

TOWN COUNCIL
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
Cape Charles Civic Center
January 19, 2023
6:30 PM

At approximately 6:30 p.m. Mayor Adam Charney, having established a quorum, called to order the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of the Cape Charles Town Council. In addition to Mayor Charney, in attendance were Councilmen Buchholz, Butta and Grossman, and Councilwoman Holloway. Vice Mayor Bennett was under the weather and participated via teleconference from his home in Cape Charles. Councilman Follmer was out of town and participated via teleconference from Minocqua, WI. Also, in attendance were Town Manager John Hozey, Planner/Zoning Administrator Katie Nunez, Police Chief Jim Pruitt, Library Manager Sharon Silvey, Special Assistant to the Town Manager Julie Pruitt, and Town Clerk Libby Hume. There were 11 members of the public physically in attendance, and 17 viewers on Facebook.

A moment of silence was observed followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Manager John Hozey welcomed Mayor Charney and Councilman Butta, adding that their terms began effective January 1, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Charney announced that this evening's public hearing was to receive comments regarding A) Zoning Text Amendment 2023-01 application from Lot 4 Holdings, LLC c/o Winmar Advisory to amend Article III to create a new zoning district called Bay Crossing Planned Unit Development and to amend any other sections of the Zoning Ordinances deemed appropriate to achieve the purposes described herein; and B) Zoning Map Amendment 2023-01 application from Lot 4 Holdings, LLC c/o Winmar Advisory to rezone Tax Map #90-19-A from Residential-R3 to the new zoning district called Bay Crossing Planned Unit Development District if so created.

Planner/Zoning Administrator Katie Nunez provided an overview of the applications, adding that since the date that the packet documents were distributed, Lot 4 Holdings, LLC had completed the purchase of the property and a copy of the deed was included in tonight's documentation.

- A. *Zoning Text Amendment 2023-01 application from Lot 4 Holdings, LLC c/o Winmar Advisory to amend Article III to create a new zoning district called Bay Crossing Planned Unit Development and to amend any other sections of the Zoning Ordinances deemed appropriate to achieve the purposes described herein:*

There were no comments to be heard on this item nor any comments received in writing prior to the meeting.

- B. *Zoning Map Amendment 2023-01 application from Lot 4 Holdings, LLC c/o Winmar Advisory to rezone Tax Map #90-19-A from Residential-R3 to the new zoning district called Bay Crossing Planned Unit Development District if so created:*

There were no comments to be heard on this item nor any comments received in writing prior to the meeting.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, to close the public hearing. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The public hearing was closed at 6:36 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS / PRESENTATIONS:

A. *Cape Charles Main Street Presentation – Bill Stramm and Karen Zamorski*

Mr. Bill Stramm and Ms. Karen Zamorski provided an overview of the Cape Charles Main Street organization, including their staff, Board of Directors, grant funding received, events, marketing efforts, financials, etc. (Please see attached.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT SUBJECT TO THE ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING: (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

Dianne Davis, Cape Charles resident

Ms. Davis addressed the Council regarding the Historic District and lack of street lighting in areas of the Town. (Please see attached.)

Donna Onley Kohler, Cape Charles resident/business owner

Ms. Kohler addressed the Council regarding Senate Bill 1391 related to short-term rentals. (Please see attached.)

Janet Justis, Interim Library System Director for Eastern Shore Public Library

Ms. Justis introduced herself to the Council and provided background and information regarding the Eastern Shore Public Library, adding that the regional library system included the Cape Charles Memorial Library, Nassawadox Free Library, Accomack Library, which she hoped would be moving to its new Parksley location, and the Chincoteague Library as partners. All of the libraries were unique and supported by their communities. She was pleased in how wonderfully integrated that the Cape Charles Memorial Library was in the Town of Cape Charles. The same kind of spirit existed in Chincoteague. The Eastern Shore Public Library system worked with the Library of Virginia and the American Library Association to offer lifelong learning to users. She thanked Library Manager Sharon Silvey and her staff who she saw in action earlier today. She had the opportunity to meet with the Cape Charles Memorial Library Board as well. Ms. Justis concluded by expressing her pleasure for the opportunity to support and provide assistance to the library in any way.

There were no additional comments to be heard nor any comments received in writing prior to the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda Format

B. Approval of Minutes:

- i. December 15, 2022 Town Council Public Hearing & Regular Meeting

C. Approval of November 30, 2022 Financial Report

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilwoman Holloway, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. *Election of Vice Mayor for Two-Year Term:*

Motion made by Councilwoman Holloway, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, nominating Steve Bennett as vice mayor for a two-year term.

There were no other nominations.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Charney stated that items 9B and 9C would be handled together as one item.

- B. *Zoning Text Amendment 2023-01 – New District: Bay Crossing Planned Unit Development:*
- C. *Zoning Map Amendment 2023-01 – Tax Map #90-19-A:*

Katie Nunez stated that everything had been reviewed by Council previously and had nothing to add from her overview given during the public hearing, except that Mr. Marine was in attendance to answer any questions.

