

SCALY MOUNTAIN/FLATS TOWNSHIP

Public Input

10/05/09

16-20 attendees

Derek Roland, Lamar Sprinkle, Larry Stenger

Water Quality- Citizens feel that water quality is very important, as the future approaches we must pay special attention to this issue.

-Continue to protect development in Watersheds

Air Quality- Strive to protect Air Quality

Transportation- Highway 106 provides major ingress/egress to Highlands. This road needs to be enhanced as volume will continue to increase.

-Big trucks shut off from gorge puts tremendous pressure on 106/there is only a small passing area for 14 miles.

Public Transportation- Flats Township is 7mi from the closest supermarket. When asked about public transportation, citizens voiced that they would rather buy more when they go or carpool rather than have public transportation.

During this conversation the question was posed about the need for a Wal-mart or large retailer near or in Flats Township for convenience purposes. This would compromise the rural character of the area, and therefore was not favorable.

How do you implement Land Use Planning w/o zoning? Roland answered saying that it is logical for people to put commercial uses where they make sense without requiring them to do so. Existing infrastructure such as roads providing ingress/egress, water and sewer capabilities etc. can serve as a roadmap to the direction commercial development will go. Stenger commented saying there are many ways such as providing incentives for developing in certain areas that growth can be managed without zoning. Stenger went on to say that zoning is a result of density.

Economic Development- Citizens felt we needed jobs to come to Macon County. Although these jobs would be centered around Franklin, they will still effect the whole counties tax base. Stenger commented that 4 yr. colleges provide an opportunity for the county to attract and retain young talent as well as provide jobs for citizens. It is important to note that this comment was only to stimulate thought among the citizens. Sprinkle commented that the EDC is now working to attract good, clean jobs to Macon County while helping to stimulate those already here. Citizens agreed that we should exploit Macon County's Beauty and tax rate to draw jobs in.

Education- Citizens felt that education in the county was extremely important. South Western now has more students applying than they can accommodate, this was a concern for the citizens of Flats Township.

Citizens asked about considering a satellite campus for WCU in Macon, due to hardships created on commuters, having to travel back and forth numerous times during the week to the main campus. Roland commented that this was a regional planning issue.

Senior Services- more readily available information on services currently being offered for senior citizens.

Cell Phone Reception- Citizens would like to see a telecommunication tower that would provide Flats township with better cell phone reception.

Affordable Housing

Brainstorming sessions for Macon County to figure out a niche (what they are known for).