

SPECIAL TOPIC WORKSHOP #5 SUMMARY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOWN PLANNING



PlanQAC's fifth Special Topic Workshop was held virtually on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 1:30pm via WebEx and telephone call-in. The purpose was to solicit community input on topics related to the Comprehensive Plan, more specifically Economic Development and Town Planning. Below is a summary of the Workshop's discussions and participant questions.



Discussion Topic: What are QAC's greatest assets in terms of Economic Development and Tourism? What are QAC's greatest needs?

Assets:

- Location
- Variety of Businesses

Needs:

- There is a need for more affordable housing options – specifically workforce housing.
- We should place a greater emphasis on history-based tourism, supporting what we have in terms of historic sites as well.
- More options for internet services as well as better broadband
- We need to re-iterate the importance of the waterman business as a basis for other businesses – they contribute to a lot of other systems that make our County unique
- Increase availability/access to Kent Narrows environmental “attractions” by means of fishing, bird watching, hiking, etc.
- Agri-tourism/eco-tourism: try to cater to wedding/special event industry.

Discussion Topic: Economic Development Vision

- Define “tourist” in a clearer/more accurate way
- We could do a better job of balancing residential and non-residential
- Agriculture should be on the top of the list as far as support from economic development;

Discussion Topic: What are QAC's greatest needs in terms of Town Planning?

- Town Centers need more focus
- Infrastructure needs to be expanded
- Workforce and employment within Towns needs improvement

Discussion Topic: Town Planning Vision

- Need to allow for more mixed zoning use. Allowing the landowner to use small portions of their land to do something other than farm it would allow them to keep the operation moving instead of selling.

Discussion Topic: What projects/goals should be focused on over the next 10 years in regard to Economic Development and Town Planning?

- What role does safety play in Economic Development?
- No hotels are available in Centreville – seems like a serious miss.
- Dedicate lodging to support tourism
- Increase the business tax base
- High speed internet

All comments and questions will be considered during the development of PlanQAC. Additional comments or questions can be submitted through the project website: <https://www.qacplan2021.com/>