Mr. Lance Marine notified Council that he had acquired the land two weeks ago and continued to summarize the proposed workforce housing project and electric vehicle charging station. There was some discussion between Mr. Marine and Council regarding the plans, projected number of units, and percentages of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Katie Nunez pointed out language included in her staff report relating to Mr. Sam Jones' public comments during the Planning Commission's public hearing, where he expressed his support of the project but also explained his concern of the potential for 250 units and wanted assurance that the units would not be used for short term rentals. She went on to review the Planning Commission's recommendation adding that as staff, she was not wholly supportive of it.

Mayor Charney read Ordinance 20230119 Amending Cape Charles Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map Creating New Zoning District Called Bay Crossing Planned Unit Development.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, to adopt Ordinance 20230119 Amending Cape Charles Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map Creating New Zoning District Called Bay Crossing Planned Unit Development.

There was much discussion regarding the Planning Commission's recommended language and potential amendments, and a definition of workforce housing.

Motion made by Councilman Butta, seconded by Councilwoman Holloway, to amend the second sentence in paragraph 1, Statement of Intent to read: "The targeted workforce housing segment income range is up to 150% of the Area Median Income" and deleting the following sentence that was inserted by the Planning Commission. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Motion made by Councilwoman Holloway, seconded by Councilman Grossman, to amend paragraph 3, Conditional Uses, to read: "Subject to the Conditional Use Permit application process, the following conditional uses may be allowed: all uses in the C-1, C-2 and C-3 Districts, conditional uses within the R-3 District, short term rentals including subletting of units (said unit's square footage will be less than 1,000 square feet and the short term rental is defined as 30 days or less for rent), and any other commercial or professional use which is compatible in nature with the allowed uses and which the Zoning Administrator determines to be compatible with the intent of the district and is concurred with by the Planning Commission." The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Councilman Grossman amended his original motion to adopt Ordinance 20230119 with the two amendments as approved by Council, which was seconded by Councilwoman Holloway. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Roll call vote: Bennett, yes; Buchholz, yes; Butta, yes; Follmer, yes; Grossman, yes; Holloway, yes.

- D. *Library Material Reconsideration Procedure:*

John Hozey stated that last fall, a library patron approached the library manager with a concern about the appropriateness of one of our collection materials and asked for the procedure to request that this piece be removed from the library's collection. The Library Board met to discuss this matter and approved the Cape Charles Memorial Library Material Reconsideration Procedure which was attached. While it was not typical for the Town Council to involve itself in

the internal operations of any Town department, staff felt that this situation qualified as an exception. In recent years, there had been a sharp rise in public sensitivity over political correctness and what constituted offensive expression. At the same time, there had been a corresponding increase in concern over expanded government censorship and the right to freedom of expression. This topic tended to transcend a normal administrative function and moved into the realm of political philosophy for the jurisdiction making the matter better suited for consideration by the elected body over appointed staff or board members. John Hozey proceeded to review staff's recommended changes to the policy provided by the Library Board.

Library Board Chairmen Rich Burger stated that although the Cape Charles Memorial Library was funded by the Town, it was still part of the regional Eastern Shore Public Library system. If the Cape Charles Memorial Library's policy was amended, it would be outside the county, regional and state policy.

Ms. Janet Justis, Interim Library System Director for the Eastern Shore Public Library, expressed her appreciation of Library Manager Sharon Silvey's effort to develop a policy for Cape Charles. While this was a new experience for Cape Charles, the American Library Association and libraries across the state had been dealing with this issue since 1939. The proposed policy was fairly consistent with the policy shared by most libraries. For Cape Charles to have a uniquely different policy from the other libraries would create a challenge for patrons who use materials from all four participating libraries. She appreciated the support from the Town Council but asked that they trust the library staff and the Library Board. When this issue did not come up often, it was a good sign that the collection development policy was a good one, but there would always be someone who disagreed. Sharon Silvey was doing incredible work by educating the staff and putting this policy together. She believed that the policy as written and approved by the Library Board was sufficient and would meet the needs.

Vice Mayor Bennett appreciated John Hozey's concerns but added that it sounded like the proposed policy was already in place across the Eastern Shore and State of Virginia, so he did not feel a need for Council to develop a unique policy.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, to approve the Cape Charles Memorial Library Material Reconsideration Procedure as written. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Town Council Representative to Planning Commission:

Motion made by Councilman Buchholz, seconded by Councilman Butta, appointing Councilman Grossman as the Town Council representative to the Planning Commission. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

F. Town Council Representative to Library Board:

Motion made by Councilman Grossman nominating Councilman Butta as the Town Council representative to the Library Board. Councilman Butta respectfully declined.

Motion made by Councilwoman Holloway, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, appointing Councilman Follmer as the Town Council representative to the Library Board. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

G. Historic District Review Board Member Reappointment:

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, to reappoint Mr. Herb Thom to the Historic District Review Board for another term. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

H. *Library Board Member Appointment:*

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilwoman Holloway, to appoint Ms. Ellen O'Brien to the Library Board to complete Mr. Roger Moyer's unexpired term. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Councilwoman Holloway asked why Council had representation on most of the Town's boards but not the Historic District Review Board, adding that she would like to have this discussion at a future meeting. Councilman Grossman responded that several years ago, there was discussion regarding increasing the Historic District Review Board membership from five to seven members with one being a Council representative, but it was decided that due to the appeal process in place, Council representation would not be appropriate, so no changes were made.

TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS

John Hozey commented as follows: i) In response to a citizen comment earlier this evening, he had a copy of SB 1391, which was filed by Senator Lynwood Lewis, regarding the proposed short term rental legislation. Staff would submit a letter to the legislature informing them of the Town's opposition to this bill. The Northampton County Board of Supervisors was looking to adopt a resolution and he had requested a copy so the Town Council could adopt a similar resolution. This was a very short legislative session, so we had to move quickly. He proposed that a special meeting be held on February 2nd to adopt the resolution. He also reached out to the managers of Chincoteague and Onancock and would be meeting with them next Monday in Chincoteague. The full text of the bill had been provided to the Council. Councilmen Grossman and Follmer encouraged the citizens to submit their comments to the legislators as well. Councilwoman Holloway asked that the contact information for the Town's representatives as well as committee members be provided to streamline the process for the citizens. Katie Nunez stated that the committee was scheduled to meet on Monday, January 23rd, at 9:00 a.m., and it would be great if comments could be submitted before the meeting. John Hozey stated that the contact information would be posted on the Town's Facebook page. Councilman Butta added that it was important for the citizens to know that the Town was not opposed to short-term rentals but was against the legislation removing the Town's authority to control what happened within the Town. John Hozey added that he had been contacted by the Eastern Shore Post and gave an interview in which he made it clear that the Town was not opposed to short-term rentals, but wanted to retain local control; ii) The Community Strategic Planning Survey was left open online through the long weekend and closed on Tuesday. Paper copies were still coming in. He was pleased that we surpassed last year's number of responses. The results would be shared on February 2nd. He was not surprised that of the respondents, about half were working full time and half retirees. We had an 80% approval rate for the quantity and quality of services. The most work would be in organizing the comments; iii) Also on February 2nd, Council would review the strategic plan update and 2023 Town priorities. These needed to be done before work could begin on the 2024 budget. A public input session would be scheduled at the beginning of the February 16th regular meeting, with adoption of the strategic plan if Council felt comfortable with it; iv) We had two new employees in the Planning & Zoning Department – Alyce Crockett started January 24th as the administrative assistant, and Bob James started January 26th as the zoning compliance officer; v) He included this next item in his weekly report but wanted to officially inform Council that the Rosenwald School Initiative did not get their Industrial Revitalization Grant funding, which was a disappointment; vi) He congratulated Cape Charles Main Street on a great year and fabulous Festive Fridays. He was initially a naysayer with the expanded Festive Fridays, and he wanted to publicly state that he was wrong.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Grossman commented as follows: i) The Cape Charles Main Street presentation was very thorough and professionally done. It gave him confidence that the Town's allocated funding was well spent; ii) He attended Wachapreague's Planning Commission meeting and they approved a

recommendation to Council to adopt a short term rental ordinance imposing a cap of five short term rentals within the town. This was the first ordinance he had seen limiting the number and asked for additional information.

Councilman Butta commented as follows: i) This was a great first meeting and he appreciated the confidence from the citizens of Cape Charles in electing him; ii) He would love to see a salary study proposal on a future agenda. When he heard that most of the Town's employees could not afford to live in the proposed workforce housing, something needed to be done.

Councilwoman Holloway wanted to clarify that the last page of the Cape Charles Main Street presentation showed a rendering of the railroad car which was inserted as a rough visual. It was not an official look for the car. It was exciting to keep this project moving forward and Cape Charles Main Street was close to obtaining a final quote for the metal work on the railroad car. They would be reaching out to the Town for provide fencing around the work area.

Councilmen Buchholz and Follmer did not have any additional comments.

Vice Mayor Bennett apologized for not being able to attend in person, but appreciated the ability to participate via teleconference. He added that Mayor Charney ran a great first meeting.

Mayor Charney thanked everyone for helping him get through his first meeting. He thanked Cape Charles Main Street for their very impressive presentation, the individuals who spoke regarding the Library policy, and Mr. Lance Marine for his information regarding his proposed workforce housing project.

Mayor Charney read the announcements.

Motion made by Councilman Buchholz, seconded by Councilman Grossman, to adjourn the Town Council Public Hearing & Regular Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The Public Hearing & Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Mayor Charney

Town Clerk

**January 19, 2023 Town Council Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
Comments and Information Provided in Writing**

Cape Charles Main Street Presentation:



Meet the Team – Staff



Karen Zamorski
Executive
Director



Clare Nowakowski
Marketing
Administrator

Our Board of Directors



Bill Stramm
Vide President



Patsy Harris
Vide President



Tammy Holloway
Past President



John Hozey
Board Member
at Large



Jay Abella
Co-Chair
Economic Vitality



Ken Butta
Co-Chair
Economic Vitality



Mollie Pickron
Co-Chair Design



Reggie Widgeon
Co-Chair Design



Tara Ashworth
Co-Chair
Promotions



Julie Crouse
Co-Chair
Promotions



Gerry Taylor
Co-Chair
Organization



Pat James
Co-Chair
Organization



Lori Peters
Business Liason

DHCD Support for Cape Charles

- **Designated Community Revitalization Specialist at DHCD**
- **Access to Grants exclusive to Virginia Main Street Communities**
- **Free Access to Frasier & Associates**
- **Creating Community Vitality Training Series**
- **Access to National Main Street Partners:**
 - Center for Nonprofit Excellence**
 - Main Street America**
 - Esri: GIS Mapping Software, Location Intelligence**
 - Preservation Virginia**
 - Virginia Community Capital**
 - Virginia Community Development Corporation**

Our Accomplishments by the numbers

Drumroll please...

