

NANTAHALA COMMUNITY

January 4, 2010

Attendees: 10

Jack, Derek, Larry

ENVIRONMENT

Gene Beasley asked what was being done to prevent another Wildflower within Macon County. Roland referred to the work of the Slope Committee which is currently working on slope recommendations, and the current revamping of the Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance by the Macon County Watershed Council. It was obvious this community did not want to see another Wildflower. The citizens of Nantahala view our mountains as "precious." "The view of build everything we can build and sell everything we can sell should be balanced with what brings people here in the first place."

One citizen questioned what regulations were going to be implemented in the plan to protect the wildlife (mercury poisoning). Jack Morgan informed them that the citizens should attend the North Carolina Wildlife Commission meeting. Stenger suggested the WNC Alliance and Little Tennessee Watershed Association. Stenger also suggested that we work to preserve wildlife corridors. Find out current issues and make public aware!!

When asked about retailers/general stores locating in Nantahala the citizens felt that it was not wanted and not feasible.

RECREATION

Recreation for the children was a major concern expressed by the citizens. The citizens commented they once requested a pool but did not get one. In any survey that has ever been distributed to Nantahala on what was needed, a pool has always been number 1. The kids do have a lake but with limited access due to the amount of private property. One citizen commented that the kids were going on top of the dam to get to the lake; this is both dangerous and illegal. The citizens would like to see a beach created on the lake simply so the kids would have a safe place to go. They felt this amenity would be widely used during the summer. This is an issue today and with future growth, will only be compounded. Larry Stenger offered to personally speak with Fred Alexander in an attempt to expedite this process.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Joe Rowland from the Nantahala Fire Department commented if the state continued to put requirements on volunteers they would quit. Rowland felt this service was coming to be a paid service. Rowland felt that there were a lot of houses in Nantahala that a fire truck or ambulance cannot reach. Stenger explained that the subdivision ordinance had a provision for this, allowing developers to stamp on the plat that the property could not be served by emergency vehicles. Roland added that all new subdivisions creating new roads must provide emergency vehicle access. Rowland felt despite regulations there are still peoples lives at risk in Nantahala due to limited emergency vehicle access.

The dump areas in Nantahala are only open 2 & 3 days a week during winter months (Nantahala School and Junaluska). The Junaluska site is a mud-hole when it freezes and thaws out, citizens have to walk through the mud to dispose of their trash. If it freezes the dump turns into a slip and slide.

If at all possible Nantahala would like to see a post office in their community. This need will only escalate, especially with the population growth projected over the next 30 years. Federal regulations for a post office should be researched. A possible location for this service is at Lakes End Diner.

TRANSPORTATION/EDUCATION

Rowland felt the schoolhouse needed a three lane road from the intersection. If there was a fire at the school it would be hard for emergency vehicles to get in and out. Rowland felt in an event like this it would be a “disaster”.

Citizens are grateful for the renovations to the Nantahala school that will be taking place.

SENIOR CITIZENS/HEALTHCARE/CHILDCARE

Citizen commented that there were no services for Senior Citizens in Macon County. The citizen also inquired about the new Senior Center in Macon County. Stenger informed the citizen that it was open to the public at any time.

A lady commented that over half of the community was over 70 years old and Nantahala gets nothing. There were 30 identified households in Nantahala with at least one family member over 80. Meals on wheels would be a great option for this community that the citizens would like to see (Can this be provided through the school system?). Citizens want “something” for their community in this plan. Stenger suggested a satellite senior citizen center could be possibility.

In-home monitoring for the elderly in Nantahala was a concern. Some people have this but only if prescribed by a doctor. This should include checking nutritional levels etc.

The EMS is “top of the line” they provide blood pressure checks etc., there is county funding for this service.

There are no activities for seniors in Nantahala.

Every other month the Macon County health dept. visited Nantahala. This was on an appointment only basis. This has now changed to once every 3 months, citizens do not feel this is enough. The community will continue to age and its needs will continue to grow. Citizens would like to see the health department visit more frequently and on a walk-in basis.

Nantahala would like to see a urgent care medical facility in the future. A helicopter landing pad is also needed, this is a more urgent need (sites should be researched to service this need).

