CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE

SHORELINE™

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Accomack County Emails Reveal Close Cooperation with Poultry Industry

By Sue Mastyl

Documents included in two Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to Accomack County and the state, for emails and other correspondence related to the development of the county's poultry ordinance, show a pattern of influence, with the industry having significant input into the development of the ordinance, including specific requirements and exact language.

"As an advocate for Virginia's poultry sector, I find some of the questions from Accomack County a little troubling as they seem to imply that the county is looking to restrict the construction of poultry houses." *– Charles Green, Deputy Commissioner, VA Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services*

In July 2017, Jay Ford, Executive Director of Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper, filed a FOIA request to the County and a subsequent FOIA request to the Virginia Department of Agriculture. The requests yielded approximately 500 documents from Accomack County and approximately 1,600 pages from the Department of Agriculture. Analysis of these documents uncovered several email chains between the County's Department of Planning and Zoning and industry representatives, including the following:

- On August 22, 2014, in a follow-up to emails discussing the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program on the Real Property Improvement Grants and Job Creation Grants, Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development for the County, emailed Denton Childs, Director – Non Income Taxes for Tyson Foods, saying "I would very much like to talk with you about possible expansion plans for the Temperanceville Tyson Facility."
- In emails between August 12 and 14, 2015, referencing a proposed farm on Turkey Run Road, Jarrod Goodman, Complex Manager for Tyson Foods in Temperanceville, assured Morrison that "we would not build 24 houses in ... one location ... we will insure *[sic]* that no more than 12 houses are built on the same piece of property. Our goal is to be a good neighbor and part of the community."
- On August 18, 2015, Goodman emailed Morrison indicating they had "decided to make [the Turkey Run Road] farm (2) 8 house farms instead of (2) 12 house farms ... similar to farms already in operation around the county."
- On Sept. 10, 2015, Norman Pitt, Environmental Program Administrator for Accomack County, forwarded a plan review of a 12-house operation to be run by Jarrod Goodman from Liz Scheessele, Senior Project Manager for the Timmons Group, with copies to Barbara Derrickson of George E. Young III, PC, indicating that the plan was "not approvable," noting that, among others, a "wet pond design is missing."

» Goodman's reply to Pitt, with a copy to Morrison, castigated the county for its lack of cooperation : "We agreed that we didn't need wet ponds. You agreed to this yourself. We are at the point that thousands and thousands of dollars have been lost on this process ... You have the ability to direct the 'reviewer' and have failed to do so. The 'reviewer's' comments and attitude overall through her emails are unbelievable to me and are unacceptable. ... [You] have accepted [zero] responsibility for any of this other than to say that 'you are not allowed to review plans.' ... What are YOU and YOUR office going to do to get these plans approved?

See **Accomack,** *cont'd on p. 6*

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Editorial

Riverside's Thrift Store Closures

By Arthur Upshur

Like many, I was saddened by the decision to close the Hospice thrift stores by Riverside Health System (RHS). We would all acknowledge that this was Riverside's decision to make. I do not know the finances of the thrift stores or what alternatives the hospital considered in making this decision. But what saddened me was that the public pronouncements of RHS seemed to focus strictly on the role of the thrift stores as fundraisers for Hospice. And certainly, thrift store operation in all its complexity would not be an easy choice compared to receiving a check from the hospital foundation.

But the thrift stores were more than that in our community. The thrift stores were a service – a vital one for a key part of our community. Particularly among the lower-income residents of the area, the thrift stores provided a great place to shop and pick up serviceable items at low cost. It was also a great way to make sure items you no longer wanted could be enjoyed by others. There are no other thrift stores around the Shore currently able to fill the void. Because of the speed of the closure after the announcement, there was no time for another non-profit to step up.

The Hospice thrift shops seemed to be viable – though apparently not financially lucrative enough to continue the support by Riverside. I do not know if there are churches or other institutions that might support a thrift shop. I suspect that RHS did not spend much time researching those options. And that is a shame.

This is the second financially driven closure by the hospital. The nursing home in Parksley was the other. It was managed in a similar way – an announcement to be followed by a relatively rapid closure. Riverside's decision process cannot be faulted for its decisiveness. In the case of the nursing home, there was community response and fortunately, a buyer was found for the facility to keep it open. But of course, much of the disruption to the residents' lives and the families who support them had already happened.

