CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE



SHORELINE

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

Volume 29 March 2016 Number 3

PUBLIC HEARING

Northampton County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission

Zoning Ordinance Revisions

Public comment will be heard on the repeal of the 2015 Zoning Ordinance and Map and reenactment of the 2009 Zoning Ordinance: Density, Setbacks, Districts (including Overlay and Floating Districts), Uses and Map. Additional Amendments proposed include Accessory Dwelling Units, Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) setbacks, increased By-Right Commercial and Industrial Uses, Agritourism definition, refining District intents and clarifying authority of the Zoning Administrator.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 7:00 pm Northampton County High School

Send written or email comments, with a request that they be read into the public record, to:

Board of Supervisors, PO Box 66, Eastville, VA 23347 or jwilliams@co.northampton.va.us

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What to Do With Our Architectural Legacy?

By Haydon Rochester

Mr. Rochester is a former member of the Board of the Friends of the Onancock School.

A cross the Eastern Shore, and indeed the Commonwealth of Virginia, there are hundreds of abandoned or underused structures, holdovers from previous centuries that were too well built to fall down, but deemed unsuitable by today's businesses and governments. Many of these buildings are located in town centers, which themselves have been largely bypassed by development that preferred suburbs or highway strips.

Citizens who appreciate history and abhor waste of resources look at these buildings and see an asset. Property owners, whether private or government, often see a liability they wish would conveniently disappear. The former Onancock High School provides an excellent example of the dilemma presented by these elderly structures. The main building of the school was constructed at town expense in 1921, and wings were added in 1927 and 1928. The 13-acre site where the school stands has been used for educational purposes since 1859, hence the name "College Avenue" for the bordering street.

For most of its life, the school housed grades K-12. Later, it became a high school, followed by the Onancock Learning Center, operated by Accomack County Public Schools. In 2007, the county returned the building to town control. Shortly thereafter, the Onancock Town Council entered into a lease agreement with the Friends of Onancock School (FOS) to operate the school as a community and

cultural center for the next 40 years – subject to a number of conditions regarding renovation of the building. CBES supported this effort by acting as an intermediary for donations until FOS achieved full 501(c)(3) status. At the time the lease was signed, there had been no comprehensive study of what would be needed to renovate and repurpose the building.

FOS engaged architects and engineers to investigate the building's systems, while simultaneously working on cosmetic improvements, repairing plumbing, servicing the 1920s era steam heat, and cleaning up the grounds. The revenue for these efforts came mainly from donations, fundraising events, and rents charged to artists and others renting spaces in the building and to athletic and other organizations that used the extensive ball fields and grounds. As the years went by, the number of users of the building and grounds continued to

See Architectural, cont'd on p. 2

Contents

What to Do with Our Architectural
Legacy?1
Asking Tough Questions3
Public Discourse 4
Community Unity Breakfast5
New Solar Farm Proposed6
New Voters Recruited7
Solar Farm – Benefits?7

Architectural, con't from p. 1

grow, contributing significantly to the vitality of the property and the town. The list of events and users includes CBES own "Between the Waters" bike tour, Music for the Hungry, Community Band, Master Naturalists, Waterman's Museum, Onancock Ping Pong Club, and TEC Foundation (robotics). In addition, casual users come to the

property to walk dogs, let their children play on the playground, practice soccer, or slide the slopes when it snows. According to figures presented by FOS at a recent town hall meeting, 7,200 people visited the school property in 2015. Several local businesses report increased traffic when large groups are attending events at the school.

Unfortunately, as the estimates from architects and others studying the building began to appear, the numbers were scary—\$4.5 million, \$6 million, \$7 million. Even basic stabilization of the structure by replacing the roof, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems — without any historic or repurposing renovations—was expected to cost several hundred thousand dollars. Raising these amounts would require

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not only extensive fundraising, but winning grant funding, historic tax credits, or other forms of support that would require significant legwork for stretched FOS volunteers. Several funding alternatives were considered, including public-private partnerships and turning the property over to a developer. In the meantime, some



Seen here in a photo from many years ago, the 1921 structure looks as many older citizens remember it – clean and green. (Photo: Courtesy of Jean Serini)

town officials became concerned that FOS might fail in its work, leaving the town with a hazardous eyesore that could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to remove.