What Cape Charles Main Street has delivered In our past Fiscal Year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)

BUSINESS/TOWN Mkt. SUPPORT – \$68,887 (excluding Grant awards)*

- Wrapped up the Small Covid Relief Grant distributing \$895,115 for small businesses
- Applied for and received grants totaling \$125,495 FY 2022
- Updated, printed and distributed an additional 32,000 maps to welcome centers and key travel locations across Virginia and neighboring states.
- Held Monthly Main Street Connect meetings for businesses
- Continued to update and build on the CCVC with CCMS Microsite
- Buy Local Campaign on WESR Radio
- Produced a new Business Brochure
- Marketed Cape Charles through various print/Digital campaigns

BEAUTIFICATION/SPONSORED PROJECTS – \$59,000

- Added new benches and trash cans to Strawberry Street and Mason Ave.
- New bed plantings on Strawberry Street
- Supported the installation of new awnings on Strawberry Street
- Moved remediated Train car to its permanent location which will include a visitor center/brick & mortar bathroom
- New signage for Designation as VA Mainstreet installed

EVENTS – \$38,246

- Cape Charles Main Street Annual Meeting
- Held first annual Job Fair
- Organized Spring Sidewalk Sale
- Sponsored the Easter Bunny event with family photo opportunity
- Celebrated 25 “Best of Virginia Winners”
- Third Thursday’s
- Second Annual Love Run
- LOVEFEST in the Park
- Held Christmas Decorating Contest for businesses

* Grant Awards details later in presentation

Grants Received

	FY2022	FY2023
NC infrastructure – Bathroom	\$ 25,000	\$100,000
NC infrastructure – Train	\$ 30,000	
NC Infrastructure – Golf Cart Path	\$ 2,995	
NC Visitors Map	\$ 6,000	
NC Beautification	\$ 5,000	
NC Walking Tour	\$ 5,000	
NC Love Run	\$ 3,500	
NC Love Fest	\$ 5,000	
NC Festive Fridays	\$ 8,000	
Virginia Tourism Corporation – Festive Fridays	\$ 5,000	
DHCD Designation Grant	\$ 10,000	
VTC/MLP Grant (Spent \$ in 2021/Reimbursed 2022)	\$ 20,000	
NC/VTC ARPA Tourism (Bathroom/visitor ctr, Blogs)		\$ 40,000
DHCD Designation Grant		\$ 5,000
Total Grants Received	\$125,495	\$145,000 YTD

Grants Closed



**Total Amount of Money
Distributed**

\$896,115

**Total Number of
Businesses Helped**

88

Events

- **Annual Love Run – 5K with over 200 runners registered**
- **Shop & Stroll – Help bring people out to shop in February**
- **Easter Bunny At Strawberry Street Plaza – Dovetail with Town Easter Egg hunt to bring people into town**
- **Love Fest in the Park – Approximately 1500 attendees**
- **Festive Fridays – More data on event to come**

Our Volunteers ROCK!

**Volunteer Hours Calendar Year 2022:
3,512 hrs. = \$90,209**

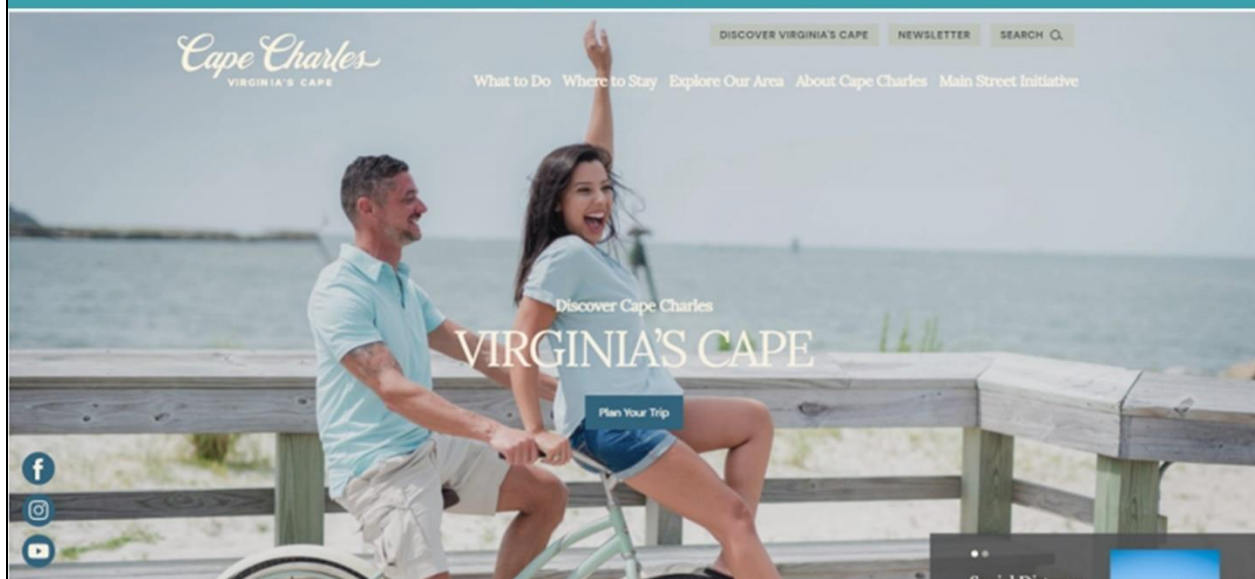
**Total Volunteer Hours to Date for CCMS:
11,015 hrs. = \$292,338**