I am simply struck by the continuing dilemma presented by the actions of our "community" hospital's parent company. Riverside wants to be acknowledged for the good work it does. And it does do a tremendous amount for our community. But the decisions to close the nursing home and the thrift stores seem to reinforce a common public perception: Riverside does what is best for Riverside rather than spending much decision-making time on impacts to the broader community. Given how important a role the hospital plays, and its broadening reach in so many areas on the Eastern Shore, from health services to hospice, we hope that their board and decision makers will focus more on how their decisions affect the community they serve. We hope they can gain more sensitivity to those impacts and will work harder to manage the hard decisions they have to make with more care.

Certainly in the case of the thrift shops, it would have been better for the community to ascertain whether the service could be replicated or partially replaced elsewhere in the area. It would be nice to see Riverside, when it needs to make changes, invite the community's participation, to help minimize negative impacts. Riverside is just too big and pervasive on the Shore to continue to operate without finding better ways to involve the community in its decision-making.

We hope Riverside recognizes this need and does a better job of fulfilling the promise stated on its website: *"...we assure [sic] that the needs of the community are met in every Riverside endeavor."* In the above-mentioned cases, the actions of RHS fell short of that mark.

Thank You!

CBES exists in order to serve the Eastern Shore community. Our efforts to "inform, engage, and empower" rely in large part on donations and memberships. Your support in 2017 helped CBES publish *ShoreLine*; sponsor events such as the Northampton Community Unity Breakfast and the Candidates Forum; and allows for active participation and representation at government and civic meetings in both Shore counties.

CBES remains strong because of the energy and enthusiasm of members; please renew for 2018 and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Use the form on page 7 or go to www.cbes.org to join, renew, or donate.

Thank you!

ShoreLine is published monthly by Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore and is distributed to members, public officials, and friends.

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Comprehensive Plans…

… Required Data, Surveys and Studies

By Mary Miller

As both Accomack and Northampton Counties, and many of the incorporated towns, continue with the State-mandated five-year review of Comprehensive Plans, there's good news and better news. Virginia Code requires the Planning Commissions of localities to *"make careful and comprehensive surveys and studies of the existing conditions and trends of growth, and of the probable future requirements of its territory and inhabitants."* The good news is that the Code requires these surveys and studies, and then guides localities regarding how and why to do them. However, the outside professional expertise necessary for unbiased research and conclusions is often a financial burden for counties and towns.

Virginia Code requires the Planning Commissions of localities to *"make careful and comprehensive surveys and studies of the existing conditions and trends of growth, and of the probable future requirements of its territory and inhabitants."*

But here's the better news – many of those studies have already been done and are freely available to local Planning Commissions. The state's Planning District Commissions, including the Shore's Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC), were created to encourage intergovernmental cooperation and also to "*conduct studies on issues and problems of regional significance and provide technical assistance to local governments."* The A-NPDC has received funding for recent professionally produced reports on coastal inundation, regional economic development planning and groundwater protection. The state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) have published reports on the local socio-economic impact of preserved lands, creek water quality protection, the impact of aquaculture on the local economy, and the value and viability of working waterfront districts. The Tourism Commission reports annually on the jobs, wages, and revenues produced by the tourism economy, and Northampton County commissioned a realistic, hard-hitting Competitiveness Assessment.

These reports contain accurate research, realistic assessments and projections, measurable goals and valuable strategies for economic growth, resource protection, and use of community assets. Planning Commissions, the citizen-planners, are expected to use the reports and studies as Comprehensive Plans are reviewed and updated. The following bullets contain descriptions, links, and excerpts for several available reports.

• Economic Activity Associated with Commercial Fisheries and Shellfish Aquaculture in Northampton County, Virginia:

www.vims.edu/research/units/centerspartners/map/aquaculture/docs_aqua/MRR2014_12.pdf

"The resulting total impact during 2013 is estimated to have been $97.4 million in output supporting 987 jobs which generated household and business incomes of $27.1 million.

"Continued access to high quality growing waters and important offshore fishing grounds is critical to maintaining the economic base."

• Virginia's Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan Corridors of Statewide Significance: Eastern Shore Corridor – prepared for the Commonwealth Transportation Board – planning through 2035

http://www.vtrans.org/resources/Eastern_Shore_Corridor_U.S._13.pdf

"Improve safety and mobility along the Eastern Shore Corridor through land use planning by discouraging development directly along the corridor, especially strip development."

• Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality

www.hrpdcva.gov/uploads/docs/5A_MPPDC%20WWF%20PLAN%2007%2008%2016._RED.pdf

> "The Eastern Shore has 77 miles of Atlantic shoreline with approximately that same number of miles of shoreline along Chesapeake Bay. This peninsula region supports the largest number of working waterfronts, 222, of any of the four Virginia coastal regions. Northampton County is a clear leader in shellfish aquaculture among all Virginia localities. There are several factors that have negatively affected working waterfronts on the Eastern Shore – development pressure, access channels silted in due to storms, changes in land-use practices, and hard-scaping the shorelines near some channels."

• Socio-economic Impacts of Conserved Land on Virginia's Eastern Shore

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZMP) Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)

www.dcr.virginia.gov/land-conservation/document/lc-es-econ-imp-2014.pdf

See **Comprehensive Plans,** *cont'd on page 4*

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"The findings of the economic impact analysis are summarized as follows:
"Economic activity associated with:

"- Organizations involved in land conservation estimated to be $21.88 million in 2016, adding an additional value of $8.76 million to the Eastern Shore's gross regional product;

"- Aquaculture industries estimated to be $156.7 million in 2016, adding an additional value of $114.4 million to the Eastern Shore's gross regional product;

"- Visitor spending in Accomack and Northampton Counties estimated to be $51.38 million in 2016, adding an additional value of $26.35 million to the Eastern Shore's gross regional product."

• Water Quality Implementation Plan for the Gulf, Barlow, Mattawoman, Jacobus, and Hungars Creeks

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in cooperation with the stakeholders of Northampton County

http://deq.state.va.us/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/ImplementationPlans/Mattawoman_TMDL_IP_Public.pdf

"All of the creeks, except for Barlow, do not support Virginia's bacteria standards for the production of edible and marketable seafood. Throughout the public participation process, a major emphasis was placed on addressing septic system problems, increasing education/outreach, and methods for obtaining implementation funding."

• U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Virginia Cooperative Extension:

Announced that two Virginia regions were selected for the 2015-16 Stronger Economies Together (SET) initiative, including the Eastern Shore, consisting of Accomack and Northampton Counties and Tangier Island

http://www.a-npdc.org/accomack-northampton-planning-district-commission/

"The regions' economic blueprints will strategically build on the current and emerging economic strengths," said Basil Gooden, state director of USDA Rural Development for Virginia. Four clusters were identified for potential economic growth: Aerospace & Defense; Agribusiness and Food Processing; Arts, Entertainment Recreation & Visitor Industries; and Foundational and Entrepreneurship Development.

• Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Resource Protection and Preservation Plan

http://www.anpdc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/05/ESVAGroundwaterResourceProtectionAndPreservationPlan-2013compress.pdf

"The Columbia and Yorktown-Eastover aquifers are high-yielding aquifers which the service area population relies on for more than 50% of its drinking water needs. There exists no viable economical alternative drinking water source or combination of sources to supply the designated service area. Groundwater level declines have been observed in two sections of Accomack County… it should be recognized that [groundwater supplies] may overdraw in some areas in the future if water withdrawals are not distributed throughout the region."

• Eastern Shore of Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Inundation Vulnerability Assessment

Accomack – Northampton Planning District Commission; Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (DEQ)

http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/CoastalZoneManagement/Virginia_CZM_Grant_Report_FY13_Task_53_no_appendices.pdf

"A number of studies have recently documented that relative sea-level rise is occurring and appears to be accelerating on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. A number of areas are currently vulnerable to road closures during storm events.… The inundation vulnerability assessment determined that 33 miles of roads in the region are vulnerable to inundation sometime between 2025 and 2050 …"

• The ESVA Hazard Mitigation Plan
Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

http://www.a-npdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/FullHMP2016.pdf

"Coastal erosion, high coastal winds, storm water flooding, fires, ice storms, and drought have also caused substantial damage to the communities and environments on the Shore. In modern times, investments in real estate, infrastructure, and industry have increased the potential for significant damage and the need for advance planning."

Author's Note: Often these professionally prepared planning documents appear to be unused by county and town Planning Commissions. The documents are written specifically for the two counties of the Shore, using timely data, public input, and scientific research, and offering concrete strategies to reach measurable goals. These documents, offered free to county planners, are meant to be used, referenced and quoted as part of the Data and Analysis sections of Comprehensive Plans.