In response to these concerns, a town hall meeting was held on February 8, 2015 to give local people an opportunity to speak out regarding the future of the school. Approximately 40 people attended and every one of the 17 or more people who spoke fa-

vored keeping the school and grounds undivided and entirely in public use. Many volunteered to help FOS with its work, including fundraising. Despite this strong show of support, the issue still remains: even with volunteer help, keeping the school building in use will require significant amounts of money. While purely local fund-

raising is unlikely to be sufficient, outside sources of funding often come with strings attached, so that funding sources may steer the renovation away from what the community wants and needs.

So what is the answer? The community consensus seems to be to keep going unless forced to stop, dealing with issues as they arise,

and counting on the creativity of local volunteers to solve problems. This approach is messy and unpredictable, but hopeful. In that sense it harkens back to the attitude of our Eastern Shore pioneer forebears, who set out in small boats to establish themselves in an unknown land. It appears we have come full circle, confronting today's challenges by relying on our own resources and imagination, and in so doing, making history our way.

SEMINAR ON NATIVE PLANTS, POLLINATORS, THE BAY

The public is invited to learn how native plants can enhance the beauty of yards and gardens, attract beneficial birds and insects, and improve the health of local creeks and the Chesapeake Bay. The free workshop will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Barrier Islands Center, 7295 Young Street in Machipongo.

The workshop, titled "Bees, Trees, and Clean Water," is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and the Barrier Islands Center. Presenters will connect the dots between environmentally friendly landscaping and backyard habitats, native plants, birds, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, and healthy water quality in local creeks and the Bay. Participants will learn how a few tweaks to their landscape could make a big difference for local pollinators and water quality. Lunch will be provided. Space is limited, and advanced RSVP is required. Please contact Tatum Ford for more information or RSVP at 757/971-0366 or tford@cbf.org.

"Anti-Poultry" or Asking Tough Questions?

Dear CBES Supporters:

Recently, the Accomack Board of Supervisors voted in new zoning regulations for poultry growing operations. I believe most folks agree that the new rules are an improvement over the current regulations.

The new regulations are not perfect – they never are. However, I would like to recognize that the Accomack Board of Supervisors had a difficult task balancing an important sector of the economy with a desire to make sure that industrial chicken operations do not damage the livability of the community or harm other important sectors of the economy like tourism or aquaculture. This ordinance reflects that desire for balance.

The attendees and newspaper accounts agreed that the conversation at the public hearing was largely civil, respectful, and balanced. There were poultry growers worried that the new regulations would go too far and damage their livelihoods. There were citizens who are worried about the cumulative effect of this type of operations and whether we are fully considering the risks involved. According to one count, there were 29 speakers, of whom 16 spoke in support of the industry. This is a difficult topic where there is no "right" answer, only levels of compromise.

Unfortunately, one board member, Vice Chairman Robert Crockett, felt it was important after the public hearing to add a speech against what he perceived as "enemies of the poultry industry." Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore and Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper were the focus of his speech.

The core of his attack on CBES was that our recent forum was simply an "anti-poultry" rally. CBES certainly acknowledges the poultry industry was not represented on the panel. Why? Our volunteer forum organizers had concerns that other views on poultry expansion were not being heard.

The purpose of the forum was to discuss the risks posed by the rapid growth of new houses, hence the panel's make-up of four scientists, a former Perdue grower, and a representative from an organization that is indeed against "factory farms." Unfortunately, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and fire department spokespersons were unable to come.

Frankly, I also disagree with some of the panelists' points on the industry. But their presence furthered the CBES objective to get the conversation going about the regulatory environment the industry works in and some

of the risks that the poultry industry's growth pose to our communities.

Unlike Mr. Crockett, I have few worries about citizens' not being able to differentiate the extreme from the reasoned portion of the arguments. The poultry industry is also an old master of public relations and they have plenty of experts to reassure us that they pose no risks. The challenge of differentiating fact from fiction in their information is much the same. Of course, there are risks. We all need to understand them as best we can.

Of all the things I heard from our members after the meeting, what worried me the most was one long-term CBES member who felt intimidated by Mr. Crockett's speech. She wondered if anyone who opposed his views would be personally attacked like this in the future. I hope that the Accomack Board considers carefully how chilling that sentiment could be in our local government. When a Vice-Chairman of a Board of Supervisors takes a harsh tone, it makes a big difference. Do we really want to encourage that kind of divisiveness and anger in our community? In a time with little citizen involvement already, do we want to make it harder to hear minority viewpoints? However misguided one may perceive CBES actions to be, attacks led by a County Supervisor always hurt our community.

