

VIRGINIA: MINUTES FOR THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE DINWIDDIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HELD IN THE MAIN BALLROOM LOCATED AT THE EASTSIDE ENHANCEMENT BUILDING ON THE 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER AT 5:00 P.M.

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| PRESENT: | SAMUEL W. HAYES | | AT-LARGE |
| | THOMAS TUCKER | VICE CHAIRMAN | AT-LARGE |
| | EVERETTE PROSISE | | DIST #1 |
| | EDWARD TITMUS | | DIST #2 |

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|---------|------------------|----------|---------|
| ABSENT: | BUTCH CUNNINGHAM | CHAIRMAN | DIST #4 |
| | ANTHONY SIMMONS | | DIST #5 |
| | JOHN HARVELL | | DIST #3 |

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| OTHER: | MARK BASSETT | PLANNING DIRECTOR | |
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IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

The Vice Chairman asked for the roll to be called and Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Harvell and Mr. Simmons were not present.

IN RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda that was being presented had no amendments, so it was approved by all present.

IN RE: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE JOINT WORKSHOP: – Kevin Massengill, County Administrator – Tammy Collins, Deputy County Administrator/Planning & Community Development – Kelly Davis, Planning Director from the Berkley Group.

Mr. Massengill welcomed everyone to the workshop and mentioned that some of the Board of Supervisors have been here since 9:00 A.M, but are looking forward to receiving great information and having a discussion about it. He introduced Mrs. Collins to the conversation.

Mrs. Collins also welcomed everyone to the workshop and introduced Ms. Kelly Davis with the Berkley Group who would be conducting the presentation.

Ms. Davis went over the following presentation, which lined up with the Kickoff Workshop package that was sent to all the Planning Commissioners, Board of Supervisors and County Staff present:

Meeting Objectives

- What is a Comprehensive Plan?
- What is the update process?
- What is the status of the Current Plan?
- What is Your Perspective?

What is a Comprehensive Plan

- A long-range planning document and decision-making guide
- A community-guided vision for the future
- A showcase of assets and areas for improvement
- The guiding framework for the community's planning tools: Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Capital Improvements Program and other Plans & Studies
- A legally require document by Virginia State Code Section 15.2-2223

What does a Comprehensive Plan do

- Assesses existing conditions
- Establishes community vision & goals
- With each chapter it will help us set direction for future changed
- Identifies implementation strategies

What does a Comprehensive Plan address

- Historic & Natural resources
- The local economy
- Housing
- Transportation
- Community facilities & services
- Recreation

What are the steps to update the plan

- To do a Diagnostic of the current plan
- To gather input on planning topics, strengths and challenges
- To develop visions and goals
- To conduct a baseline analysis
- To draft a plan content
- To craft strategies and implementation steps
- To do a plan review and to do edits
- To put a plan together for the plan's adoption

Who is involved

- As for Analysis & input
 - The involvement comes from citizens, advocacy groups, local businesses, regional groups, the community and County staff
- As for Synthesize input & Direct Drafting
 - The involvement comes from County staff, Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisor members
- As for Adoption
 - The involvement comes Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisor members

How can Citizens be involved

- Complete the Survey/ Fall 2021
- Attend the Public Workshops/ Fall 2021
- Join a Stakeholder Group/ Fall 2021
- Attend the Public Open House/ Fall 2022

What is the County's or County Leaders Role

- Encourage community participation
- Attend meetings
- Provide input & ideas
- Review drafts & provide feedback

She briefly went over the preliminary findings of Dinwiddie's Comprehensive Plan. She also talked a little about Dinwiddie's 2014 plan policy, which was to:

- Preserve rural character of Dinwiddie County which includes agriculture, open space, clean environment, low taxes, quality education, safe environs, and a strong sense of community.
- Conserve and protect the County's natural and historic resources and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Maintain and enhance the County's ability to coordinate a balanced land-use program among various types of residential, commercial, and industrial interest by encouraging development within areas defined as growth centers and / or growth corridors.
- Preserve productive agricultural and timber lands from premature conversion to urban uses by discouraging urban development patterns throughout the County.
- Provide and maintain needed community facilities and services in a cost-efficient manner. An impact analysis will be required for all major development so that public health, safety, and welfare are protected.
- Protect and manage existing growth areas experiencing residential and commercial pressure by developing an area plan to identify the problems and propose short and long term development solutions

She also talked a little about Dinwiddie's 2014 plan goals which involved:

- Housing
- Agricultural & Timber lands
- Public facilities & Services
- Transportation
- Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation
- Environment
- Economic Development
- Land Use & Development

As she brought the presentation to a close she asked three questions to the Board Supervisors and the Planning Commission members. She wanted to know what their take was concerning the questions.

- What has changed since the last comprehensive plan?
- What are the key issues facing the County today?
- What opportunities should the County take advantage of?

Ms. Collins stated that Mr. Moody, a Board of Supervisor member, said during the Board's joint meeting with the School Board that we need to consider preserving the rural character in Dinwiddie County.

Mr. Hayes said he agrees with that and said he wanted us to consider something else as well. He said however there seems to be some external issues that threaten our rural charter and we need to address those external challenges. Secondly, in this post Covid-19 era, I see the opportunity to attract people who have had to work from home. As we have the rural character they desire, and we are working on getting the broadband/internet connectivity as well.

Mr. Tucker said with the younger generation becoming the land owners of their family's property, we have to figure out a way to help them see the importance of preserving their agricultural land.

Ms. Davis then reminded the members that there are three important things we need to take care of:

- The Public Input Survey which should be put out between October 16, and December 16, 2021
- The Public Workshops which should take place within those dates
- The stakeholder interviews

There was some general discussion about preserving the rural culture in Dinwiddie County. There was also general discussions about agriculture versus silviculture. The members generally spoke about tourism, and they finished their general conversation with recreation to include bikes, trails and parks.

Ms. Davis went over the handout outlining what the next steps in the process are.

The following tentative schedule is planned for the Dinwiddie County Comprehensive Plan Update.

| 2021 | Date | Topics/Actions |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| October | 5 | Joint Kickoff with Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission |
| | 27 | Public Workshop #1 – Eastside Enhancement Center |
| November | On-going | Community Survey (paper and online) – tentatively 10/16-12/16 |
| | 4 | Public Workshop #2 – Ragsdale Community Center |
| | 4 | Stakeholder Meetings |
| December | 16 | Public Workshop #3 – Eastside Enhancement Center |
| January | * | Worksession #2 – Vision & Goals |
| February | - | Drafting of Plan |
| March | * | Worksession #3 – Historic & Natural Resources; Community Facilities & Infrastructure |
| April | - | Drafting of Plan |
| May | * | Worksession #4 – Housing; Economic Development; Recreation |
| June | - | Drafting of Plan |
| July | * | Worksession #5 – Land Use; Transportation |
| August | - | Drafting of Plan |
| September | * | Worksession #6 – Review & Wrap Up |
| October | * | Public Open House #1 |
| November | * | Public Open House #2 |
| December | * | Worksession #7 – Final Review & Revisions |
| 2022 | | |
| January | * | Final Revisions |
| February | * | Planning Commission Public Hearing |
| March | * | Board of Supervisors Public Hearing |

*Dates to be determined

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

The Vice Chairman, Mr. Tucker, said if there is no further business he would entertain a motion for adjournment. All Commissioners present were in agreement the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bassett
Planning Director

Signed: _____
Calvin (Butch) Cunningham, Chairman
Dated: _____