

NC STEP, June 16, 2011

NC STEP Advisory Committee Meeting
Town of Bayboro Town Hall
June 16, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.

STEP Coordinator, Barbara Baker opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Jude Dodds announced that the Pamlico County Heritage Center was hosting a lawn chair night in the Farmer's Market Pavilion, June 24, 2011 at 7:30pm. Everyone is invited to bring a lawn chair and enjoy live music. Non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase.

Ms. Baker presented the minutes from May 19, 2011. Brian Dodds made a motion to approve the May 19, 2011 minutes as presented. Dr. Jim Coon seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

CBC Project: Ms. Bucksot announced that this project has been completed and the committee has received a draft copy. The B&E Subcommittee will be meeting on June 28, 2011 to discuss the findings and to determine the next steps. She also announced that there are a few typo corrections to be made in the CBC Report. There was some discussion about creating an addendum with regards to corrections in the Marine Trade section.

There was some discussion regarding the amount of work that County Planner Jayne Robb has contributed to the B&E Projects with regards to the CBC Projects. It was understood that Ms. Robb has devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to the NC STEP economic development projects in general.

Mentoring Project: Jerry Prescott reported that Selva Staub has not received a check from the Rural Center with regards to the mentoring project as of yet. Ms. Baker reminded Mr. Prescott that the STEP Grant funds has already been allotted and the funding that Mr. Prescott was referring to was the second phase and will be implemented once the STEP Mentoring Project of establishing trained mentors was completed. Ms. Baker stated that the original project was allotted the funding to implement the project and phase two was to carry it further.

Mr. Prescott stated that Ms. Staub was still trying to establish contact with several sources. Ms. Baker reminded him to make sure that Ms. Staub understood that the project needed to be completed by December. He responded that he would contact Ms. Staub and find out where she stands with the project. There was some discussion regarding the mentoring project. The committee expressed an offer to assist Ms. Staub with the project.

Hwy Corridor Plant Beautification Project: There was no update available.

Welcome Signs Project: Ms. Baker announced that she had taken pictures of the more prominent communities and had divided them into categories of municipal and non-municipal communities. We are still trying to come up with a unified design. Once the design has been decided upon, the communities will be approached to see if they would like to participate. There was some discussion regarding this project and how to get key stakeholders involved. There is still a need to have someone head up this project. Beth Bucksot stated that she may know of someone who might be interested in overseeing this project. Ms. Bucksot will contact the individual, explain the project, and see if she would be interested in taking it on.

Retiree Friendly Community Assessment Project: Pat Prescott announced that this project now falls under the Tourism Subcommittee and there is a scheduled meeting of the Tourism meeting set for Wed., June 22, 2011 at 7:30am at the Bayboro Town Hall. The purpose for the meeting will be to discuss the retiree project. It was announced that all meetings are open to the public and all are invited.

Amenities Project: Ms. Bucksot announced that Joyce Swimm has been working on this project. Ms. Swimm stated that it is a work in progress and she proceeded to pass around a copy of what she has accomplished thus far. The original template was passed around as a review. Ms. Swimm gave a brief update regarding what was completed and explained what she will be doing next. The medical and religious information has been completed and she is still working on the different businesses in operation. There was some discussion regarding the information gathered and how it relates with the retirees amenities project. There was some discussion regarding whether or not we should even include a listing of businesses available as some businesses have a high rate of turnover. It was noted that businesses open and closes at a fast pass and it would be difficult to keep track of viable businesses.

Ms. Baker reminded the committee to keep track of the available funds for this project. She also stated that she learned of virtual brochure capabilities the VisitNC has and this may be an avenue to pursue. Ms. Prescott responded that it was worth looking into although it is expensive and funding may be a problem. Ms. Swimm stated that the Pamlico Chamber is constantly being contacted with requests for information about Pamlico County and she currently has no printed material to send to individuals. There was some discussion about installing links to a virtual visitor's guide on various websites.

Waterfront Development Project: Ms. Baker announced that the walls for the bathroom facilities are up and she encouraged the committee to go by and view the progress. The building is shaping up to be a very pretty building. There was discussion regarding the potential uses for the bathroom/kitchenette facilities. Ms. Baker announced that the Town Council approved having a ribbon cutting ceremony.

There was also some discussion about what to name the waterfront park. There was some discussion about issuing a resolution in favor of naming the Park after the late Joseph Himbry, who was instrumental in obtaining the funding with which to build the bathroom/kitchenette facility. Jim Coon made a motion to issue a resolution in support of having the park named after Joseph Himbry. Jude Dodds seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

Website Project: There was no information available at this time. Although, there was some discussion regarding websites in general.

New Business: There was some discussion regarding the fact that the ferry has been designated to being a toll ferry.

Jerry Prescott announced that there will be a Solar Thermal Presentation that is scheduled to be given to the B&E Subcommittee. The purpose is to establish a workforce development training

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program within this field and the first step is to establish a Pamlico Youth Group. The idea is to engage young adults and train them to install solar panels. Dr. Cox from the Pamlico Community College is working with individuals regarding this program. More information is to follow.

Open Forum: There were no discussions.

There being no further business, Dr. Jim Coon made a motion to adjourn. Brian Dodds seconded. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Baker, NC STEP Coordinator

Attendees:

Barbara Baker
Beth Bucksot
Carla Byrnes
Jim Coon
Brian Dodds
Jude Dodds
Alice Garrison
Mark Howell
Jerry Prescott
Pat Prescott
Joyce Swimm