CBES purpose is to try to keep the conversation honest and balanced so that the community can make informed decisions. Our role is particularly important when one side has the resources or power to prevent other points of view from being heard. Many times we pose uncomfortable challenges on difficult topics to important members of our community. We are hardly perfect and sometimes our passion goes too far. But our debates are always guided by the hope that we can make the Eastern Shore of Virginia "better," even if we struggle to agree on what that means or how to get there.

Good debates make both sides think about their position and often create opportunities for compromise. But a good debate is also respectful and civil. Passion is not the same as anger and combativeness. After the meeting, I talked to several folks who agree with Mr. Crockett's conclusions. Even they felt he had probably gone too far and taken a tone that was too antagonistic.

CBES will continue to explore what "balanced growth" should look like in our communities.

Thank you, Arthur Upshur, President Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore

Public Discourse – Keeping It Civil

By Mary Miller

One of the greatest freedoms guaranteed to all by the Constitution is the Freedom of Speech – not just any speech, but the right to express beliefs and ideas, including to governing bodies, without censorship or restraint or other unwarranted government restriction. And that right has been enthusiastically exercised by Eastern Shore residents, starting with the Northampton Protest of 1652 right up to the last meeting of either county's Board of Supervisors.

Since the 17th century, local public discourse has been robust – Colonial broadsides nailed to trees, speeches from farm wagons at public gatherings, billboards on the highway, signs in front yards, handouts at meetings, and of course, direct public comment to the governing bodies. Discourse has included well researched points of view, entreaties for personal advantage, rambling opinions, pleas for change for the public good, irate denunciation of government policy, quiet reason and fiery rhetoric – all protected by that Freedom of Speech, and all part of ongoing local governance.

Public discourse is basically a community conversation about ideas, and, at its best, includes a diversity of perspectives. The conversation is made up of differing insights and helps to make the participants aware of other points of view. This is meant to protect and to promote the public good. For public discourse to be successful, there must be an effective level of civility among people or persons involved.

Keeping it civil

Over time, a field of study called "public discourse ethics" has developed, producing what is generally accepted as ground rules for keeping public discussion between the government and the governed civil, fair and productive. University lectures, essays and theses abound, including in Harvard and Yale Law School publications, on the issue of keeping things civil, with descriptions and references ranging from "Outrageous Opinion" to "Democratic Deliberation."

But there is general agreement that for public discourse to be productive and effective, there must be accountability – and that the presenters, and the ideas themselves, are both intended to promote the public good. Public accountability in the government/governed setting is described as consisting of three basic factors:

- A diversity of ideas
- A commitment to public decision making
- A reasonable justification for continuing a practice or policy, OR a rational basis for change

Applying the principles

The first premise is simple: "a diversity of ideas." Often a conversation between two Eastern Shoremen will result in at least three different points of view. Life experiences, age, occupation, family circumstances – all of these inform the various perspectives which can be brought to the table. The next step is to get them into the public discourse. Unless those opinions shared over morning coffee at a fast food restaurant get into the public arena, how will the rest of the community even know about that particular diversity?

The second premise is a little more complicated: "a commitment to public decision-making." This needs not just the public's input, but a good faith effort by the government to pay attention to that public discourse, and to actively include the public in the work of decision making. It takes commitment and effort on the part of government. Someone has to organize public information and discussion meetings, enable group interaction and conversations, and ensure that anyone who wants a seat at the table has one. Then the ideas, and any consensus arrived at, need to be seriously considered by the government. Compromises need to be proposed. The public needs to weigh in again, but this time with the goal of actually helping to make the hard decisions – especially when they involve compromise.

But the third premise is often the most difficult for participants in public discourse: "a reasonable justification for continuing a practice or policy, or a rational basis for change." Stating an opinion is easy; justifying that idea or opinion with reason and clarity, a realistic way to achieve the idea proposed and a good solid explanation of how it will further the public good, those are real challenges. Whether the comment is supporting change or maintaining the status quo, productive public discourse needs to go further than voicing an opinion, it must include a sound basis for the comment.

Enjoying the rights – accepting the responsibilities

Governments in both Shore counties generally make it convenient and comfortable for the public to bring ideas to the table in a public forum. Opportunities include public comment periods with time limits so everyone gets heard, and letters and electronic messages included in the public record. A few Supervisors hold public meetings with their constituents, which are often the only times that elected officials interact one-on-one with voters and taxpayers.