Thank You Volunteers!



Marketing Cape Charles

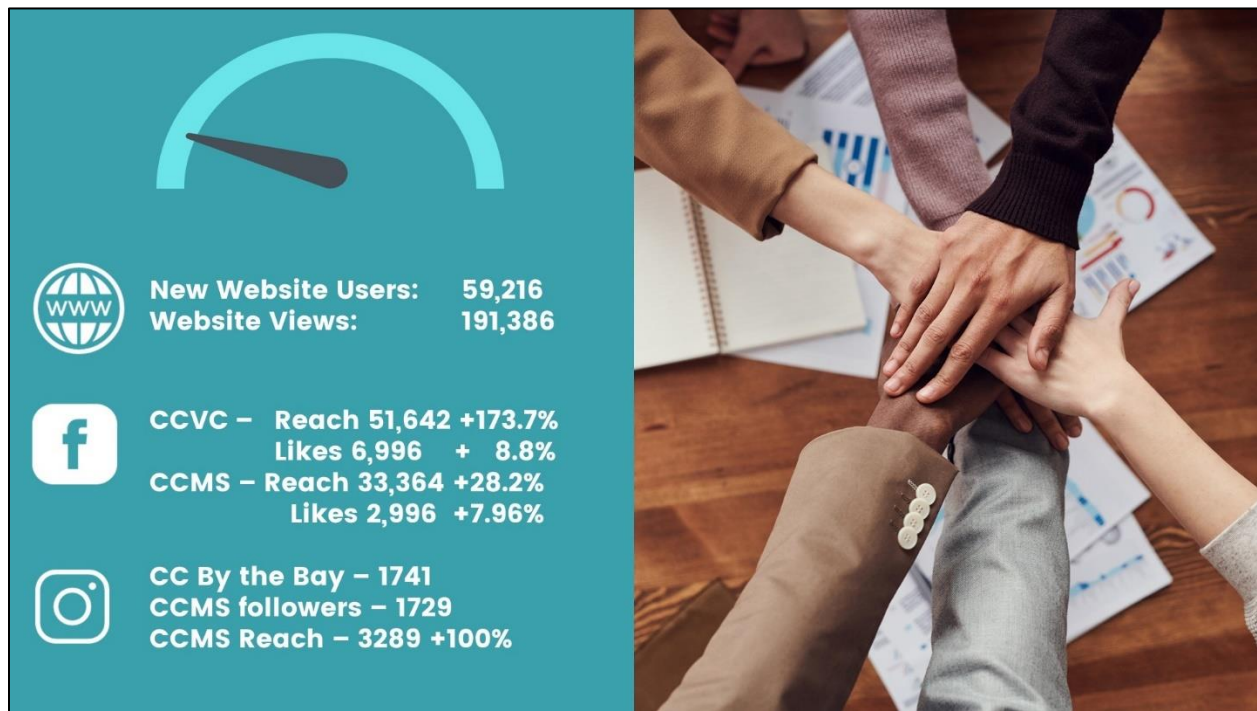


Marketing Cape Charles – \$34,800

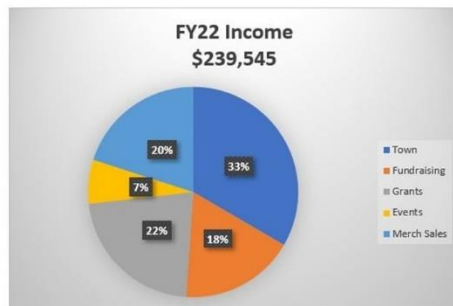
- Virginia Living Best of VA issue
- Virginia Living eNewsletter
- WESR Radio Buy Local Campaign
- Discover Cape Charles Map & Distribution
- Cape Charles Virginia's Cape Website (Blogs, Events, Lodging, etc.)
- ESVA Tourism Guide
- Cape Charles Video (Tourism)

