



Town of Kilmarnock

Council Committee Notes – Economic Development

Date: August 12, 2009 **Time:** 3 PM **Location:** Town Hall **Chair:** Councilmember Howard Straughan **Attendees:** Council members Howard Straughan and John Smith, Town Manager Tom Saunders, Community Development Strategist Susan Cockrell

Notes on Discussions:

1. Susan Cockrell reported that VMRC is still looking for office space with sufficient on-site parking for its vehicles and boats in the Kilmarnock area. She has sent them information on available properties in town and they are still investigating their options.
2. Susan also reported on her trip to Winchester to attend the Virginia Main Street conference during which she picked up several useful ideas on how to promote the Town and made numerous useful contacts.
3. Council member Straughan asked why the Town can't perform the duties of a Chamber of Commerce. Staff was asked to provide an outline of typical CofC duties and activities and to identify any that may be problematic for the Town to be involved in.
4. Tom Saunders reported that in the last month two businesses have gone out of business in town – Swank's restaurant and Main Street Gifts; and one new business has opened – Anna's Pizza.
5. Saunders also reported that the Town's Planning Commission has begun the long process of reviewing and updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan and, since one of the primary purposes of a comp plan is for economic development and business recruitment, now is the time for the committee to make any requests or suggestions to the Planning Commission if they wish to see any changes in the next comprehensive plan.

Recommendations to Council:

None at this time

Recommended for further study:

- Look into the role the Town may play in "chamber of commerce" type activities in Kilmarnock.
- Review the Town's Comprehensive Plan for applicability and appropriate content for economic development purposes.