

MINUTES

The Kent County Planning Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room at 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland, with the following members in attendance: Elizabeth Morris, Chairman; William Sutton, Vice Chairman; Ed Birkmire; James Saunders; William Crowding; Joe Hickman, and Kim Kohl. Staff in attendance were: Katrina Tucker, Community Planner and Acting Clerk; Stephanie Jones, Environmental Planner; and G. Mitchell Mowell, Planning Commission Attorney.

Ms. Morris called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

MINUTES

The minutes of November 3, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

There were no applications for review for the meeting in December of 2016.

STAFF REPORTS

Amy Moredock (presented by Ms. Tucker):

- The Planning Director was a presenter or panelist at several meetings and conferences during the month of November concerning the County's experience with utility scale renewable energy projects and the Maryland Public Service Commission's preemption process. This evening and for the remainder of the week she is in attendance at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Winter Conference in Cambridge at which she is also a guest speaker at one of the sessions on this topic.

Katrina Tucker:

- On the evening of November 2nd the 2nd Community Forum on the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update was held at the High School.
- Conducted the field work for the baseline reports required by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) on four farms that received offers to sell an easement as part of the 2014 Easement Cycle so that they can go to settlement.
- Attended the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's (ESLC) Annual Conference titled "Food Fight."
- The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed and prepared responses on the draft Historic and Cultural Preservation section for the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Participated with Stephanie Jones, Environmental Planner, in an interview conducted by a graduate student at the University of Oregon for a research project funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the purpose of which is to examine policy, incentives, and planning tools at the local level in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for preserving water quality through policy. The interview included questions about successful local land use policies in the watershed. Questions also pertained to involvement with land conservation policies, the barriers the County encountered with implementation of these policies, the strategies to overcome these barriers, and the effectiveness of the policies.

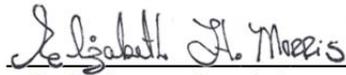
Stephanie Jones:

- Attended the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy Annual Conference titled “Food Fight”. The day consisted of speakers addressing the Safe Food Modernization Act, how trade and policy has affected agriculture, food waste, eating local, and the environmental related to food production.
- Attended the panel discussion “Can Food Production and a Clean Chesapeake Bay Coexist” on November 17 hosted by SRA and CRA. The discussion focused on farming practices, organic vs conventional farming, water quality, eating local, how consumers are shaping the industry, and future of farming on Eastern Shore.
- Attended Eastern Shore Climate Adaption Partnership Meeting on November 15, 2016 which is a collaborative group of municipalities and counties strictly on the Eastern Shore with an initiative to build resilience and be able to adapt to flooding and extreme weather. Discussed the vision, purpose, and goals for the partnership.

Mr. Mowell had nothing to report.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

There being no further business for the good of the organization, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. to convene the work-session on the update to the County’s Comprehensive Plan.



Elizabeth Morris, Chairman



Katrina L. Tucker, Acting Clerk