

Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting – Hickory

Focus Area Notes + Exceptional Future Meaning

September 25, 2023

Placemaking and Design

- Ample green spaces (+9)
- Parks! (+2)
- Walking paths (+8)
 - Connect the parks (+5)
- Equestrian trails in SE of the city as economic driver in rural (+11)
- Highlight the history – battle of Great Bridge, etc. (+5)
 - And preserve (+1)
 - True partnership with the GBB+WHF (looking good!)
 - Mutual interest in Phase II partnership, preserving, promoting, and protecting Ches's nationally important history! (looking good too!!)
- Let's have pretty buildings/architecture designs that reflect heritage! i.e. colonial (+5)
 - E.g. Schools!
- Community Centers with pools (+8)
- Historic museum in Cuffeytown (+5)
- Please include by name the GB historic overlay district
- Unique attraction – activity
 - Tin Town Village (+5)
 - Treehouse – dining, shopping
- Capitalize on who we are -> a rural area. Stop imposing urban ideas/plans in rural spaces. Seek training and funding on rural economics. Relax restrictions on agritourism and other ways in which rural landowners can profit from their own property (+1)
- Revisit 'Bypass' – Rt 168 is choked at peak periods!
- Sidewalks – VB's are amazing
- Running/walking trails/horse trail Peaceful Rd and Duncan Rd
- Pursue funding for NB Rt 168 to I-64 to VB ramp improvements (+1)

Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Water drainage (+3)
 - And ditches (+9)
- Toll-free Expressway free up Battlefield Blvd (+15)
 - (or lower toll) (+1)
 - Lower tolls for local residents (+2)
- Plan roads around communities (+3)
 - And vice-versa
- More lights on S Battlefield + lower toll on expressway = less NC traffic on local roads (+2)
- Working on Deep Creek Canal

- Re-evaluate water flow in ditches to ensure it flows right way (+5)
- Can we get our ditches cut consistently? (+1)
- Clean our ditches on a regular basis (+17)
- Fix roads that actually need it and not the ones that don't (+5)
- Widen shoulders with roads that border ditches... Ditch within feet of road (+9)
 - and sidewalks
 - and paths
 - bike paths (+2)
- Rural areas don't need sidewalks (+2)
 - But a shoulder would be nice (+5)
- Consider cost of services to growth areas – anticipate build out even in rural areas
- Build more schools (+1)
- Broadband internet (competition) (+4)
- Better road maintenance and storm clean up in residential areas (+6)
- NC traffic on Battlefield + 168. The Blvd may need to expand (+4)
 - Push the NC traffic onto highway

Quality of Life

- Good schools (+14)
- Rural
- Low density (+12)
- Green space (+13)
- Open spaces (+13)
- Law enforcement support! (a police department that actually works!) (+6)
- Bike paths (+9)
 - Protected
- Conservation opportunities (collaborate with federal and state) (+3)
- More parks and connection paths (+10)
- Invest in infrastructure (+9)
- Interest in the rural areas (+5)
- No more high density cluster; incompatible with rural landscape (+1)
- More libraries (+2)
- More books in libraries (+1)
- Enforce speed limits on rural roads (Head of River, Long Ridge Rd) (+5)
- Improve Centerville Turnpike – 4 lanes (+4)
- Get rid of the toll road or lower traffic on Battlefield Blvd some other way (+4)
- Secular/non-religious/atheist clubs at school (+1)
- Community support of police, fire, sheriff (+2)
- Community pool (+5)
- Incentives for farmers (+4)
- More restaurants in Edinburgh area please
- More things for our youth to enjoy and do

- Chesapeake is one of 7 cities in Hampton Roads. I do not need it to be exciting. I can visit exciting and come over here to quiet.

