

To: Robert Mason, Editor, Rappahannock Record

From: Barbara Dietz
525 Woodbrook Dr.
Merry Point, VA 22513
462-5073

Letter to the Editor

Time to Act for Public Access

Lancaster County desperately needs to secure public access sites along the water. Now it looks like there may be an opportunity for the county to secure access for the public to the beach in front of the Lancaster Landing restaurant at the foot of the White Stone Bridge. There are so many in the County that do not live on the water. Access to a beach for fishing or picnicking would mean so much. There also are those that come as tourists to Lancaster County and are surprised to find so few places where they can enjoy the water. Much of the heritage of Lancaster County is tied to its rivers and the bay and everyone should be able to enjoy a small piece of that heritage.

Obtaining sites for public access is not easy. Bold action is needed. There will always be those that argue against the access site due to its proximity to their home or business. Waterfront property is almost always prohibitively expensive and there is always issues of parking and garbage collection at the site. The facts ,however, are that the neighboring counties of Mathews, Northumberland and Gloucester have been able to overcome these issues and have provided access sites for launching boats, picnicking and fishing. I hope that the Lancaster County Board of Supervisers will carefully consider options for this site and secure public water access.