2021 vs. 2022 Tax Comparison

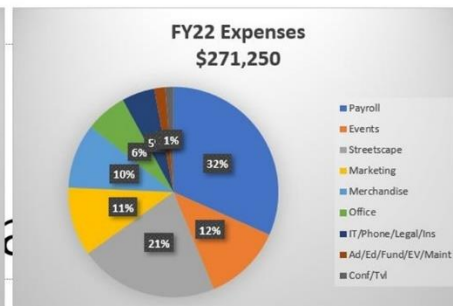
	FY2021	FY2022
TOT	\$240,217.00	\$343,450.00
Meals	\$514,720.00	\$650,619.00



CCMS Financials FY22



- Town – 33% - \$80,000
- Fundraising – 18% - \$42,352
- Grants – 22% - \$53,045
- Events – 7% - \$16,159
- Merch Sales – 20% - \$47,989



- Payroll – 32% - \$85,875
- Events – 12% - \$32,578
- Streetscape – 21% - \$58,044
- Marketing – 11% - \$28,704
- Merchandise – 10% - \$27,027
- Office – 6% - \$17,268
- IT/Phone/Legal/Ins – 5% - \$13,740
- Ad/Ed/Fund/EV/Maint – 1% - \$4,592
- Conf/Tvl – 1% - \$3,342

CCMS Financials FY23



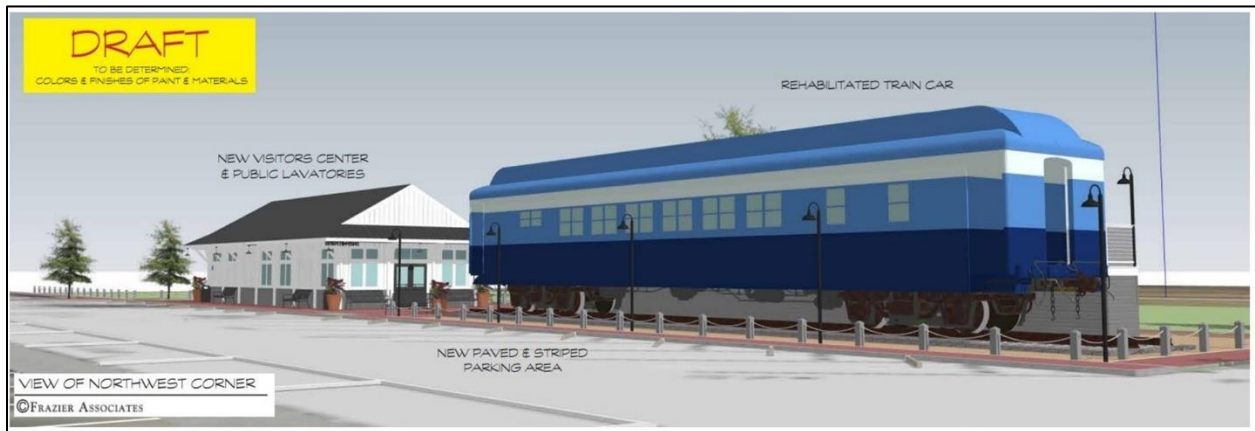
- Town - 23% - \$45,000
- Fundraising – 15% - \$28,084
- Grants – 17% - \$32,200
- Events/Projects – 35% - \$67,578
- Merch Sales – 10% - \$19,272



- Payroll - 30% - \$47,464
- Events/Projects – 38% - \$59,151
- Marketing – 11% - \$16,944
- Office – 7% - \$10,196
- IT/Phone/Legal/Ins– 2% - \$3,092
- Merchandise – 2% - \$3,278
- Ad/Ed/Fund/EV/Maint – 2% - \$2,684
- Streetscape – 8% - \$12,539
- Conf/Tvl - <1% - \$539



- Love the Locals week 2/4/23 to 2/11/23
- Love Run expanding to 10K & 5K, April 22, 2023
- Develop workplans for 2024
- Develop Annual Report
- Continued Beautification efforts
- Reprinting of the Map
- Launch of Historic Walking Tour
- Historic Train Car
- New Visitor Center, Bathrooms, Offices



- Exterior sheet metal work and painting to be completed (train colors TBD – Historically Black with White or gold lettering)
- Bathrooms and Visitor center (to include Main Street offices) Main Street received 3 grants – one (\$25k to pay for the outside restoration, one (\$30k) from No. Hampton County ARPA Marketing funds that was transferred to the visitor center and an additional \$100,000 from No. Hampton County for the Bathroom/Visitor Center



Thank You All!

