

Gloucester County Comprehensive Plan  
Steering Committee Meeting  
March 22,2007

Those in attendance:

Warren Deal  
George Zahn  
Scott Harwood  
Jack Musick  
David Birdsall, Jr  
Philip Olekszyk  
Chris Corr  
Breck Montague  
Michelle Ressler

Alternative PC Representative  
Tom Arnold

Staff  
Jay Scudder, Planning Director  
Anne Ducey-Ortiz, Paige Gardiner

The meeting began with a discussion on the appointment of a chairman for the committee. Chris Corr was nominated and he accepted the nomination. Since there was a low attendance at the meeting, he suggested that his nomination be voted on at the April meeting. In the meantime, he will discuss the role of chairman with Jay.

This was followed by the final segment of the Comprehensive Plan overview. Highlights of the overview included the elements of Economic Development, Transportation, Community Facilities and Services, Housing, Parks and Recreation, Historic and Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, the Gloucester Point Sub-area Plan, and the Dragon Run Special Area Management Plan.

The committee members discussed various topics during this overview, including affordable housing; and the need for more guidance for the location of multi-family and industrial land uses. It was noted that the County has authorized a housing study to be conducted and this study was underway. The study will be helpful to the Steering Committee when it's complete. Historic resources were another focus of discussion. Discussion in this topic included the need for an umbrella organization for the historic resources and properties in the County, to represent all of these groups and provide a broader appeal for protection of these resources; as well as acting as a foundation for receiving funding.

Staff indicated that the Dragon Run addendum was a unique situation in that a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) was funded by NOAA through Virginia's Coastal Program. A SAMP is meant to provide a plan with regional cooperation between multi-jurisdictions. The grant was administered through the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission and all of the four Counties on the Dragon Run participated. The SAMP was adopted as an addendum to the Comprehensive Plan in 3 of the 4 Counties but is intended to be incorporated into the body of the plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

It was noted that the Steering Committee did not have the Dragon Run Addendum in their plans. Staff will provide the copies at the next meeting.

The meeting ended with a Strengths and Weaknesses exercise. The committee discussed what they perceived to be opportunities, assets, issues and concerns in the County. The following list was produced which will be revisited further in the process when the committee considers long term goals and objectives.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Progressive Staff and Plan Infrastructure in place for planning</li> <li>➤ Large rural areas still left</li> <li>➤ Access to water; coastline</li> <li>➤ Rural Character (need to define this better)</li> <li>➤ Location – close to many destinations (could be a weakness – attract growth)</li> <li>➤ Main Street</li> <li>➤ Courthouse Village area</li> <li>➤ Potential for connected roads and trails</li> <li>➤ Numerous country lanes</li> <li>➤ Strong sense of community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Relatively poor county, not many economic resources or tax base</li> <li>➤ Lack of good jobs in the County – bedroom community</li> <li>➤ Lack of industry</li> <li>➤ Limited infra-structure for industry</li> <li>➤ Location – growth corridor (development pressure)</li> <li>➤ Need more variety – Grocery Store example used</li> <li>➤ Lack of protection for architecture</li> <li>➤ Lack of incentive for local business to improve or create better architecture</li> <li>➤ Difficult to build new marinas – provide greater tax base like in Middlesex</li> </ul>