

Public Input  
Upper Cartoogechaye Community

October 27, 2009

Derek/Lewis

10-20 attendees

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Citizen questioned if growth could be controlled along the 441 corridor?
- The fiber optic loop on the four lane (64 west) gives us immense power in technology. This is an attractant that citizens felt should be boasted by the Economic Development Commission.
- Hayesville and Murphy are rapidly becoming bedroom communities of Atlanta. These communities will continue to grow, especially with Atlanta experiencing water problems. We need to be aware of the growth coming at us from the West!!
- Main street is dead, to attract business that will allow are children to continue to live and work here, we need to revitalize main street.
- Citizens thought that the majority of growth will occur north to south and to the east (Highlands Road needs to be improved).
- Citizens felt most of our economic development will come in the way of senior citizens and the second home market. Technology (another avenue for economic development) is the future, economic development commission should take advantage of that.
- Development will follow water and sewer, we should not extend water and sewer until our existing infrastructure has exhausted. Keep commercial development along existing infrastructure.

**ENVIRONMENT**

- Cartoogechaye Community would like to grow in a way that preserves its rural character and agricultural heritage. Citizens would like to see development patterns take place on the “middle ground”. This implies development should take place out of the floodplain and low lying areas (farmland) and off of the ridge tops (steep slope development).
- Preserving Farmland will be a hard task because incentives cannot match up with a developer who is willing to pay top dollar for farmland. Incentives can be put in place to stop this, it can be market driven as well. Local food will be needed here in the future. Citizens felt we should promote growing food locally.

- Water is a precious resource that we must work to conserve. Streams around upper Cartoogechaye are becoming polluted with sediment due to irresponsible development.

## **EDUCATION**

- Citizen (psychology teacher @ SCC) Apathy of students. There are some glitches somewhere in our education system. We are not making enough demands on our students. This problem slowly seems to be getting worse and needs to be addressed at a young age. We need to be sure we are hiring good teachers. The citizen went on to say there was a 20% increase in enrollment this semester at SCC. Citizen claimed students have to re-learn basic English and writing skills as they come in. We should explore year-round school options.
- In the future citizens felt that SCC will become a 4 yr. College. The trend seems to be happening all over America. Citizens felt that if SCC became a 4 yr. College it would tremendously help Macon County. According to the teacher at SCC, the college is not currently experiencing population problems.

## **RECREATION**

- Recreation will be an important factor in the type and age group of individuals we attract to Macon County. This will be important in changing the disproportionate population makeup the county is experiencing. Citizens had the idea for a new movie theatre and Clay pigeon shooting. We have many environmental based recreation options that cannot be replicated. Preserve Forest service land in Cartoogechaye.

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## **HEALTH CARE/CHILD CARE/SENIORS**

- Healthcare- Currently many citizens have to travel to Asheville for specialist care. With an older population, we need to offer more specialist care in Macon County.
- Childcare is needed. If we are going to attract businesses to the area, we need to have a place for the children.
- The new senior citizen center is good idea, and will be an excellent resource for the seniors. A lot of volunteers are seniors, we should take advantage of this in Macon County. They offer a wealth of information to occupations in which they were previously employed. If SCC becomes a university we need to have an option for seniors to take an advantage of this. (Offer senior classes as well).
- Senior friendly communities are needed. Seniors are assets to our community, boosting the tax base. If they are living longer, they need to be more involved and healthy to remain assets to the community. These communities need to be located close to services such as hospital, etc.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Macon Transit is an asset and needs to be expanded.
- Airport needs to be expanded. Either take it out or make it work!!