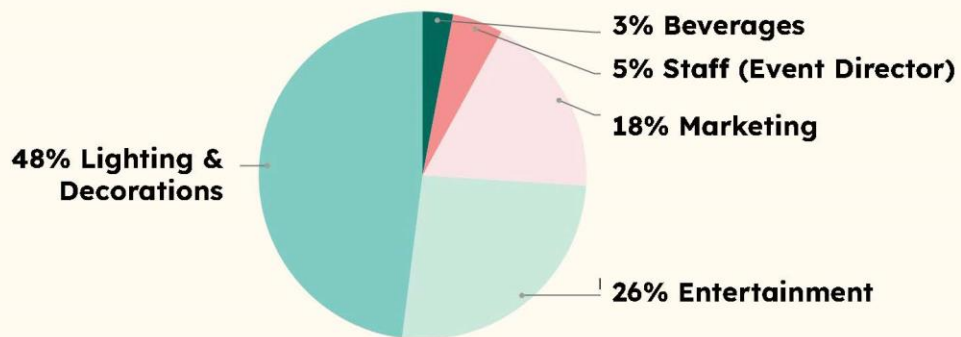


Festive Fridays 2022

Summary Report

EXPENSES SUMMARY

CCMS spent a total of **\$55,118.18** on Festive Fridays



SPONSORSHIP SUMMARY

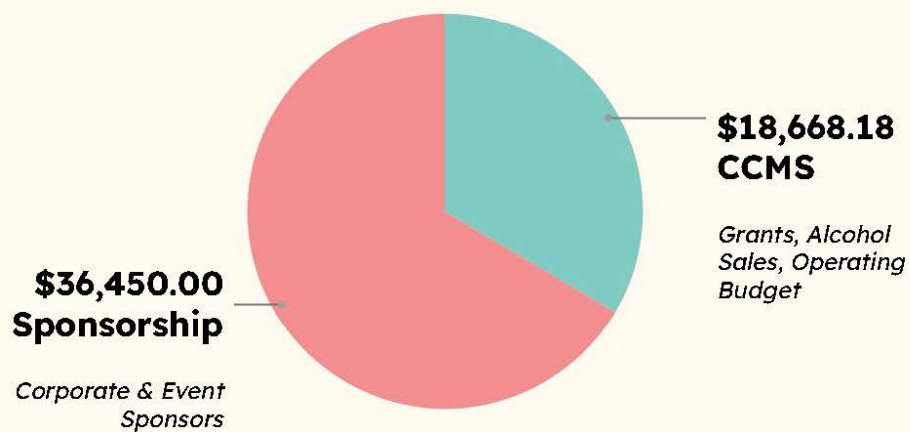
\$36,450.00 was raised from 55 business

41% of our downtown businesses donated

- 50% of our hotels
- 63% of our restaurants
- 47% of our shops
- 27% of our service industries (*particularly our local realty companies*)

EXPENSES PAID

Expenses were covered by:



VOLUNTEERS

52 Community Members volunteered a total of 215 hours

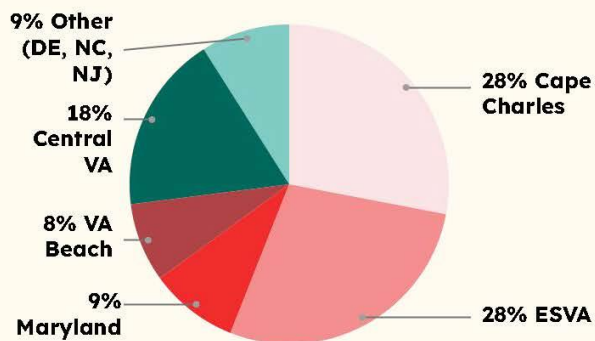
4 committee members volunteered a total of 180 hours
(Patsy Harris, Julie Crouse, Tara Ashworth & Susan Burger)

395 Volunteer Hours Total

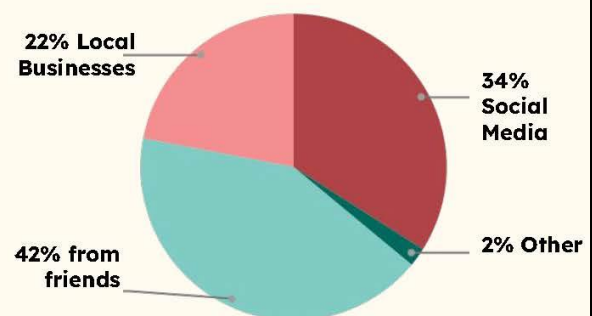
VISITORS SURVEY

75 visitor surveys were completed
46% were attending Festive Friday's for the first time

Where are you visiting from?



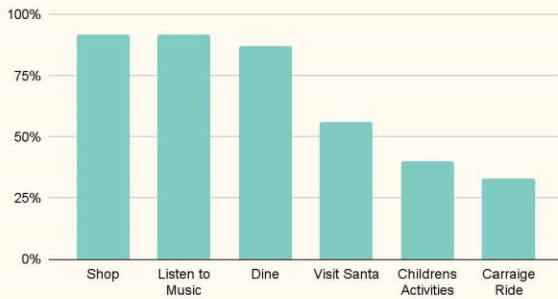
How did you hear about Festive Fridays?



VISITORS SURVEY

75 visitor surveys were completed
46% were attending Festive Friday's for the first time

What do you plan to do during Festive Fridays?



What do you like best about Festive Fridays?

