

April 29, 2005

Mr. Jack Larson
Director, Planning and Land Use
8311 Mary Ball Road
Lancaster, VA 22503

Subject: Comprehensive Plan review requirement

Dear Mr. Larson:

At the 28 April Board of Supervisors meeting you were instructed to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) dealing with the Comprehensive Plan for Lancaster County. This RFP would commit the Lancaster County to expend funds unnecessarily due, I believe, to a misunderstanding of what is required by the Virginia Code.

The Virginia Code paragraph 15.2-2230 titled "Plan to be reviewed once every five years" states as follows:

"At least every five years the comprehensive plan shall be reviewed by the local planning commission to determine whether it is advisable to amend the plan."

The code requirement simply states that the planning commission must review the plan to determine if the plan needs to be amended. The code does not require that the plan be amended, "updated" or "rewritten". If the planning commission deems it advisable to amend the plan following the review, then changes could be considered without being influenced by any five year requirement. That is, an internal review of the plan is required now, but a support contractor is not needed for this review.

Please encourage the planning commission and board of supervisors to reconsider whether paying for an unnecessary outside review would be a wise use of taxpayer funds. Please do not publish any RFP on the subject of the comprehensive plan prior to completion of the statutorily required review by the planning commission.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Ferriter
PO Box 233
Mollusk, VA 22517
Ferriter@aol.com