Citizens who enjoy the Freedom of Speech also have responsibilities as they engage in public discourse. One important factor is making public acknowledgement of that free speech. Unidentified signage, unsigned handouts or nameless advertisements supporting a position risk diminishing the discourse. Avoiding slander, both by the public and by government officials, is another critical element of ethical public discourse. Stating an untruth about another

Dr. King Honored at Annual Community Unity Breakfast

By John Ordeman

This year's well-attended Martin Luther King, Jr., Unity Breakfast Program was coordinated by Jane Cabarrus, long-term president of the Northampton County Chapter of the NAACP, who wrote, "We must look to our youth to work towards a better future.... We realize that not one of us here today can change the past and the way things used to be, but each one of us can take part in shaping the future." Directly addressing the many children in attendance, Mrs. Cabarrus concluded, "Young people, keep your hands in each others' hands. Do what you know is right and change will come. Remember, if you believe, you can achieve."

The Unity Breakfast has been held annually for 26 years on the holiday dedicated to Dr. King in the Northampton High School cafeteria, co-sponsored by the NAACP, Northampton County Public Schools and Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore. As is traditional, the program began this year with singing, by all those assembled, of James Weldon Johnson's stirring anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," followed by an invocation and a blessing of the food and those who prepared it.

The program proper was opened with greetings by School Superintendent Charles E. Lawrence; Middle School Principal Laurel Crenshaw; Spencer Murray, Chairman of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors; Evelyn Duncan, a Northampton High School student; and Tyler Major, a student representing Broadwater Academy. Imani Lee, an 11th grader at NHS, delivered the Dedication of the 26th Anniversary, and a Tribute to Dr. King was read by Johnnie Mills, a Kiptopeke 2nd grader. "The National Anthem" was most impressively song by 11th grade student Kanijah Brickhouse, and musical selections were performed by the Broadwater Academy Varsity Voices, the New Mt. Calvary Male Chorus and the Rev. Roland Major.

Because of inclement weather, a commemorative walk from the high school and a presentation at the Courthouse were incorporated into the program in the school's cafeteria, including an address by Tasha Church Hoffler, a graduate of Northampton High School who serves as Family and Schools Connections Facilitator for the Worcester County Public Schools in Maryland. Mrs. Hoffler spoke to young people about fulfilling dreams by working toward goals every day and developing a plan to make a dream a reality. Her theme was "Never give up on your dream."

The keynote speaker, the Rev. M. Palmer Bunting, First Vice Moderator of the Eastern Shore Virginia-Maryland Baptist Association and Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Exmore, was introduced by the Rev. Dr. Charles Kellam Sr., Moderator of the Eastern Shore Virginia-Maryland Baptist Association. Mr. Bunting

stressed the need for everyone to follow the doctrine of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by measuring the value of individuals not by their skin color, but by their character. He urged everyone to look for ways to help others. He also stressed the need for safety, and urged children to steer away from violence that too often results in the loss of innocent lives.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Unity Day Celebration 2016 was dedicated to Mrs. Patricia "Patty" Mysko, acknowledging more than four decades of dedicated service, effort and support for the many activities that foster unity and equality on the Eastern Shore as an employee of the Northampton County Public Schools. Other honorees for exemplary service to the community were Northampton Fire and Rescue, Jeff Walker, Doris Pruitt, Charlene Gray and Major Construction. The awards were presented by Cabarrus, who, along with former Superintendent of Schools Dawn Goldstine and Suzanne Wescoat, founding president of CBES, planned the first Community Unity Breakfast 26 years ago and who has sustained and coordinated the event each year since its founding. The morning's gathering was concluded with an expression of affection and appreciation, with resounding applause, for Jane Cabarrus.



Public Discourse, cont'd from p. 4

person, perhaps someone who has voiced a different point of view, and damaging a reputation by that statement, is slander. Unfounded accusations, whether from a bully pulpit or anonymously, create intimidation and stifle genuine public discourse. Equally important is misusing published material to disparage a point of view. Reprinting and distributing copyrighted material without permission violates the Federal Copyright Act of 1976.

ShoreLine Comment. Public discourse shapes the future of the community, whether during reviews of zoning ordinances, Comprehensive Plans, at Public Hearings or Town Hall meetings. Ethical, productive public discourse puts a great responsibility on individuals. They must continually be asking questions and finding answers. They will not always be right; that is part of the process. Contributing to public decision making by presenting viable options for government actions and policies is a valuable right – the choice rests with the individual.