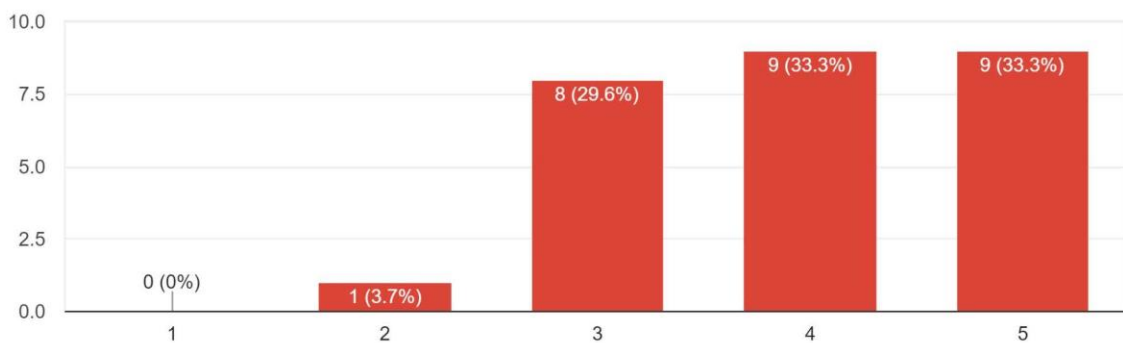
1. Lights & Decorations
2. Street Closure
3. Festive Ambiance
4. Shopping
5. Reuniting with Friends
6. Movies

BUSINESS SURVEYS

27 business surveys were completed

How would you rank the traffic in your establishment for this year's Festive Friday weekends (November 25th - December 18th, 2022),... year's (November 26th - December 19th, 2021)?

27 responses



BUSINESS SURVEYS

27 business surveys were completed

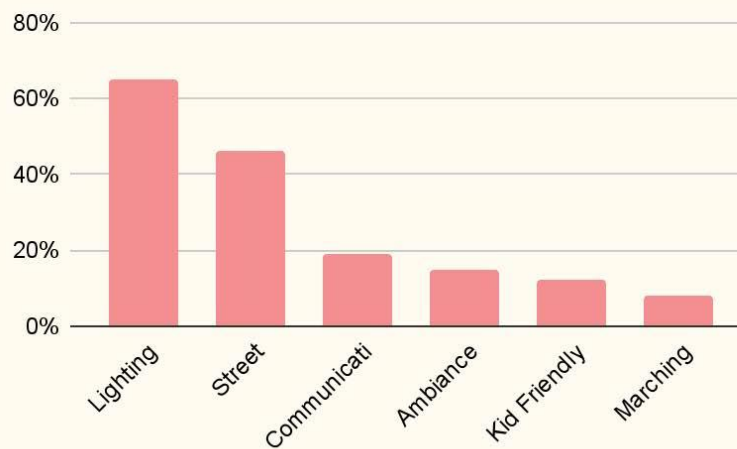
Please share your percent change in business from this year's Festive Friday weekends, (November 25th - December 18th, 2022), compared to last year's Festive Fridays weekends, (November 26th - December 19th, 2021). *Example: 40% increase in sales, or down 10% in sales.*



BUSINESS SURVEYS

27 business surveys were completed

What was your favorite part of this year's Festive Fridays? What did we do well?



What do you think we need to improve on for next year?

1. Be more inclusive to both sides of Mason and Strawberry St in promotion of events
2. Increase lighting and events on Strawberry St
3. Better Handicapped Parking Solution
4. Put activities on Strawberry and Peach Street
5. Improve lighting on Mason
6. Start the event one to two hours earlier
7. Do away with food vendors

Dianne Davis, Cape Charles resident

Good evening,

Mayor, member of the Council, Clerk and Manager.

I am Dianne Davis, resident.

Welcome to the new persons who will now be serving our town.

I would first like to remind you that the Historic District in addition to Mason Avenue and Bay Avenue includes Randolph Avenue to Bay Avenue, and from Fig Street to Pine Street.

I would like to suggest that you from time to time walk or ride the streets in town in the daytime as well as at night. Some of the blocks are really dark. After walking late one night in a different direction, I saw that some of the blocks were very dark because of the street lights were out. I did report this more than a month ago and the lights are still out.

I would just like to say to all of you, please do whatever you can for our entire town.

Thank you and have a blessed evening.

Donna Onley Kohler, resident and business owner

First off, I would like to welcome our new town mayor and our newly elected and re-elected councilors. Thank you to all of you for serving out Town.

My name is Donna Onley Kohler and I live on Tazewell Avenue and operate the Fig Street Inn. I am here today to ask the Town to go on record with our state representatives against Senate Bill 1391.

This bill, proposed by our local representative Lynwood Lewis, would limit our Town's abilities to regulate the short-term rental industry. Short term rentals, or STRs, are a multibillion-dollar industry. It is not simply a few people here and there renting out their homes to make a few extra dollars.

As a bed and breakfast, I am required to live at my property. I am required to provide off-street parking for each guest room. I am required to be inspected every single year. I have to follow a number of other

regulations in regard to insurance, safety, fire code, ADA, food service, alcohol service, sanitation, tax reporting, and personnel training.

Senate Bill 1391 would not allow the Town to institute requirements for short term rentals that are listed with a realtor.

My lodging property is not that different from a STR – we each provide a hospitality experience to transient guests. The experience may be different, but at its core, it is about an experience. Why should my requirements be stricter than those required of a STR? Why should a STR marketed by an individual be stricter than those marketed by a realtor?

Cape Charles knows its community and its needs the best. Regulations for local businesses should be kept local. I ask the Town to publicly oppose Senate Bill 1391.

Thank you for your consideration.