CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE

A News Journal of Natural Resources, Public Affairs and Community on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

December 2015 Number 12 Volume 28

Poultry Regulation for Accomack County?

By Miriam Riggs

n October 5, 2015, a poultry litter shed suddenly caught fire and burned at a commercial poultry farm on Gaskins Road near Savageville in Accomack County. After being heavily doused with water to extinguish the flames, the saturated pile of manure continued to smolder for three weeks.

owner did not attend to the problem of excessive smoke in the neighborhood. The integrator, Tyson Foods, declared no liability for the incident.

This situation brought to the forefront many of the issues surrounding the current expansion of poultry houses in the county, including health

> concerns, effects on the watershed. and impacts on the community. With better management practices, the manure would have been managed more closely. With an emergency response plan in place, the situation would have been resolved earlier. The reality is that the Savageville story provides a clear example of why poultry farms need to be located well away from rural residences and



A burning poultry manure shed smoldered for three weeks near the village of Savageville, Accomack County, before officials could get the owner to address the public health threat. (photo: Miriam Riggs)

This farm, owned by a resident of Princess Anne, Maryland, had many local neighbors, with some as close as 600 feet, and dozens of homes 1,000 feet away. Residents were exposed to the stench of burning manure for three weeks. Actually, people could smell it in Onley, six miles away toward the east, and to the northwest at the edge of Onancock Creek ten miles away. For three weeks, the absentee

villages.

On November 4, 2015, the Accomack County Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve its **Draft Proposed Poultry Ordinance** Amendments, and to forward it to the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting. The Commissioners felt it was important to get new regulations in place quickly, in anticipation of a substantial increase in the number of

poultry houses throughout the county. The new regulations address setbacks and vegetative buffers, but do little to address areas of public health and environmental concern.

In its own terms, the draft states its intent: "to provide all residents of the county benefit from the orderly and responsible growth of the poultry industry ... to address the larger scale and more intense nature of modern poultry operations." Up until now, industrial poultry operations were granted "by right" in the agricultural zone, with few or no permitting requirements, no regulation of setback distances to protect nearby properties, and no requirement for vegetative buffers.

With the new ordinance, a lot size of six acres is required for the first broiler house, with an additional five acres required for each additional house, and a maximum placement

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Letter from the President

Dear Members,

It has been a remarkable year for CBES. Thanks to your generosity and the incredible commitment of many volunteers, we have infused new energy and purpose into a full time CBES and helped support a new level of activism in our local communities.

From the zoning battles in Northampton and the library issues in Accomack, to the recent series of candidate forums and the election, CBES has gotten back to being a very active participant in a range of debates that can collectively determine whether our Eastern Shore continues to be a Better Eastern Shore. We work hard to help keep you informed on local issues. We provide research and background to assist our policy makers in making better decisions. CBES acts as your watchdog. We work to keep the debate honest and to push our leaders to consider the impacts on the whole community, including those who struggle to be heard.

The issues that the Eastern Shore will wrestle with in the near future are many. They include how to manage and limit the impact of industrial poultry operations Shore-wide, along with preparing for sea level rise, and

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educating our young people. Reasoned and rational debate is critically needed, and that need is only growing. Will you continue to invest to keep CBES working for you?

When I wrote to you last year, our board had made the bold move to a full time Director. In early spring, we had some sleepless nights wondering how we would make it. But the support of our members has been incredible! Our principal fundraiser, the *Between the Waters Bike Tour*, was the most successful ever and its positive impact on the Shore's economy continues to build.

Perhaps the best indicator of our success is that we have grown our CBES membership for the first time in many years. Our Director, Donna Bozza, deserves a lot of the credit working tirelessly to modernize our website and improve the timeliness and relevance of our communications to you. We have organized "CBES Chats" with new members and old friends to keep our lines of communication open. We have tried to respond better to your concerns and to better enlist more of you in our community-building efforts. Volunteers make us stronger.

And more important than ever, Donna is helping us reach out for new sources of grant funding to stabilize our finances. Grant requests are in and more are being written – we anticipate decisions in the spring. We are actively pursuing selling the CBES building to reduce expenses and hope to do so in 2016. Meanwhile, we again need a dedicated investment from our membership this year.

