

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF LANCASTER COUNTY
MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2005

President Charles Costello called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He discussed the DVD on Ed McMahon's talk in the Middle Peninsula regarding growth. Charlie reminded members of a meeting at the Tides Inn in Irvington on December 15 to view the DVD. The town of Irvington has decided to review its Comprehensive Plan and encourage all its citizens to become involved in its review and development.

Charlie reported on a visit by the Lancaster Board of Supervisors to the school bus garage in Lively. The Board is reviewing whether to renovate the existing structure or build a new garage. There are only two mechanics for approximately 30 buses.

Treasurer Marilyn Hedges reported that there is \$2355.99 in the checking account. There are 206 dues-paying members to date.

Charlie led a discussion on how to get new members who don't live on the water. He asked members to think about how we can encourage African Americans to join the Friends of Lancaster County. Bing Kallus responded that we need to point out that there are dangers for African Americans if developers are allowed in. Bing suggested that there will be no affordable housing under existing developers' plans.

Ken Julian asked how many in attendance were born here, went to high school here, don't live on the water, and don't have an annual income of less than \$40,000. No one raised his hand. Ken says those who are born here think of us as wanting to change the county. Ken said that he found lots of dissension during his campaign for supervisor. He said that, if we want to make changes, we need to take an active part in issues – take a side. FOLC needs blacks, people who don't live on the water, poorer citizens. He recommended allowing others to come for a few months as FOLC associate members who wouldn't pay dues and who wouldn't have voting power.

Ken discussed his proposals for revisions to zoning (e.g., footprints and setbacks, minimum-sized lots, cluster homes). He recommended that developers maintain roads, sewer and septic tanks and the like for three years after the last house in a development is sold. Where private roads are involved developers should include a maintenance agreement for residents.

Barbara Dietz asked if Ken's recommendation for a 5 percent footprint had been successfully implemented elsewhere. Ken replied that Scarsdale, NY, and a community in New Jersey had done so. Barbara and Bob Murphy encouraged Ken to provide specific examples to support his proposal. Bruce Burgess asked what problem the 5 percent footprint would solve. Ken replied that it would force developers to change their plans.

Charlie reported that the county has not yet signed the contract with LandDesign to review the Comprehensive Plan. The contract is divided into three phases: Phase I will comprise 16 weeks for input; Phase II, 12 weeks to develop recommendations; and Phase III, 16 weeks for ordinance development. Charlie stated that the proposed replacement for R-2 is on the website. He noted that we may need two kinds of residential zoning – one for single-family homes and another for multifamily homes.

Mike Fazio asked about Kilmarnock's capacity for sewers. Charlie responded that Lee Hood Capps, the Kilmarnock town manager, says that the sewer system is operating at 40 percent of capacity. Mike asked if that equated to a certain number of homes or businesses. Charlie said that he didn't know, but that he was told that there are 5000 new dwelling units "in the pipeline" in the county.

Nick Ferriter had a preliminary vision statement and Barbara Dietz is developing a narrative vision statement to be used as an introduction to the Comprehensive Plan. She agreed to have it ready for next month's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.