Why is there resistance by citizen planners to include material from the professional documents? They sometimes justify their reluctance by stating they lack confidence in new data or competing data formats. Perhaps

See **Comprehensive Plans,** *cont'd on page 5*

Local Hearing Scheduled for CAFO Permits

by Sue Mastyl

As was described in the November 2017 issue of *ShoreLine*, the EPA identified three poultry farms, or CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations), on the Eastern Shore that require a Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit. Unlike the Virginia Pollution Abatement permits usually issued for poultry CAFOs, the VPDES permits assume that these operations will have an effect on water quality. Issues raised by EPA for these farms included manure "in close proximity" to drainage ditches that empty into nearby creeks, and dust from ventilation fans (including "fine particulates of dander and manure") that "would come into contact with precipitation and generate ... wastewater."

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued draft VPDES permits last fall, with public comment through October 20, 2017. However, there were no specific limits set with these permits, and the only requirement was self-reported monitoring (by the CAFO operator) of adjacent waters, by visual and odor inspection.

Over 100 comments were submitted to DEQ, many of which asked for a public hearing on these permits, as well as insisting on more stringent requirements, including fines for noncompliance, and testing of nutrient levels by an independent lab at least quarterly as well as after significant rain events.

In response to these comments, a public hearing has been scheduled for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 30, at Nandua High School. An informational meeting will be held beforehand, from 5:30 to 6:15 PM. The scheduling of a public hearing for local citizens will reopen the public comment period; new public comments will now be accepted through February 14, 2018. Only citizens who have submitted written comments will be allowed to speak at the State Water Control Board hearing, which will be scheduled later in the spring for final determination of the permits.

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Comprehensive Plans, *cont'd from p. 4*

resistance also stems from the differing priorities and conclusions between the reports and studies, and the independent conclusions of Planning Commission members. The available studies and reports are exactly what the Virginia Code means when it requires localities to *"make careful and comprehensive surveys and studies of the existing conditions and trends of growth, and of the probable future requirements of its territory and inhabitants,"* and they are meant to be used by planners as Comprehensive Plans are reviewed or amended.

Wagner Pit Update

A Special Use Permit was issued by the Northampton County Board of Supervisors for the use of the Wagner mining operation, south of Eastville, as a deposit site for borings from the new Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel (CBBT) tunnel.

A memo circulated in early December, by Staff of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Committee, provided the following information:

"The samples representing tube boring spoils (the majority of the 700,000 cubic yards slated for deposit at the site) and tested by the Joint Venture* came back with some level of TPH (Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons). VDEQ (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality) deemed this inappropriate for deposit at the Wagner Borrow Pit. There has not yet been a VDEQ permit issued to deposit tunnel boring spoil at the site. The Wagner permit from the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (*DMME*) does allow deposition of "clean" sandy/bentonite material, which could be obtained from the island itself, but not from the tube boring process. In October, VDEQ urged Joint Venture* to seek an alternative location for a tunnel boring spoil site based on the sample testing results."

This information was confirmed by the VDEQ Tidewater office Water Protection Permit Manager.

* The Dragados Team, a joint venture composed of Dragados USA Inc. and Schiavone Construction Company LLC, Secaucus, NJ

2018 Community Unity Breakfast

January 15, 8:30 AM

Northampton High School, Eastville

Featured Speaker - Bishop Irvin Jackson

Living Word of Deliverance Church, Parksley

The celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday is attributed not to one man or to one race, but to principles that are universal. To remember Dr. King is to affirm the nonviolent pursuit of freedom, justice, and equal opportunity for all. In that spirit, the citizens of Northampton County will again join to celebrate Dr. King's ideals and to recognize the progress our community has made toward those ideals.

As always, the focus will be on the youth of the community. The Northampton Medical Services Foundation will coordinate information relevant to health education and prevention. Attendees are asked to bring a can of non-perishable food for the needy.

Sponsored by the Northampton County Chapter of the NAACP, CBES, and Northampton County Public Schools

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At this point [we] have paid you almost $10,000 and you've now taken part of that to pay for ... the 3rd review of these plans and yet she still finds this many items that aren't correct? Where is the ownership by you as a representative of the county? There are plans for 80 more houses in and if we accept this then we will never get these built. ... [The] county needs us to grow our business. At this point your department [is] the only thing holding us back."

» On Sept. 15, 2015, Pitt emailed Derrickson as a followup to a meeting held on Sept. 11, 2015, to address Goodman's concerns, confirming changes to the plans to resolve all issues (with a sediment basin to be converted to a stormwater management pond). Goodman emailed Pitt that day, "Thanks for all the feedback ... let me know what we need ... so that I can ... be ready to get work started next week."

