supervisors has asked the Commission by resolution to review the Dance Hall Ordinance. A copy of this resolution can be found in the meeting file. He explained the draft language that Staff has been reviewing.

Alfred Fisher stated he takes this topic seriously. This is one of the most serious issues with which the Sheriff's Office is involved. This takes a tremendous amount of time from the Sheriff's Office. We need some control over dance hall events, it is detrimental to the resource of the Sheriff's Department and it is detrimental to the general public if not controlled.

Albert Penley questioned if it would make a difference if the penalty was stricter?

Alfred Fisher did not believe so.

Heidi Wilkins suggested a higher permit fee (perhaps \$500). This would make the applicant have more of an investment in the event and would also aid in covering County expenses should the need arise.

Alfred Fisher said he may be wrong, but a higher permit fee may not go well with the public.

Heidi Wilkins stated that if the resources of the Sheriff's Office are being stretched, then maybe the County should recoup some of the costs of responding to these incidents. Fees for a Dance Hall permit cannot be \$25, it would not be taken seriously. Ms. Wilkins questioned if the Commission is responsible for other ordinances like this Dance Hall Ordinance.

Luttrell Tadlock commented that the Commission is not responsible for the Dance Hall Ordinance, mostly the Commission is responsible for holding public hearings on Zoning, Chesapeake Bay Act etc., but the Commission has no responsibility for holding public hearings for the Dance Hall Ordinance.

Wellington Shirley stated Dance Halls do not belong in the Zoning Ordinance. He would recommend removing the word Dance Hall from the Public Amusement definition. The Board of Supervisors should not have to have public hearings on each dance hall permit. He feels that it would be more effective to be a standalone ordinance.

The Commission continued its discussion about the topic.

Upon motion by Albert Penley, seconded by Wellington Shirley, and approved by all, the Commission is recommending to the Board of Supervisors that the Dance Hall Ordinance be modified to stricter standards and not be made part of the Zoning Ordinance. The vote was as follows:

Chris Cralle	Absent	Garfield Parker	AYE
Vivian Diggs	AYE	Albert Penley, Jr.	AYE
Alfred Fisher	AYE	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	AYE
Ed King	AYE	Heidi Wilkins	AYE
Bill Kling	AYE	Charles Williams	Absent

Upon motion by Wellington Shirley, seconded by Albert Penley, and approved by all, the Commission is recommending that the reference to Dance Halls in the Zoning Ordinance be removed from the Public Amusement definition. The vote was as follows:

Chris Cralle	Absent	Garfield Parker	AYE
Vivian Diggs	AYE	Albert Penley, Jr.	AYE
Alfred Fisher	AYE	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	AYE
Ed King	AYE	Heidi Wilkins	AYE
Bill Kling	AYE	Charles Williams	Absent

Chapter 2- Comprehensive Plan Review

The Commission worked on reviewing Chapter 2 of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. The Commission discussed minor changes to the plan. The Commission did not formerly take action on this section, however, finalized language to be included in the final draft to be advertised for Public Hearing.

RE: DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board of Supervisors Report

Luttrell Tadlock gave the Board of Supervisors’ report.

Contact Information for Planning Commission

Bill Kling asked if contact information should be placed on the County's web page for those that would like to get in contact with an individual member. He noted that he would like his email address placed on the web page and to let Luttrell know if you would like your information on there as well. Other Boards and Commissions have their contact information on the County's web page. Since we are part of the Commission we should be accessible to the public.

**RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lee Allain encouraged the Commission members to put their email on the web page.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

With a motion from Wellington Shirley, seconded by Albert Penley, and approved by all, the meeting was adjourned. The vote was as follows:

Chris Cralle	Absent	Garfield Parker	AYE
Vivian Diggs	AYE	Albert Penley, Jr.	AYE
Alfred Fisher	AYE	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	AYE
Ed King	AYE	Heidi Wilkins	AYE
Bill Kling	AYE	Charles Williams	Absent