Economic Prosperity

- Industries with a computer science focus (+2)
- Find the balance between the amount of commercial/residential growth, types of jobs, and maintaining rural/green lifestyle (+1)
- High value economics at North/near beltway (+2)
 - (no industrial park at Disma Swamp/NW River) (+10)
- Focus on industry that doesn't require services. For example, homes require services (schools, roads, trash, mail, etc.) but solar farms don't require any of that
- Protect public lands and consider a rezoning back to agricultural (+2)
- Support plans for industrial complex on Rt. 17 (Williams Farm) for prospective jobs
 - Or in a more compatible areas (+4)
 - Or elsewhere, i.e. Hillcrest Pkwy area (+1)
- Low cost wifi (that's not Cox) (+3)
- How to handle Greenbrier Mall?
 - Redevelopment as commercial/residential/community center
 - Or senior apartments (+1)
 - Close (+1)
 - Residential (+2)
 - Bring light rail from Norfolk (park and ride)? (+1)
 - Mixed uses? (+1)
- Parks, Trails (horse and bikes) between NR River and Dismal Swamp -> tourism (+5)
- Farming is an economic part of the city (+7)
 - (\$1.5 billion in Virginia alone)
- Encourage "agritourism" to bring folks from urban parts of Hampton Roads (+4)
- Better restaurants (+4)
- Get rid of malls that aren't prosperous (Ches. Sq. and Greenbrier malls are essentially ghost towns) (+4)
- 'Peake perks – dining incentive for residents (+2)
- Redevelop abandoned spaces/buildings (+2)
- Stop reassessing taxes higher on older properties just because expensive new homes are built in the area
- Repurpose malls for family destinations/events
- Chesapeake is already economically prosperous, median income is \$81k per year. Focus on preserving irreplaceable resources: environmental, historic, cultural and land (+1)

Growth Management and Rural Areas

- Consider cost of full build out and anticipate that cost if growth is not limited or intentional
- Prevent congestion (+3)
- Road system that can handle growth (+12)
- Grow in spaces that need the economic boost (SoNo) or places already ruined (Greenbrier) (+3)

- Stop sprawl to the south (because roads, schools, flooding) (+9)
- Redevelop/upgrade north (at beltway) – high density here (+2)
- Limit development to protect groundwater resources until water mains exist (+11)
- A larger funding stream for OSAP program (+3)
- Investigate/evaluate revising OSAP to a 20 year deferment of development rights to allow the city time to make infrastructure improvements to support growth (+4)
- Strict limit on housing development east of Centerville (+8)
- Need more industry to share tax load
 - But not in rural Chesapeake (incompatible) (+2)
 - Ok to tax property at variable rate (0.8% for first \$400k, then 1%)
- Keep property taxes from going up or lower property taxes (personal and real estate) (+3)
- Honor our City seal (+2)
- Limit rural growth (+8)
- Green line (+7)
- Better funded OSAP (+3)
- More incentives for farmers (+3)
- Conservation programs that pay farmers as much as development -> collaborate with federal and state governments to preserve farmland, forest land, historic, and open spaces
- Stop using conditional use permits for everything
- Hold developers to a higher standard (have them assess traffic growth rate rather than just existing conditions)
- Targeted growth rather than sprawl – maybe incentives for infill or redevelopment of run-down areas
- 1/4 acre lot minimum per home, 3/5 acre lots preferred

Environment and Resilience

- Clean water (+14)
 - Maintain
- Protect our NWR watershed! From industrial development! (+6)
- Adequate drainage – good ditch system (+19)
- Rethink solar panels 😞 No windmills! (+3)
- Protect open spaces. I'd rather have a solar farm next door than another house (+4)
 - Doesn't clog roads/schools/police/fire/etc.
- Ok to mix solar farms with agriculture (+9)
- Monitor groundwater create policy to protect (+2)
- Follow NWP watershed plan – or rewrite (+3)
- Setback on farm fields to prevent runoff – Eastern shore has them! (+1)
- Keep 5 acre minimum low size in rural areas (+8)
- The current 3 acre minimum lot size is big enough (+5)
- More nature protection areas (+10)
- No sand pits near houses and/or wells (+7)
- Well water protection on small lots (+5)

- Recall the industrial zoning of the megasites sandwiched between public conservation lands set aside for wildlife and other irreparable natural resources (+1)

Housing and Equity

- Affordable housing (+9)
- Good safe schools (+13)
- Eliminate school portables! (+5)
- Stop trying to force apts., townhomes, and single family in one neighborhood. We move to single family to get away from people, not to be on top of each other (+9)
 - Enough schools to support new neighborhoods going up (+6)
- Investing in infrastructure where we want housing
- Effective policy to restrict/limit housing to preserve green space, water quality, and farms (+7)
- Internet
- 3 acres is big enough to lot size (no increase to 5 acres needed) (+7)
- Planning community layout to mix housing, parks, shopping (+4)
- Remove red tape for existing lots smaller than 3 acres (+1)
- Eliminate “loop hole” regarding plan submission that allows approval if all requirements are met (cannot waive school requirements) improves schools, eliminates portables!
- Homes and condos affordable so young professionals can live in our city! (+1)
- Change the “low density” rule to read “1/4 acre per home minimum,” not “less than 4 homes per acre.”

