

Planning Commission

Work Session Agenda

Cape Charles Civic Center – 500 Tazewell Avenue

December 20, 2021, 3:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
 - a. Roll call and establish a quorum
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of agenda format
3. Order of Business
 - a. Comprehensive Plan update
 - i. Community Facilities and Services
4. Adjourn

Community and Facilities

III-C.6 Community Facilities

Community facilities consist of all public buildings, utilities, services, and lands serving Cape Charles residents. One of the main functions of local government is to provide police and fire protection, water and sewer services, parks and recreation facilities and other services needed by the community.

Cape Charles Town Hall, 2 Plum Street

The town is currently served by a Town Hall which houses all staff including the Police and Fire Departments but not Public Works. The Public Works Department is located close to the entrance of the Town and consists of several old buildings surrounded by a large lot. Town Hall itself is small and has long been outgrown. Some re-configuring has been done and temporary uses of other public and private space but that is a short-term fix. RFP'S are out Need some history

The Cape Charles Memorial Library, 201 Mason Avenue

The Cape Charles Memorial Library (CCML) is the oldest library on the Eastern Shore. Previously known as the Northampton Memorial Library, the library had its beginning in a private home in 1919. In 1926 it was moved to the vacated First Presbyterian Church at 500 Tazewell Avenue and in 2013 the library moved into its current home, the former Bank of America building at 201 Mason Avenue. The CCML provides a wide range of services for the community and for citizens of all ages. The library has a Computer Lab with seven computers for public use as well as Wi-Fi access. Patrons have access to the internet where they can take classes, apply for jobs and unemployment benefits, search for career services information, and access the library's online resources. The Local History Room houses material on Cape Charles and on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The CCML offers a wide range of programs, both for adults and children. A weekly story time is offered throughout the year and during the summer months a Summer Reading Program for children is held. Adult programs include book clubs, lecture series, author appearances, poetry readings, and local history programs. Library staff has taken programming and outreach to Kiptopeke Elementary School, Northampton High School, the Migrant Head Start Program, the Nature Conservancy, Kiptopeke State Park, and other agencies in order to reach out to those who may be unable to visit the library building. Library Staff consists of two full time positions and one part time. The Town Budget for the CCML is approximately \$170,000 which includes \$30,000 from Northampton County. Additionally, the CCML is supported by the Friends of the Library. This volunteer group has supplied the library with children's computers, additional furniture, and support for children's programming.

The Museum and Welcome Center, 814 Randolph Avenue

The Museum and Welcome Center for the town is housed in the 1947 late Industrial Deco style building that served as an electric power generating station for 40 years. It is owned and operated by the Cape Charles Historical Society; a non-profit organization founded in 1886. The Museum and Welcome Center opened in 1996 and is open 7 days a week from mid-April through November. In 2019 it served approximately 4,200 visitors but the onset of COVID-19 reduced that number to 680 in 2020. 65% of those visitors were from Virginia, with a consistent 14% from Hampton Roads, nearly 42% from other mainland Virginia locations, and the rest from the Eastern Shore.

Exhibits center on the heydays of the town from the 1880's through the mid-20th century when steamers, ferries, and the railroad operated continuously. A new exhibit is presented each season

created from the Society's archives which are cataloged and stored in the adjoining reconstructed Bloxom Station. A virtual outdoor tour takes a visitor on a walk around the museum campus from their phone, iPad or computer. This very professional tour offers video and audio on the history of the museum building, Bloxom station, Jetty house, Pilot house and all the railroad cars.

To raise revenue the Museum annually hosts a longtime popular Oyster Roast. Unable to hold it in 2020 they instead held an outdoor yard sale in October. In December, they hosted a local seafood sale featuring locally grown and harvested clams and oysters. These two fundraisers netted slightly over half as much money as the annual Oyster Roast. Donations to the museum can also be made via your purchases on Amazon with [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=AUD_aud_unspsc_scm).