If you are like me, the constant requests for funds from organizations can be tiring. However, I do ask you to remember a couple of things about CBES as you make your giving decisions. First, we are an intensely local organization. Unlike other groups whose affiliation with national organizations and causes provide them support, CBES is only on the Eastern Shore,s and our mission appeals to that small group who care deeply about this special place. As a tiny organization, each of you plays an enormous part and each contribution makes a huge difference. I would also suggest that there is no backup for CBES. If CBES is not here to fill the role as advocate for sound information and open government, there is no one else to fill that void. I strongly believe that without CBES, the Shore would be an entirely different place.

I was recently viewing the remarkable art of At-Altitude Gallery in Cape Charles. The aerial photo of a congested, overdeveloped New Jersey Barrier Island was a jarring contrast to the beautiful and natural Eastern Shore images. What a vivid reminder of what we are all protecting. The Eastern Shore needs CBES. And CBES needs you.

Thank you for your continued support.
Arthur Upshur, CBES President



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Meet the Candidates
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Poultry, cont'd from p. 1

of 12 houses per parcel. The new ordinance calls for increased setbacks, with 500-foot setbacks from nearby residences (600 feet if a tunnel fan is directed toward the residence) and from boundaries of towns or improved subdivisions, and a 400-foot setback from unimproved subdivisions. There would be a 200-foot setback of the broiler houses from the center of Route 13.

The proposed vegetative buffers are standards as set forth by the Delmarva Poultry Industry in their "Guide to Vegetative Environmental Buffers for Tunnel-Ventilated Poultry Houses Tool Kit." Simply put, there would be three rows of vegetation planted on all sides in staggered rows of evergreen and deciduous plants. One other item of concern is the provision that industrial poultry operations could be located in a residential or commercial zone under a Special Use Permit.

As mentioned above, the new regulations do not address health and environmental issues, including those described by agencies such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s National Association of Local Boards of Health. A 2010 CDC report, "Understanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and their Impact on Communities," describes a variety of negative impacts of living near an industrial animal feeding operation as they relate to public health, environmental threats, nearby property values, and a subsequent lowering of the tax base. As pointed out in the CDC report, "the most pressing health issue associated with CAFOs stems from the amount of manure they produce. CAFO manure contains a variety of potential contaminants ... nitrogen, phosphorus, pathogens such as E. coli, growth hormones, antibiotics, animal blood, chemical manure additives, and equipment cleaning chemicals."

The CDC report goes on to state in general terms, "human health can suffer because of contaminated air, and degraded water quality, or from diseases spread from farms." "Quality of life can suffer because of odors or insect vectors surrounding farms ... one of the most common complaints associated with CAFOs are the odors that are produced ... a complex mixture of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and carbon dioxide, as well as volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds." There is much evidence to show that the manure sheds in particular are volatile, and subject to spontaneous combustion.

At the Planning Commission's Public Hearing on November 4, before adoption of the new proposed poultry ordinance, citizens asked commissioners for special siting of the poultry manure sheds. Given the smoldering situation in Savageville, and the known odor problems, a 1,000- to 2,000-foot setback for the sheds was requested. Citizens also asked for emergency response and liability contracts from the growers to be included in the new ordinance.

In the case of the Savageville fire, the out-of-state owner could not be contacted, and the County of Accomack had to engage its Emergency Services and Public Safety Department Personnel to monitor the public health and safety threat for three weeks. The Planning Commissioners were sympathetic, but passed the zoning draft with minor modifications (and no specific provisions for manure sheds), and voted to send it on for review by the Board of Supervisors. The Planning Commission then plans to address the health and safety concerns, which they feel may take more time to develop, in the new year.



Northern Accomack County image showing some of its current industrial poultry house locations.

Although the Planning Commission had taken this two-step approach because there was some sense of urgency regarding new applications, matters took a different turn at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 18, 2015. After several public comments stating that the proposed ordinance fell short of the need to protect the public, with questions about how setbacks would be measured, buffers, "smell distances," and the fact that the proposed regulations reflect what the industry is already doing, the Board decided to hold a separate work session to discuss the issues in detail and possibly amend the new regulations as needed. The work session will be scheduled for January, after which it will be determined whether a public hearing can be set for final adoption of the ordinance, or if further review by the Planning Commission is required. 2

The Roads Not Traveled

Northampton County leaders rode straight down the rezoning highway

By Mary Miller

Even before the summer of 2013, when the Board of Supervisors received the first draft of a comprehensive rezoning of the entire county, almost all of the focus of the Administrative and Planning Staff was on one rewrite after another of the draft Rezoning Ordinance. That would be almost three years, the entire terms of some of the Supervisors, focused on a single document. What got left by the wayside during those three years? As Geoffrey Chaucer reportedly wrote over 600 years ago, "Time and tide wait for no man"— even on the Eastern Shore. Time didn't wait— and the issues piled up.