New Solar Farm Proposed in Northampton County

by Sue Mastyl

In addition to the 80-MW (megawatt) solar farm planned I for northern Accomack County, there is now a proposal for a 20-MW installation in Northampton County, specifically on 185 acres northeast of Eastville, at the intersection of Cherrydale and Seaside Roads. The project is being developed by Tennessee-based Hecate Energy, which is currently developing solar energy projects in nine states across the country, and energy storage projects in Ontario and California. Hecate has entered into a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement with Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), which includes A&N Electric Cooperative as one of its 11 member cooperatives. According to Mark Greenhouse, Vice President of Engineering for ODEC, the price for this project is actually below market cost, which will provide savings to all cooperative members. The energy will be enough to power approximately 3,300 homes. The project is estimated to cost \$38 million, and is planned to be operational by the end of 2016.

"One of the main attractions for this site is that a main transmission line already runs through the center of the property," noted Peter Stith, Long-Range Planner for Northampton County. An existing residence within the parcel will be subdivided out. Although the project will remove approximately 128 acres from production, there will be decreased runoff from the site, no fertilizer application, and no groundwater usage over the life of the project. The panels will be mounted on single-axis trackers, with the top of the panels about eight feet above grade. The property will be kept mowed, and fencing and landscape buffers will be installed on the perimeter.

The construction phase is expected to employ 50 to 60 workers, with wages totaling \$1.5 to \$2 million; local workers will be used as much as possible. Operations and maintenance will also employ local vendors.

The special-use permit for the project was reviewed by the Planning Commission on February 2, and recommended to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Several members of the Commission expressed concern about having a decommissioning plan, including a bond, in place; Patti Shorr, Vice President of Project Development for Hecate Energy, pointed out that the cost of removing the panels at the end of the project is minimal, and some of the costs can be recouped by recycling the materials.

At their February 9 meeting, the Board of Supervisors heard comments from the public, including neighbors who were concerned about the change to their viewscape and possible impact on property values. Everett Watson, the landowner from whom the land has been purchased, pointed out that "once the buffers grow up, there will be nothing

to see." In response to concerns voiced by several citizens about tax revenue (as a 20-MW project, it is exempt under state law from personal property and equipment tax), he noted that the real estate taxes on the property will double, and "the county historically hasn't made much from this farm." Roberta Kellam noted that, in the 2009 zoning code, there was a solar energy district, which involved rezoning and allowed the county to accept proffers. With the 2015 zoning, that district was removed, leaving only the special-use permit process.

Several members of the Board voiced concern over the inability to accept proffers under the new zoning, as well as the lack of additional revenue from the property and equipment tax. The Board decided to table the discussion until their Work Session on February 22, during which additional questions were raised about the revenue to the county. In a letter and e-mail to the county, Hecate Energy offered, in lieu of the previously offered \$100,000 community improvement grant and solar panels for Northampton High School, to provide \$200,000 up front for the county to use at its discretion. In addition, Hecate Energy will ensure a revenue flow totaling \$782,488.57 over the next 35 years, a figure arrived at by their calculations of the increased real estate tax revenue on the property.

Additional questions were raised by members of the Board. Concerning noise, Preston Schultz, Director of Development for Hecate Energy, noted that the noise from the trackers is negligible, and the noise from the inverters is 65 decibels, which is normal conversational level. Chairman of the Board Spencer Murray asked about degradation of the panels; Schultz responded that the panels are warrantied for 25 years, with a degradation of 0.5% per year. The use of local labor was raised by several supervisors; Shorr stressed that local labor will be used whenever possible. Supervisor Robert Duer asked about stormwater management; the preliminary calculations from Hecate show there will be less runoff from the site than under agriculture. Supervisor Duer also asked about management of the project once construction is completed; Shorr responded that they may build it and have someone else run it, but the agreement with ODEC is in place regardless. Schultz pointed out that, once built, the project is "essentially an annuity, with higher return than a typical bond and a lot less risk." Supervisor Granville Hogg referred to the report, "An Overview of Potential Environmental, Cultural, and Socioeconomic Impacts and Mitigation Measures for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development," from the Environmental Science Division of Argonne National Laboratory (June 2013), al"New Solar Farm," cont'd from p. 6

though Shorr noted that the report focused on solar thermal technology, not solar photovoltaics.

Once an agreement for the special use permit is provided to the company in writing, summarizing the financial commitment from Hecate Energy and the conditions included in the Planning Commission's recommendation, a final vote will be taken by the Board at their March 8 meeting.

