



Eastern Shore Healthy Communities

AN ACHIEVE COALITION

General Coalition Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 2013, 3:00 pm

Eastern Shore Community College

MINUTES

Item	Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome & Introductions</p>	<p>Rev. Gary Miller, Pastor, St. John's United Methodist Church, standing in for Danny Vestal, Chair, and Ex. Dir. YMCA Camp Silver Beach, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Partners present included: Ellen Archer and Joanie Donohoe, Eastern Shore Health Department; Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, President, Eastern Shore Community College; Aileen Joeckel, Town of Wachapreague and Blue Bay Crab Co., Jean Joeckel, Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc., Patti Kiger, Instructor, Eastern Virginia Medical School; Cabell Lawton, Town of Onancock Manager; Bob Mayes, citizen; Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Accomack County; Bill Neville, Town of Chincoteague Planner; Sue Simon, Economic Development Coordinator; Peter Stith, Northampton County Long Range Planner; IpecTaffee, Vice President, Children's Services, The Planning Council; Roberta Webb, Hermitage on the Eastern Shore; Joe Zager, Vice President, Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital.</p>	
<p>Approval of the Minutes</p>	<p>Linda Glover motioned approval of the minutes. Jean Joeckel offered a second to the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.</p>	
<p>Special Dialogue</p> <p>Eastern Shore Walkability: Next Steps to Enact Technical Memo</p>	<p>A summary of the dialogue follows. Items captured will be added to our 2014-16 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Within 90 days</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speed limits. Reduce/enforce in high pedestrian areas like towns (i.e. Onancock) and Rt. 13 shopping areas (Exmore, Four Corners, etc.) 2. Zoning. Change towns' zoning for more mixed use neighborhoods (i.e. Cape Charles). 3. Comprehensive Plans Alignment. Incorporate "Livable Communities" language into counties' and towns' comprehensive plans. 4. Bike Plan. Revisit, seek and propose funding for planning and implementation. Explore rail right-of-way issues (political, legal, technical). 5. Publicize pedestrian lights at Four Corners Shopping Center. Improve pedestrian safety with putting a "no right turn on red sign" at each of the walking corners. <p>Short-Term (1 to 2 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road diets. Reduce 4 lane roads to three lanes, leaving a bike lane along the distance (in all towns, and especially Rt. 179 Onley-Onancock). Low cost and easy improvements and requires only paint and VDOT assistance. 2. Increase signage for sights of interest (i.e. "brown signed areas like Wildlife Refuge). 3. Sidewalks. Plan for more town sidewalks. Get sidewalk from Onancock downtown to Four Corner's Plaza Shopping Center and carefully calculate return on investment. 	<p>Within 90 days</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore speed limit reduction with towns, counties & VDOT. 2. Towns explore rezoning. 3. Counties adopt language. Towns collaborate on language needed. 4. ANPDC to revisit bike plan with ESHC assistance. 5. ESHC will write news release. ANPDC to explore "no right turn on red" with VDOT. <p>Short Term (1 to 2 years)</p> <p>1,2,3. Towns represented in Livable Communities Work Group to discuss road diets,</p>

	<p>Long-Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sidewalks. Expand walkability of 4 towns focused on during Walkability Workshops because of their economic benefit and include both economic and health assessment and evaluation. 2. Complete Streets. Include in comprehensive plans that all new streets must include sidewalks and bike paths to be pedestrian, transit and car friendly. 3. Destination Branding. Plan for roundabouts at major Rt. 13 intersections that direct traffic into towns and advertise amenities (i.e. Beaches, Restaurants, Shopping, Bed & Breakfasts, Museums, Parks). 4. Calm Route 13. Reduce aggressive driver behavior and create safe, comfortable pedestrian travel with roundabouts, islands, sidewalks, and red- and yellow-light runner enforcement. 5. Link Walk/Bike Segments. Link town segments to county segments. Specifically link Onley, Onancock, Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital, Historic Onancock School, YMCA segments. <p>Other observations and information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Riverside has planned a half mile of sidewalks surrounding new hospital for employee and public use. 2. Reducing Rt. 179 from 4 lanes to 3 lanes supported by hospital's traffic study. 3. Walkability has two parts: a) daily living, and b) recreational. The VDOT and Counties' governments are interested in walkability from a transit and economic benefit perspective. This is infrastructure for moving people from one place to the next, rather than purely recreational. It has economic implications for citizen transport to jobs, and for towns and counties generating revenue. It provides health equity (all people can use walking/biking paths) and social justice (all have equal access/opportunity). 4. Recreational walkability can be/should be explored via private sector (without increasing government), for example Kayak trails, hunting and fishing, and athletic clubs. 5. "Culture eats strategy for lunch." All plans must take into account what people are used to or willing to do or strategy will be off-course, though history exists that support building amenities increases use. 6. Unlike other ES towns, Chincoteague owns its own roads and is not subject to VDOT policy. 7. Linkage to VDOT for all other town/county projects is essential. ANPDC (Sue Simon) will engage ESHC & VDOT and counties/towns at their Transportation Board. Bill Neville chairs that group. 8. Automobile speed is the biggest single factor in transportation safety. 9. Knowing that changes will be incremental, working consistently from a master plan is imperative. 10. Duplicate the Technical Report on CD and give to all mayors, council persons, and supervisors. 	<p>signage, sidewalk needs and VDOT approach.</p> <p>Long-Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultant needed for economic and health assessment and evaluation. NIH grant could possibly cover cost. 2. Livable Communities Work Group to approach VDOT for Complete Streets adoption. 3. LC Wkgrp to seek funding for destination branding plan. 4, 5. LC Wkgrp to contact VDOT for Rt. 13 calming & linking walk/bike segments.
Other agenda items	<p>Joe Zager invites all partners to the Oct. 22, 1:30 pm Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Groundbreaking.</p> <p>Bob Mayes announced that a group exists and planning funds have been received for the Virginia Eastern Shore Kayak Trail and camping facilities. The trail exists; camping facilities do not. The trail will tie to the John Smith Trail and the Chesapeake Bay side as well and become a non-automobile transit opportunity both recreationally and functionally.</p>	
Leadership Reflection	<p>Aileen Joeckel reflected that all of us exercise leadership and in so doing we must have a plan and patience, accepting defeats, recognizing victories, moving forward realizing that our little steps will one day lead to huge changes and a better Eastern Shore.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Rev. Miller adjourned meeting at 4:30 pm, announcing that the next Eastern Shore Healthy Communities meeting will be held at 3 pm, Thursday, Oct. 10, at Eastern Shore Community College.</p>	