Hospital, Emergency Room, leaving the county:

A critical problem – the move of the hospital to Accomack County – is now less than a year away. That news became public five years ago, and the County is still not ready for the impact. Meeting after meeting of the Public Service Authority produced a "No report" answer from its Hospital Committee, in response to concern over operation of the Nassawadox facility's wastewater system. There still does not appear to be a solution for other businesses, including a nursing home, which depend on that system. For most Northampton residents, travel to an emergency room will involve either a long ride to Onley, or a trip across the Bay to a closer hospital. Thousands of dollars spent on architecture and engineering studies on transforming the former Middle School into an EMS station resulted in no project. Six years after the fact, a citizen inquiry sparked a very recent settlement of a USDA debt and allowed purchase of an additional emergency vehicle. The County has seemed unable to negotiate with the Riverside corporation over services remaining at the Nassawadox site.

At the Board's November meeting a planning grant application for \$7,500 was approved – to attempt to "reduce avoidable frequent re-usage of county ambulances." The *ad-hoc* Emergency Care Committee also requested approval of a planning grant to study and develop a telecommunications strategy.

Website:

For years, the county website has remained a static, text-dense directory of services, old and difficult to navigate links, other links that go nowhere, personnel no longer in place and almost no promotional information about local industry, population or tourism. Tax map parcel ownership data appear to be up to three years out of date. Along comes the *Northampton County Competitiveness Assessment*, prepared for the county in 2014 by Investment Consulting Associates, NA, LLC – and the very first

recommendation is that the county immediately create an accessible, dynamic online presence. "Act quickly and decisively," the report said, "to take advantage of the recovering economy." More than a year has passed and the county website remains unimproved. The County Budgets for the past four years show: *Department Total: Information Technology* \$1,079,669.00.

Broadband:

The same Competitiveness Assessment ranks "data broadband access issues" as right up near the top of recommendations for improvement. Although the report acknowledged that "construction of a broadband trunk line that reaches all towns within the County" had been accomplished – an \$11 million dollar project, funded by Federal, State and local grants – service to the county's rural areas remains incomplete. An estimated \$10 to \$12 million dollars will be needed to build out service for the "necks" and the remainder of the seaside. There is little possibility of grant funding for this work. A bond sale or private funding by users seems to be the only current options. An ad-hoc committee appointed by the Board provided several recommendations, but there has been little effort to address expanding service. The county has been approving piece-meal applications for tower placements, etc, but there has been no comprehensive plan created by the Board for securing providers who will supply infrastructure for affordable broadband and mobile access for residents in off-13 areas and down the necks.

Economic Development:

Recommendations for county economic development, both state and regional reports, have been consistent over the years, and the *Competitiveness Assessment* in 2014 reiterated the same basic concepts.

- The County should concentrate on workforce development, starting with K-12 education focus, through advanced adult education.
- Northampton County should align its industry targets with its natural resources and assets, and support and work to expand its successful industries.
- The Board should be prepared to act quickly and decisively when an opportunity presents itself.

As previously mentioned, marketing the county through its online presence and increasing broadband availability are vital to compete in the new economy. An Economic Development Director was hired in 2013. Although

See Roads Not Traveled, cont'd on p. 5

Roads Not Traveled, cont'd from p. 4

this new position would also oversee county planning and zoning, the new director from Florida was stated to have "private and public sector experience in real estate development...and project siting." No previous rural development or local government experience was listed on the Director's website. He resigned in July, 2015. The county has now hired a Director of Economic and Community Development who was formerly employed by a Las Vegas real estate development company. No rural development or local government experience was mentioned in the county press release. For the past three years, the whole Economic Development Department has been primarily focused on county rezoning – an issue which has divided the county. Economic development activities, basic marketing, internet presence, EMS planning, workforce development and other intiatives have remained unaddressed. The County Budgets for the past four years show: Department Total: Economic Development \$494,014.00.