Harbor Bath House

A recently built bath house is located at the Harbor to provide facilities for boaters using the Cape Charles Harbor.

The Civic Center, 500 Tazewell Avenue

The Civic Center, a former church, then town library, is used for meetings of the Town Council, Planning Commission, Historic District Review Board, Harbor Area Review Board, Main Street, and various other town groups. Due to a lack of space at Town Hall it is also used by town staff as a conference room. The maximum capacity of the building is 99. The communications systems need upgrading as made all too clear by the necessity and popularity of off-site public meetings during COVID-19.

Cape Charles Central Park, at the junction of Mason Avenue and Peach Street

Central Park is owned by the Town but also served by the volunteer group Citizens for Central Park. It is used for a very popular free summer concert series, group meetings, art and craft sales, picnics, unstructured sports, and has a much-used children's playground featuring a new zip line. The Park has a sidewalk just inside it's perimeters that is used for exercise and dog walking. Two tennis courts have recently been re-fitted to be used as pickle ball courts as well as tennis. Cape Charles Christian School uses the park for its physical education programs. Immediate future plans feature a "playground" for adults on the southeast corner which will include both Bocce ball and corn hole courts, picnic tables, benches, trees and small tables with seating for chess. The Park can be rented for private events.

Strawberry Street Plaza, between 230 and 300 Mason Avenue

Strawberry Street Plaza is located between two condominium buildings containing commercial establishments on the first floor and residential on the upper floors. It is in the center of the business district and also in the Historic District Overlay. Both landscaping and benches for public use have been provided by Main Street Cape Charles. The plaza has been used for farm markets, music performances, gatherings, a home for Santa and Mrs. Claus on Festive Fridays, and as an informal place to eat take-out food from nearby restaurants and bakeries. The railroad car paralleling the rear lot line and town parking lot is scheduled to be moved sometime in October of 2021 to its permanent location further east along the back of 230 Mason Avenue. It will be set on permanent rails or on a concrete slab. Shortly thereafter work will begin on the exterior of the train car including metal work, painting, and window replacement. In the future it may become a Virginia Welcome Center with eligibility for state funding. Moving the car will open up the viewshed to the Harbor from Strawberry Street beginning at Cape Charles Central Park through the Plaza and on to the town Harbor.

New Roots Youth Garden, intersection of Randolph Avenue and Fig Street

New Roots Youth Garden (NRYG) is owned and maintained by the Town but managed by the Executive Board of NRYG whose mission is to teach children where food comes from, how to plant

seeds, how to tend the garden, and how harvest the food. The children also have a small market stand where they sell this food and learn customer service skills, weighing, and making change. In addition, every week they take the food they've grown home to their families. Since a wide variety of vegetables are grown in the garden the children often find themselves eating a food they've never tasted before. The NRYG holds fundraisers but also receives grants, the Rotary Club provides funds and physical labor improving the property, The Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners provide a large part of the maintenance of the garden itself, and United Way is also a source of income. Many donations are received from citizens and businesses in Cape Charles as it is a very popular program.

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III – D.5 Public Services and Programs

Cape Charles Police Department

The Town of Cape Charles maintains a police force of XX sworn officers and XX full-time communication specialists assigned to the dispatch center. The responsibilities of the Cape Charles Police Department include a wide range of activities such as investigating citizen complaints, initiating criminal and traffic arrests, responding to accidents, and performing crime prevention checks. The department is also dispatched to calls from the Virginia State Police and other nearby localities. The town budget allows approximately \$582, 000 for the operation of the Cape Charles Police Department.

Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Department

The fire department is housed in the Town Hall and is staffed by volunteers. When needed the fire departments of the county and surrounding jurisdictions also respond to fire emergencies in Cape Charles. The volunteers are active in the community often sponsoring events to raise funds to continue their operations. As with most organizations volunteers are difficult to come by and the same is true with the Cape Charles fire department.