- On Sept. 16, 2015, Rich Morrison emailed Goodman, Kevin Dennis, Director of Operations for Perdue Farms in Accomac, and Bill Satterfield, Executive Director for Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI), with preliminary thoughts on possible amendments to the poultry ordinance; he indicated he "thought it best to get some feedback from the industry prior [to] any formal ordinance language drafting" (most of these changes had been confirmed with Goodman earlier, on Sept. 8, 2015). He also indicated in the email that Bill Satterfield had "agreed to facilitate review and comment by the industry." This was prior to the first meeting of the Planning Commission (PC) to discuss the ordinance. The proposed changes included the following (the first five bullets are identical to what is in the final ordinance):

  » Increase the setback from adjacent properties to 500 feet, from the then-current 300 feet

  » Add vegetative buffer requirements

  » Add a limit of 12 poultry houses per parcel

  » Add a minimum separation between operations of 400'

  » Add a density requirement of one poultry house per five acres

  » Determine whether to add an increased setback from residential property, add road condition/traffic safety requirements, or add requirements for earth berms on a case-by-case basis

- On Oct. 14, 2015, Goodman emailed Morrison a question raised by his attorney, Thomas B. Dix, Jr., as to whether a new plat would be required "designating the consolidation and vacation of property lines, or can we use the recorded Partition Plat?" Morrison replied, "tell them to take the easiest path possible."
- On Dec. 18, 2015, Kristen Tremblay, of the Accomack County Department of Planning and Community Development, forwarded a series of questions to David O. Matson, MD, PhD, Director, Eastern Shore Health District, Virginia Department of Health, concerning issues that had been raised by the PC:

  » "Do you have any data or opinions regarding the occupational concern ... for people living and working in proximity to poultry operations?

  » "Would you be willing to elaborate further on your earlier statement that there is no concern about the transmission of the current strain of avian influenza (and that this does not preclude further strains from potentially presenting a problem)?

  » "[Are] there any studies that suggest that if there are poultry operations in proximity to people ... there is a higher chance of health issues?

  » "[Have] you encountered any information that suggests ... any kind of linkage between a larger setback ... and particulates/pathogens?...Additionally, have you found any evidence ... that there may be a direct relationship between vegetative buffers and public health?"

  » On Dec. 24, 2015, Dr. Matson forwarded Tremblay's queries to Charles Green, Deputy Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, who replied, "As an advocate for Virginia's poultry sector, I find some of the questions from Accomack County a little troubling as they seem to imply that the county is looking to restrict the construction of poultry houses by amending the setbacks or other zoning requirements." Green recommended that Dr. Matson contact Satterfield with DPI. There is no evidence that the questions that Tremblay had raised were addressed.
- On Aug. 4, 2016, Bill Massey, Vice President of Live Operations for Mountaire Farms in Selbyville, DE, emailed Doug Baxter, Sr. Area Environmental Manager, Raw Poultry Division at Tyson Foods in Temperanceville, raising concerns about the expansion in Accomack County:

  » Referencing the article "Neighbors See Impact of New Chicken Houses" in the August 2016 *ShoreLine,* about the 24-house operation in Pungoteague, Massey said, "large operations are really drawing a lot of attention and fire on the Shore.…NC has much more large open space to support very large farms. Eight houses, put in the right place and designed properly, have not gotten too much negative press from mainstream people.…But when you talk 24 houses in an area, it even turns off our neutral allies."

  » Baxter responded, "these houses are located in the middle of a 600-acre farm, with the nearest neighbor a half-mile away."

See **Accomack,** *Cont'd on page 7*

Accomack, *cont'd from p. 6*

» Goodman, who was copied on the email, commented that "[this] farm is off the beaten path in Pungoteague and has very few neighbors, which is the only reason we allowed (2) 12 house farms to be built there.…What we've found here is the same thing we found in NC ...if you have a piece of land that is out of the way of neighbors, then build it out so that you don't have to put 4 separate farms up and risk getting too close to neighbors.…We will continue to monitor this closely as we were the poultry company that was very much involved with the county when all these setbacks came forward and we are meeting or exceeding all of the zoning ... in the new guidelines."