A December Vote on Rezoning

The Dec 28 Board of Supervisors Work Session has been scheduled by the County Administrator for "Potential Action on Zoning Ordinance Amendments." This will be the final meeting before a newly-elected Board takes over. Simplifying the current Zoning Ordinance, reducing protections for property owners and the county's resource assets to the minimum regulations required by State Code, and making the county "business friendly" were the justifications given for the three years of Staff work on the proposed document. So far, county officials have failed to identify a single business which chose not to locate in Northampton County because of the current zoning. Opposition by county residents, organizations, businesses and industries continued during all the rewrites. The recent election will change the Board make-up four days after the scheduled vote – the election is seen by many as continued opposition to the rezoning.

The new Board members will have their work cut out for them. For the past years, County Staff has been directed to expend much of their work time on rezoning details. Constant text changes, map configurations and reformatting have left little time for the detailed work required to provide improvements to County services, marketing, workforce training, medical care planning and economic development. Administrative staff salaries and engineering projects have left little funding for recreation, senior services, education enhancements and community development. The majority of Board members have promised to hold Town Hall meetings and to talk with their constituents about county priorities, asset management, and government services. This will be a welcome new addition to County adminstration.

Town Hall Meetings: becoming the rule rather than the exception

Op-Ed by John Ordeman

To facilitate and encourage citizens' participation in the affairs of their communities, CBES has been urging county Supervisors to hold Town Hall Meetings for their constituents. In the past year, however, only two Supervisors, Ron Wolff in Accomack and Granville Hogg in Northampton, have been meeting regularly with the people they represent to exchange information and to discuss issues under consideration by the Board of Supervisors. CBES believes that all Supervisors should avail themselves of the opportunity presented by a Town Hall Meeting to hear what the people who elected them think about these issues and that their constituents have the right to be heard and to question and challenge their representatives.

For more than a decade, CBES has been organizing and moderating Meet the Candidates Forums for all contested local elections. At the forums held prior to this year's elections, the candidates for the contested seats on the two counties' Boards of Supervisors, both incumbents and challengers, were all asked, "If you are elected, will you hold Town Hall Meetings for your constituents?" It will be our practice to pose this same question to all candidates for Supervisor seats at future CBES forums.

It is, perhaps, significant that both of the men elected to the Northampton Board have pledged to hold regular meetings with their constituents; whereas, the defeated incumbent has not held such meetings and said he did not intend to do so in the future. In Accomack, two of the incumbents who have not held meetings for their constituents were defeated by candidates who stated that they would meet regularly with the people of their districts. It would be in the interest of open government if the incumbent Supervisors who were not challenged in this past election were, upon reflection, to decide that they should make themselves available for the exchange of information and the discussion of issues. As things now stand, however, progress has been made, for there are now three Northampton Supervisors and three Accomack Supervisors who are on record as having committed themselves to participate in meetings with their constituents. For our part, CBES will continue to encourage all Supervisors to schedule meetings for their constituents and to urge citizens whose representatives continue to deny them this privilege to press demands for them.

What the Candidates Promised

ShoreLine Staff Report

Both Accomack and Northampton counties will start 2016 with new Board of Supervisors members, and while the campaigns are still fresh in our minds, ShoreLine offers a brief synopsis of what the winning candidates (in contested seats) told us during their campaigns and at CBES Meet the Candidates Forums. Many thanks to forum sponsors Chesapeake Properties and Eastern Shore Coastal Roasting.

Northampton County

Supervisor H. Spencer Murray, District 4:

- Supports use of county assets to create and build economic development
- Supports setbacks and lot coverage limits as the only way to protect against adverse impacts from industrial poultry facilities
- Supports reducing county administration costs and responsibly managing the county's debt
- Protect homeowners and local industries through sensible zoning

Supervisor Robert G. Duer, District 5:

- Supports the use of the county's Competitiveness Assessment to guide economic development—the study "hits the nail on the head"
- Supports protecting residents and resources with a 1,000-foot setback from industrial poultry facilities
- Supports use of sound business fundamentals to restore trust in the county's fiscal management
- Supports positive changes to the current Zoning Ordinance and ensure that land use policies mirror the citizens' vision in the Comprehensive Plan

Both Murray and Duer agreed on several points moving forward: holding Town Hall meetings to listen to their constituents, restoring confidence in elected leaders and county administration, building working relationships with the towns, supporting the basic tools for creating economic development (ie, education, broad band, medical services), protecting and growing county industries (aquaculture, tourism and small business), coordinating and expanding medical services after the hospital leaves the county, and supporting farming through AFDs.