Cape Charles Medical Services

Cape Charles includes a number of private medical practices including doctors, dentists, chiropractors, physical therapists, and counseling services.

Eastern Shore Rural Health Center, Eastville

The Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc opened the new Eastville Community Health Center on May 4, 2020 as a replacement for the aging Bayview and Franktown Community Health Centers. The Calvin L. Brickhouse Building in Eastville is a 24,000+ square foot state-of-the-art medical and dental facility. It offers medical and dental digital x-ray, expanded lab services and hours, behavioral health services staffed with two part-time and one full-time physician, recently expanded telemedicine, outreach including to the Hispanic community in the summer months (in cooperation with local growers), health education, interpretation services, an onsite pharmacy, and the room to expand staff based on need and funding. Currently the center provides two and a half pediatricians, and they are the only staff with privileges at the Riverside Hospital in Onley. They have also partnered with Riverside Hospital to share electronic medical records. Hours are limited to weekdays. Emergency care is not offered and there are no plans to do so in the future. Services are available to all including those with limited resources. Free passes are available on Star Transit, or the Community Services Board can provide transportation for a small fee. ESRHS is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254B, and a deemed Public Health employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n). They are recognized as a Patient Centered Medical Home TM by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. NCQA I is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality.

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital

As one of Riverside's multiple locations for inpatient and outpatient care, diagnostics, rehabilitation and wellness services, Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital provides care for medical and surgical patient emergency department and critical care patients, newborns, and patients seeking diagnostic testing. The hospital is located in Onley which is the same distance from Cape Charles as hospitals across the Bay. The campus includes Riverside Shore Cancer Center, Riverside Medical Office Building, and a helipad. Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital totals 139,100 square feet spread over 2 floors. It offers 52 private inpatient rooms of which 10 are critical care and 6 are Mother/Baby. The Emergency Department offers 2 private triage rooms plus 13 private treatment rooms including a trauma room. Hospital Accreditations include: DNV, The American College of Radiology, The

American College of Surgeons, The College of American Pathologists, The Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories, and the American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Technologies.

Riverside Shore Cancer Center (RSCC)

Sleep Lab services and infusion services are offered at the Riverside Shore Cancer Center along with traditional chemotherapy and radiation therapy (including IMRT) services. The chemotherapy suite includes 8 treatment chairs and 2 private rooms for patients who need privacy.

Medical Office Building

The Medical Office Building includes gastroenterology, gynecology, neurology, obstetrics, orthopedics, podiatry, pulmonology, and surgery. Outpatient Physical Therapy shares the office building.

Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance

Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance provides rapid transport of the critically ill or injured, transporting patients from the scene of an accident, or from one medical facility to another. Nightingale operates as a community asset to EMS and multiple hospital systems and is called into service when time is critical to the patient's survival and air transportation is the best method. She is often able to reach areas with limited access or assist communities where long transports would tie up limited EMS resources. Nightingale is a service of Sentara and has flown more than 18,000 accident-free missions since her maiden flight in 1982. The nation's 38th air medical program and the region's first air ambulance, Nightingale has transported thousands of critically ill patients to the helping hands of trained medical professionals all over Virginia. Nightingale flies a 125-mile radius handling trauma, cardiac, neurological, medical, pediatric, and obstetric patients. From Washington, D.C. to Ocracoke Island, the Eastern Shore to Charlottesville, Nightingale flies more than 700 missions per year. The current helicopter is an IFR-capable 2011 Airbus EC145.

Northampton County Department of EMS (Emergency Medical Services)

The Mission of the Department of Emergency Medical Services is to provide basic and advanced life support providers able to respond quickly, minimizing pain, suffering and loss when emergencies occur, by delivering the highest quality care to citizens and visitors in Northampton County. It coordinates efforts to ensure the County is able to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from any type of natural or man-caused disaster. Northampton County uses an all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness, which means planning efforts consider all types of natural and man-caused disasters that could occur in the County.