

Step Committee December 18, 2008

TOWN OF BAYBORO
STEP Grant Steering Committee
December 18, 2008 @ 6:00PM

Members Present: Mayor Paige Ackiss, Joseph & Vennie Himbry, Gus McDonald, Mark & Sheila Howell, Aileen Lewis, Barbara Baker, Ben Hollowell, Johnnie Tripp, Roosevelt Stokes, Kelvin Credle, David & Latriche Kitchen

Members Absent: Jeff & Linda Holton, Evelyn Scott, Emma Casey, J L Carraway

Others Present: Alliance Mayor Edward Riggs, Oriental Mayor Bill & Dee Sage, Reporter Jeff Aydelette, Pamlico County Planner Jane Robb

Mr. Himbry called the meeting to order and turned the floor over to Mayor Ackiss, who welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting in light of the upcoming holidays. Mr. Himbry then introduced Chilton Rogers, the STEP Coach sent from the NC Rural Center. The attendees then proceeded to introduce themselves and give a brief synopsis of themselves and what they hope to gain from the meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ms. Rogers spoke about touring Pamlico County with Mark Howell and the insight she gained regarding the area. She then gave a brief overview as to the purpose and expectations of the NC STEP Program.

Ms. Rogers assured the committee that she is here only to bring more resources, keep the ball rolling, and help the community achieve what it wants in regards to economic and business development strategies. The program is designed to make things happen. The work, brain power, and ideas are the product of the committee's input and not from the NC Rural Center.

She goes on to say that the STEP Program is unique in that it takes the community's strategic plan and breaks it down into pieces. Such as: We want "this" to happen? Who is going to do it? How are we going to get it done? How much is it going to cost? And what is our time table? Once this is done, it will be easier to work the strategic plan. The committee has until midsummer for this planning phase, but there is a lot to do. The overall project is a two year endeavor and the plan that the committee is putting together is long-term and can be as expansive and/or inclusive as possible in order to deal with all kinds of issues, such as youth involvement, internet access, entrepreneurship and business development, educational resources, etc.

Before getting started on the agenda items, Ms. Rogers gave a brief background about herself. She gave out her calling card and assured the committee that she is available for any questions.

Ms. Rogers set three tasks for the committee to accomplish at this meeting. The first task is to create a Team Mission Statement that defines what we are going to do as a leadership team. This statement will answer the questions of: Who we are? What we are going to do? For whom we are going to do it? And what is important to the team?

After a great deal of discussion, the committee determined that, although Bayboro is technically the STEP town, in order to reach its goal of being more inclusive, the leadership team will be made up of

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Pamlico County, Bayboro, and its neighboring towns. With that settled, the committee decided upon this mission statement. **“The Mission of the NC STEP Leadership Team of Pamlico County, Bayboro and its neighboring towns is to grow and link community assets and resources to support our small town values and cooperate for the common good while maintaining small town togetherness and economic growth.”**

The second task is to create a vision statement. The statement will consist of what the committee members want to happen in their communities as a whole. Overall, the vision statement is a future oriented statement. After some discussion, the committee decided upon this vision statement. **“Our Vision for Pamlico County, Bayboro and its neighboring towns is a “front porch” community and a self-supporting economy that is friendly, warm, and inviting; a professional hub for businesses and services with a 21st century infrastructure; and excellent educational and recreational opportunities for all ages.”**

The third task is to develop a community profile. There is a completion deadline date of January 20, 2009. The profile will consist of pictures, notes, and narratives about the surrounding communities and not just Bayboro. It is a list of what is: the good, the bad, the ugly, etc. This profile will let us look at our community with fresh eyes and see things we normally are so used to that we no longer see it. The profile will help us label our likes, dislikes, what we want to keep, what we want to change, etc. This profile will be invaluable when it comes time to do the community assessment. A committee was created to spearhead the development of the community profile. The members are Bill and Dee Sage, Barbara Baker, Joe and Vennie Himbry, Johnnie Tripp, and Jane Robb.

There was some discussion about making Pamlico County more of a cluster type development as opposed to a regional type development. It was noted that the NC STEP grant will hopefully bring in other types of grants in keeping with what the committee wishes to accomplish in order to make the team’s vision for Bayboro and the surrounding communities happen.

There was some discussion regarding the formation of a Leadership Team. The committee has decided to invite education leaders and students, senior citizens, librarians, law enforcement, representatives from the business communities, and representatives from the religious communities to be a part of our leadership team. These groups are to be encouraged to attend our next meeting.

Ms. Rogers informed the committee that at the next meeting, we are going to start looking at the social, political, economic, and environmental aspects of the county, Bayboro, and its neighboring towns and to be thinking about these aspects.

The next STEP Committee Meeting has been scheduled for January 20, 2009 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Food and refreshments will be provided. The Committee is encouraged to invite others to attend.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Baker-Coordinator