Accomack County

Supervisor Ron S. Wolff, District 2:

Supports poultry industry, which is a \$1.5 billion industry on the Eastern Shore; supports processes to treat
the waste to remove harmful chemicals before land
applications

- Supports Workforce Development Center, Wallops, and tourism as drivers to provide job opportunities and bring young people back to the Shore
- Supports financial support for library

Supervisor Paul E.J. Muhly, District 4:

- Pledges to work full-time for his constituents
- Supports efforts to remove trash and litter and "keep our roadways clean"
- Supports expansion of poultry industry in a responsible way, including possible conversion of waste into energy
- Supports use of local businesses to increase economic opportunities
- Supports Library Board's recommendation for relocation of library to Parksley

Supervisor Harrison W. Phillips III, District 5:

- Supports poultry industry as important part of local economy, although increased waste could be a problem in the future
- Supports economic opportunities for depressed towns on the Shore
- Opposes financial support for library until a new referendum is passed supporting it

Supervisor Laura Belle Gordy, District 7:

- Favors buffers and setbacks for poultry houses; has concerns over effects on the water
- Supports education, including working with the Community College, to provide a needed workforce for new jobs
- Supports financial support for library

Supervisors Wolff, Muhly, and Phillips all agreed to regular meetings with constituents; Supervisor Gordy did not, although she said she would consider it if people showed an interest. Supervisors Wolff, Muhly, and Phillips pledged to vote according to the wishes of their constituents; Supervisor Gordy noted that supervisors often have a deeper understanding of some of the issues, and so they vote accordingly.

What the Candidates Promised, cont'd from p. 6

Virginia General Assembly

And as both Shore representatives return to the General Assembly, here's a look at what they said during their campaigns.

Senator Lynwood Lewis, District 6:

- Supports expansion of Medicaid ("We're sending \$5.2 million a day of our taxes to the federal government.")
- Supports reform of payday lenders and car title loans, while incentivizing banks and credit unions to serve this population
- Supports phased-in increase in minimum wage (current wage is "not reflective of reality")
- Supports plans for new library, including raising money from the county
- Supports further studies on reinstatement of parole

Delegate Robert Bloxom, District 100:

- Opposes Medicaid expansion
- Believes in using the free enterprise system, with decreased regulation of banks, to address payday lenders and car title loans
- Opposes increase in minimum wage, preferring to let the market dictate
- Supports plans for new library, although without any money from the county
- Opposes reinstatement for parole; favors reforms in mandatory sentencing



Thank you to community partner WESR 103.3 FM and Shore Daily News for streaming the forums live and providing recorded broadcasts, all valuable contributions to CBES efforts to give residents opportunities to learn about candidates and their political viewpoints.

Bike Tour Impacts

by Donna Bozza

This year's CBES Between the Waters Bike Tour made a financial splash for the nonprofit's bottom line but also had a significant impact on the Eastern Shore economy. In its 23rd year, the one-day event on October 24 brought in an estimated \$89,000 in visitor spending. CBES utilized an online survey with conservative metrics to track Bike Tour participants' spending in four main categories: Registration/Oyster Roast, Lodging, Restaurants/Meals, and Shopping.

This year, the Bike Tour was based in Cape Charles but the results of the spending by nearly 800 registered riders was felt as far up as Onancock, according to survey responses. CBES conducted the survey to help gauge riders' spending habits as well as to garner feedback on the Bike Tour itself. Survey response was well above the industry average with 184 responses representing an estimated 354 Bike Tour participants.

Increase in spending in subsequent CBES Bike Tours seems to be an emerging trend as the length of riders' stays continue to increase. In previous years, the majority of cyclists traveling from off the Eastern Shore stayed either overnight or just the day of the event. However, this year's survey shows the highest percentage of respondents (45%), stayed two or more nights on the Shore, followed by the second highest category, day-trippers (30%).

Feedback has always shown that a large part of the annual tour's appeal to repeat riders is rotating locations. CBES plans to continue changing locations, but a stronger focus will be on forging partnerships with towns and their businesses that actively support hosting the Bike Tour.

Along with the economics, the survey highlighted an overwhelming appreciation for the volunteer-driven Bike Tour, organized for the eighth year by CBES Event Coordinator, Phyllis Tyndall. Respondents gave the ride high marks in Safety, Pre-registration and Check-in, Rest Stops and Lunches, as well as Routes. Overall Ride Experience was ranked "Excellent" by 71% and "Very Good" by 25 %.