What Does Creating an Exceptional Future Mean to You?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having the political will to follow the adopted plan. • Stop residential building. • Careful, intentional forward-thinking planning that is followed as laid out. • Keep taxes low. • Improve roads, ditches. • Low taxes • Affordable living • Rural/less multi-family development • Limit of houses per acre • Restricted residential and commercial growth • Low taxes • Good roads • Rural • Safe • Affordable living • Rural • Safe • Great schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining a small town feel in a large metropolitan area. • Schools to support continual growth. • Now allowing our growth to occur faster than our ability to provide services, i.e., schools • Promote single family homes. • A safe place to enjoy our rural lifestyle. • Quality of Life – Parks and trails, farm preservation, education, transportation, flood control • Building small communities within the city • A cap on farm use taxes like VA Beach instead of yearly increases • Farmers/landowners able to sell land as families change and not restricted by the city’s rules and restrictions. • Slower growth in order for infrastructure to catch up. • Preserve what rural and green spaces remain. |
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- Balance rural/peaceful with growth
- Can the tax base support services?
- Can the tax base potentially contribute more to education?
- Using money wisely
- Providing ample service with a decrease in tax rates and utilities
- Slowing residential expansion
- No more commercial expansion
- I would love to have recreation centers like VA Beach. Everything is private and our children need stuff to do.
- All of Chesapeake can't become city life. There needs to remain old country.
- Keep it rural.
- Improve the already great school system.
- Keep the drugs out.
- Lower taxes.
- Improve trash pick up service.
- Improve roads.
- Fun activities such as concerts, events, newer and more available family activities.
- Secular/non-religious community development.
- Don't stifle growth. Create diversity and look for solutions to accommodate the people. Reduce politics.
- A sustainable community that focuses on balancing housing, the environment and business.
- What are doing about guests who want to visit the historic of Cuffeytown?
- Recognize the black historic communities within the area.
- Preserve rural areas.
- Urban developments should be designed at a walkable scale and low dependency on cars for needs where possible.
- Honoring our City Seal.
- Keeping the rural lifestyle and farms green space.
- Reuse/repurpose existing commercial properties so we can preserve the rural open spaces and keep farming here. Don't turn every farm sold into a neighborhood or an industrial complex. Protect the existing properties around new developments.
- Shopping center Hickory/GB side of town – Retail
- Stop the urban sprawl. Develop a school plan that teaches and is not just crowd control.
- Keep rural areas building to fast slow growth or adjust roads and schools. Pay attention to what people want not just do things.
- Create a more attractive Great Bridge water park area.
- Keep the southern portion rural.
- Create a ward system for proper representation.
- More entertainment venues such as equestrian parks
- Preserve our area – rural and open green spaces.
- Listen to residents' ideas – not just what council wants.
- Safe walkways even in rural areas. Friendlier Park rangers. More family friendly water excursions. Stand up paddle boarding.
- High-density cluster housing imposed in rural areas is exceptionable, not exceptional.
- Industrial developments sandwiched between public conservation lands is exceptionable, not exceptional.
- Costco
- Expand on city water in rural communities.
- Widening one lane roads where possible
- More diversity in law enforcement gender, race and teachers
- Homes and condos affordable for young professionals to live in Chesapeake.
- Chesapeake is 1 of 7 cities in Hampton Roads and its role should be: Good schools and safe neighborhoods
- Keep it family friendly.
- Safe green spaces for horses, trails

- Limit house size (sq ft) on smaller property of ¼ acre. Overcrowding. No privacy.
- Targeted growth rather than sprawl.
- Multimodal opportunities
- Draw a green line and protect it. What is the vision for family destinations. There's room for a state of the art equine center (2 hrs Richmond; 4 hrs Lexington; 3 hrs Windsor NC; 4 hrs DC – could be significant draw)
- Limited rural development vital utilities – water/sewer/etc - exist