Ed. Note: *The Accomack Board of Supervisors, and particularly its current chairman, have certainly made its unqualified support of poultry expansion clear. Given the role of the BoS in managing the county, it is not surprising to see that the communications between Tyson and other poultry industry representatives and County employees are close. Much of what is here can best be understood as County employees trying their best to support an important economic entity in the county. Clearly an antagonistic relationship to the industry is not useful. But we believe there should be more balance and perhaps distance between the industry and the county, reflecting Accomack's focus on both the economics AND the protection of its citizens and the land, including the groundwater and surface waters. The industry is well able to support the economics.* But the County is the only entity that can balance those interests against the protection of citizen interests that may run counter to industry interests. *What is interesting to note is how much pressure the industry is putting on the county to not slow down the process in this expansion.*

Equally disturbing is the reaction to Kristen Tremblay's health-related questions to the health department. VDACS interpreted these as a sign that Accomack wants to restrict the poultry expansion with zoning. But those questions are important – and it would seem normal due diligence when you are contemplating zoning changes that are partially designed to help protect the health of those living and working around poultry operations. We hope the health department can answer them fully. While we are concerned with the potential health and environmental effects of these expanded, highly concentrated poultry operations, CBES has always supported economic development for the Shore, including the poultry industry. Our concern here is not with the poultry industry as a critical part of Accomack's economy. Rather, we worry that this expansion is taking place without much discussion of what will be the long-term impacts on the quality of life and health of Accomack residents after that expansion has run its course.

Brown Receives Award

In late October, Dr. Garrison "Doc" Brown was awarded the Council of Virginia Archaeologists "Virginia Sherman Award" for his significant contributions both above and below ground to historic preservation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In receiving this award, Brown's active membership in the Northampton Historic Preservation Society and his role as caretaker of Pear Valley, an 18th century yeoman's cottage which is significantly unique to this region, were highlighted. His nomination specifically recognized his involvement in the current excavations at Newport House/ Eyreville, where a second/third quarter 17th century dwelling was discovered.

Last winter, Dr. Brown identified the research value of the site when a Northampton County land owner removed a tree stump, which in turn led to a recovery of a casting counter, Irish farthings and yellow Dutch bricks. He immediately notified the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the site remains under study to this day.

The story of the discovery of the Newport House at Eyreville highlighted a recent seminar at the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center in Oyster. Archaeologists Michael Barber and Michael Clem described the ongoing excavation and urged the public to become involved in helping to find and record artifacts, not only at Eyreville, but also at other sites on the Shore. Due to subsidence and with more frequent flooding and increased erosion, particularly on the Bayside, too many of these colonial and pre-colonial artifacts are being lost each year.

Barber and Clem invited the public to join in their efforts by participating in upcoming Field Schools. For information pertaining to local archaeology, help identifying or managing an archaeological site, or how to become a volunteer, contact State Archaeologist Mike Barber (540) 387-5398 or Michael Clem (804) 482-6443.

CBES Membership 2018

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INFORM, ENGAGE, EMPOWER!

SHORELINE

Community Calendar - January 2018

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

CBES and Other Activities

Jan 3 **VIMS Public Seminar**
7:30 PM, Wachapreague

Jan 11 **Shorekeeper Meeting***
3 PM, ES Chamber of Commerce

Jan 15 **Community Unity Breakfast**
8:30 AM, Northampton HS

Jan 16 **ES Groundwater Committee**
10 AM, Accomac

Jan 16 **CBES Board Meeting**
7:00 PM, Eastville

Jan 30 **VPDES Public Hearing**
5:30 PM, Nandua High School

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

Accomack County

Jan 3 **Board of Zoning Appeals**
10 AM, Sup. Chambers

Jan 10 **Planning Commission (PC)**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers

Jan 16 **School Board**
6:30 PM, Sup. Chambers

Jan 17 **Board of Supervisors**
5 PM, Sup. Chambers

Jan 23 **PC Work Session**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers

Jan 25 **Wetlands Board**
10 AM, Sup. Chambers

Northampton County

Jan 2 **Board of Zoning Appeals**
1 PM, Conference Room

Jan 2 **Planning Commission (PC)**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers

Jan 9 **Board of Supervisors**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers

Jan 17 **Wetlands Board**
TBA, Conference Room

Jan 17 **PC Work Session**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers

Jan 22 **BOS Work Session**
7 PM, Old Courtroom

Jan 23 **School Board**
6:00 p.m., Machipongo

www.cbes.org