

Friends of Lancaster County Members

Friends of Lancaster County (FOLC), a watchdog (group) with "teeth" is now only able, and willing, to lick hands. At their August 3 meeting they voted against endorsing their own candidate, my husband, Ken Julian. Butch Jenkins sat in the front row laughing, not at Ken Julian, but at Friends of Lancaster.

FOLC was formed because concerned citizens realized that the only way to create real change in the manner and direction that Lancaster County was heading was to change the Board of Supervisors. FOLC convinced Ken to run for Supervisor in District 1. As a result county officials began paying serious attention to FOLC. We had credibility.

Board members and county officials accepted our invitation to speak at our meetings. And they told us just what we wanted to hear, before, during, and after the meetings. Politicians. Even I left the meetings feeling that (maybe) they were doing a good, honest job and shared our ideals for intelligent growth and preservation of Lancaster County's rural character and natural beauty. After all, not one of them supported the PUD Proposal, or voted for allowing the ~~Bare Banks~~ High Banks project. Good men. Good politicians. Many FOLC members were convinced.

In a few short months FOLC's momentum changed from passionate to passive.

A county official was told by one of our members that FOLC did not endorse Ken long before the August 3 meeting. By steering the organization away from political involvement, we have lost our voice. Our politics have changed, Lancaster County's have not.

We cannot make a difference with case-by-case, knee jerk reactions to each project that member(s) object to. We need to remain pro-active. We need to have our input on the Master Plan included and implemented. We need a member on the Board of Supervisors who is not concerned with the "greatest return on investment", but what is best for Lancaster County and all of its residents. Having Ken on the Board would make two important changes: the man who is elected, and the man who is not. Ken's platform *is* the mission statement of FOLC. By not endorsing him, you are rejecting the purpose of FOLC.

If we're going to be a Red Hat Society, let's be honest and say so, and at least have some fun!

Very truly yours,
Cathy Townsend