This dovetailed with anecdotal feedback offered during the ride and the event's Oyster Roast on Saturday night. Encouraging too was the response to the survey question "How likely are you to participate in future CBES Bike Tours?" 85 % stated, "Very Likely" followed by 11% who answered "Somewhat Likely."

"The Bike Tour is CBES only fundraising event and leveraging its success for the health of the organization is obviously very important," said Arthur Upshur, CBES President. "But also paramount to our mission of compatible economic development, CBES has always looked to this eco-tourism event as a way to promote the Eastern Shore and support our local businesses."

Between the Waters Bike Tour

October 24, 2015

This year's Bike Tour was an unqualified success, providing wonderful activities for the hundreds of participants, most of whom were visitors to the Shore. (See article in this issue, Bike Tour Impacts, on page 7.) The day could not have been more temperate, sunny and not too windy or cold. Many thanks to Tour Organizer Phyllis Tyndall, as well as our sponsors and volunteers, without whom the weekend's events would not have possible.

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At the Bike Tour Oyster Roast, local band Pound Net raised the roof for sated diners, who had feasted on crab dip, clam chowder, fried chicken and slaw as well as plenty of seaside oysters.

SAVE THE DATE Let's Talk Chicken, Part II

Community Impacts of Industrial Poultry Operations

January 20, 2016 • 6 - 8 PM

Broadwater Academy, Exmore, Virginia



Public Seminar Series

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 • 7:30 PM

Setting Baselines for River Herring Conservation and Restoration in Chesapeake Bay

Dr. Matt Ogburn

Ecologist

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Virginia Institute of Marine Science Wachapreague, Virginia

Keeping Track:

The rezoning public record may be closed, but the people keep speaking out

The November Board of Supervisors meeting drew a crowd of over 60 people—many only now realizing how the proposed rezoning was going to affect them. Of particular concern to many was the possibility that minority owned farms were being disproportionally upzoned from agricultural to residential—while nearby similar parcels owned by non-minorities remained unchanged. A local NAACP official asserted that minority owners were not made aware of the "potential impacts" of the rezoning, and that it "appears to have discriminatory consequences."

One farm owner being upzoned, who had spoken out the previous week at the Public hearing, stated that Board Chairman Hubbard had driven on to his property the day before. The Chairman reportedly told the farmer that he did not own the property. The man and his wife have been the owners of record for several years. The Chair had no comment or explanation.

A prior Planning Commissioner took issue with the Staff's stated goal of simplifying the Ordinance. She stated that prior Codes had zoned county subdivisions in a manner that required all previous Ordinances to be kept on the record. Failing to do that would jeopardize owners' vested rights and deprive them of the due process required for changes. Adopting the proposed rezoning would add still another layer to the zoning process.

Almost all speakers requested that the Board table the rezoning process.

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Bike Tour participants enjoyed sunny skies and mild temperatures as they rode from Cape Charles.

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore P. O. Box 882 Eastville, VA 23347-0882

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

SHORELINE

Community Calendar - December 2015

Note: Please verify times and places prior to attending meetings.

| CBES and Other Activities | | Accomack County | | Northampton County | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Dec 2 | VIMS Public Seminar 7:30 PM, Wachapreague | Dec 2 | Board of Zoning Appeals 10 AM, Sup. Chambers | Dec 1 | Planning Commission 7 PM, Sup. Chambers |
| Dec 2 | Pollinator Habitat Workshop 9:00 AM, ES Ag Ctr, Painter | Dec 9 | Planning Commission 7 PM, BOS Chambers | Dec 7 | Board of Zoning Appeals 1 PM, Conference Room |
| Dec 3 | TNC Holiday Open House 4-8 PM, Brownsville | Dec 15 | School Board 7 PM, BOS Chambers | Dec 8 | Board of Supervisors 7 PM, Sup. Chambers |
| Dec 14 | CBES Exec. Committee 5 PM, CBES Office | Dec 16 | Board of Supervisors 5 PM, BOS Chambers | Dec 16 | Wetlands Board TBA, Conference Room |
| Dec 10 | Shorekeeper Meeting* 3 PM, ES Chamber of Commerce | Dec 17 | Wetlands Board 10 AM, Sup. Chambers | Dec 22 | School Board 5:30 PM, Sup. Chambers |
| | | | | Dec 28 | BOS Work Session 5 PM, Sup. Chambers |

^{*} Alternating between the ES Chamber of Commerce and the Barrier Islands Center

www.cbes.org