New Voters Recruited at Local High Schools

Over 250 Eastern Shore high school students from both counties have registered to vote since mid-January in a non-partisan Eastern Shore voter registration drive aimed at reaching out to these young citizens. Five high schools on Virginia's Eastern Shore participated: four public high schools and Broadwater Academy. The initiative carried out a total of nine Voter Registration events. Volunteers who facilitated the Voter Registration event were Bob Toner, Linda Goldstine and Odessa Sullivan of Northampton County and Debra Wharton of Accomack County.

Bob Toner of Northampton County, who organized the voter registration initiative, stated, "Without the support and gracious hospitality of the administrators, principals, teachers, staff and students of the high schools, this project would never have succeeded. Now all of us need to encourage these new voters to exercise this precious right – the right to take part in determining who their next President will be."

Virginia Election Law permits qualified Virginia U.S. citizens who will be 18 years old by Election Day, November 8, 2016, to register and vote in both the presidential primary and election. February 8 was the last day to register to vote in the March 1 Virginia presidential primary. Qualified Virginia U.S. citizens can register to vote in the presidential election from now through October 17, 2016.

CBES Ink Cartridge Recycling Ends

Unfortunately, it is no longer feasible for CBES to accept printer cartridges. We thank all who contributed to this recycling effort over the years and encourage you to continue to recycle your used cartridges. We have found several other options: you can pick up free mailers at the Post Office to send cartridges in for recycling; STAPLES and OFFICE DEPOT have programs that give rebates on new cartridges; PETSMART has a mail-in program, netting \$2 per cartridge for their pet adoption program.

Solar Farm – does a locality benefit financially?

By Mary Miller

Who opposes clean solar energy? Hardly anyone. Who is concerned about a solar farm in Northampton County that will pay no equipment tax on a \$38 million-plus project? The Board of Supervisors.

Even though Hecate Energy had an option on a Northampton County parcel to build a solar farm since 2010, it wasn't until 2016 that they applied to build it. By that time, two pieces had fallen into place: the Virginia General Assembly had exempted solar farms up to 20-MW (megawatts) from state and local equipment taxes, and the county Board of Supervisors had removed the Solar Energy District from the Zoning Ordinance. The Federal government had further extended the 30% dollar-for-dollar tax credit (e.g., for a \$38 million project, a 30% tax credit would equal \$11.4 million).

There wasn't much the county could do about State and Federal tax policy, but a previous Board, by removing the county's Solar Energy District zoning, also removed the rezoning process, which could have provided an opportunity for the county and the developers to discuss proffers, i.e., payments in lieu of taxes or other benefits to the county. Since proffers can only be offered during a rezoning, the county's ability to negotiate was compromised when the new Ordinance went into effect.

Farmers using agricultural land pay thousands of dollars in equipment taxes for tractors, combines and other machinery, in addition to real estate taxes. A 20-MW solar farm, also using agricultural land, will only pay real estate tax – but since the land will probably no longer fill the SL-EAC criteria (state assessing guidelines for farmland), the assessed value of the land may actually decrease. Hecate has offered revenue benefits to the county which will be included as conditions in a Special Use Permit (see article on page 6).

CBES Membership 2016

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Community Calendar - March 2016

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

CBES and Other Activities		Accomack County		Northampton County		
Mar 2	VIMS Public Seminar 7:30 PM, Wachapreague	Mar 2	Board of Zoning Appeals 10 AM, Sup. Chambers	Mar 1	Planning Commission 7 PM, Sup. Chambers	
Mar 10	Shorekeeper Meeting* 3 PM, Barrier Islands Center	Mar 9	Planning Commission 7 PM, BOS Chambers	Mar 7	Board of Zoning Appeals 1 PM, Conference Room	
Mar 8	CBES Exec. Committee 5 PM, CBES Office	Mar 15	School Board 7 PM, BOS Chambers	Mar 8	Board of Supervisors 7 PM, Sup. Chambers	
Mar 15	CBES Board Meeting 7:00 p.m., Eastville	Mar 16	Board of Supervisors 5 PM, BOS Chambers	Mar 9	Public Hearing on Zoning Changes	
Mar 15	10 43 6 0 01 1				7 PM, Sup. Chambers	
Mar 26	10 AM, Accomac CBF Seminar	10 AM, Sup. Chambers		Mar 16	Wetlands Board TBA, Conference Room	
	10 AM, Barrier Islands Center			Mar 22	School Board 5:30 PM, Sup. Chambers	
	iting between the ES Chamber of	f		Mar 28	BOS Work Session 5 PM, Sup. Chambers	
Commerce and the Barrier Islands Center www.cbes.org						