

Friends of Lancaster County LLC Meeting June 8, 7:00PM

President Charlie Costello called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Approximately 60 members were present.

Tonight's featured speaker is Jack Larson, Planning & Land Use Director for Lancaster County. An outline of Mr. Larson's comments is found on this web site. He opened the presentation by reviewing the status of public and private land. He noted that property rights must be respected and pointed to a recent court decision concerning Loudon County as a caution about impacting these rights. In discussing zoning he noted that early zoning in the county made some areas residential that historically had been commercial such as a Marine Railway on Dwyer Creek.

Looking ahead, Mr. Larson said water planning was very important. The county has been looking at old Mill Pond sites as possible reservoir sites. On the repeal of the R2 Zoning District he notes it is not a "done deal" but thinks it will happen. For the Comprehensive Plan review the plan is to have a formal review process with town meetings in each district run by a professional facilitator. Some key focus areas will be water and sewer plans as well as cleaning up specific sections that need clarification or work.

During the Q&A Mr. Larson said it is important that the county meet the needs of all citizens. A question from the floor was asked about desalination for water and if it has been looked at. Another issue is "packing the waterfront". Many of the new homes are very large and will take up most of the waterfront footage. Accessory structures can also fill up the lots. Mr. Larson noted that with R1 development there few controls on what could be done with the lot in terms of the owner doing the development. He also voiced his support to preserve the areas that would be needed to reestablish seafood industry should oysters return. Returning to the R2 issue he said it is a flawed vehicle and has created a divisive atmosphere and lack of trust between the citizens and county.

After the presentation the Treasurer, Marilyn Hedges noted the Friends now has 129 members and a bank balance of \$1687.52

The Nominating Committee of Francis Callaghan, Marilyn Hedges and Harry Wells met twice and proposed the following slate:

President – Charles Costello

Vice President – vacant – nominees are being actively sought

Secretary – Joe Urban

Treasurer – Marylyn Hedges

Managers/Board Members – Bob Murphy, Jackie Brown, Diane Jordan

Upon motion and second from the floor members present unanimously approved the slate.