



**Open Forum Comments  
Lower York County  
March 15, 2012 – Tabb Library**

Margaret Mondol, James City County, spoke on behalf of the Senior Services Coalition, explaining that it is an organization of senior service providers, individuals, health systems, and government organizations working together to promote independent seniors. She said the Historic Triangle area has a particularly large aging population and as a region, we need to ensure that the area provides a safe, livable community for older adults with accessible housing and transportation as well as health and social services. Ms. Mondol said the organization urges local government to plan for and provide incentives to enable residents to stay in their homes as long as feasible (i.e., “age in place”). She said that new housing units should incorporate universal design standards that provide full accessibility in neighborhoods with unobstructed sidewalks and bicycle lanes. Ms. Mondol said there should be zoning and developer incentives to encourage the development of new housing for seniors including affordable housing, multi-family units, assisted living facilities, day care centers, continuing care retirement communities, and skilled nursing facilities.

Anthony Bavuso, York County, said he would like to see more freedom in York County. He said York County is not a homeowners association and that he would not like to see it become one. Mr. Bavuso said he would like to see local businesses and jobs supported by changes to the Comprehensive Plan. He said it was interesting to see that 18% of the County’s economic sector is in food service and asked how much of that is produced locally. He asked that York County establish a policy to promote local food supply to include local farmers and watermen. Mr. Bavuso said the Comprehensive Plan does not include an agricultural land use designation and said that traditions and heritage need to be maintained in the County and the Chesapeake Bay offers tremendous resources.

Sue Sadler, Toano (James City County), said she opposes the coordinated comprehensive plan review and the possibility of common pages within all three jurisdictions’ comprehensive plans. She said she feels the concerns about planning and property rights raised by herself and others at previous forums have fallen on deaf ears. Ms. Sadler expressed concern about the American Planning Association and a group called the Planners Network and cited statements on the Planners Network website that she objects to. She said that controlling personal property and redistributing wealth through planning and redevelopment is not what this country was founded on. Ms. Sadler said that while planning is important and communication between and among jurisdictions is necessary, she stated that there are ways to achieve planning without sustainable development, smart growth, and regionalism.

Keith Sadler of Toano (James City County) gave a definition of the terms “smart growth” and “sustainable development” and read text from a United Nations’ Agenda 21 planning guide, which he stated espouses socialist ideals. He said planning can be implemented without smart growth, sustainable development, and infringing on property rights. Mr. Sadler stated that plans utilize citizen tax dollars and government grants to

fund local projects. He stated that he also does not want to see common pages in the three comprehensive plans.

Joe Swanenburg of Lanexa (James City County) spoke about alternative decision-making models, one that is based on discussion, debate, and a public vote, and another that is based on achieving consensus, or the appearance of consensus through a collaborative “visioning” process. He expressed concern about the coordinated review process, stating that he does not want to give power over decisions to people in other localities with no recourse. He stated that comprehensive plans are developed by planning professionals who are committed to transforming local communities into social structures described in U.N. Agenda 21 documents that are designed to bypass local elected officials. He pointed out that Planning Commission members are not elected officials and that comprehensive plans are only voted on by the governing bodies at the end of the process when it is too late to make any real changes.

Jim Morgan (York County) said he was discouraged that three previous speakers took away valuable time for him and other citizens who came to the meeting to share comments and present ideas about the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that he participated in York County’s Comprehensive Plan process twenty years ago and that there was significant citizen involvement. Mr. Morgan said he would like to see adequate infrastructure over the next 20 years. He also expressed his concerns regarding the changes to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in historic Yorktown and hoped that the community would come together to convince the National Park Service to reconsider its decision to cancel the fireworks.

Patricia Ruddle (York County) said she participated in the last Comprehensive Plan review and she was disappointed that the meeting seemed to be driven by politics rather than a true interest in the County’s infrastructure and growth. She expressed concern and resentment that so much time was devoted to political comments rather than a discussion of important planning issues that affect the area.

Tom Nelson (York County) said he was concerned about the history of the County and noted that a lot of revenue is generated by tourism. He said there would be a march in historic Yorktown on Saturday, March 24, regarding the cancellation of the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks celebration. Mr. Nelson said he would like to see Riverwalk Landing turned over to a private company and stated that he has learned of another store in the development that is closing. He added that we should work together to make sure York County remains a great place with its own rules.

Sheila Noll, (York County) York County Board of Supervisors representative for District 2, said there have been negotiations between the County and the National Park Service to reinstate the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities. She stated that the fireworks would most likely be set off from a barge in the York River and that additional information would be forthcoming.