



PlanQAC's third Visioning Workshop was held virtually on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 5:30pm via WebEx and telephone call-in. Its purpose was to solicit community input on topics related to the Comprehensive Plan and its vision for Grasonville and Queen Anne's County as a whole. Grasonville residents and stakeholders, as well as those living/working in other parts or outside of the County, were welcomed to attend and participate. Below is a summary of the Workshop's discussions and participant questions.



Discussion Topic: Grasonville Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities: Amount of affordable housing; beauty and thoughtful, planned development; existing main street that could be revitalized as a vibrant ped friendly village; unique waterways as a community on the water; ability to control growth; keep small town feeling and small businesses by centering and supporting development in existing towns; improving retail on main street; improve green space (planters, benches, lighting) in Narrows area; improved signage of litter on our roads; better oversight on garbage on the streets

Challenges: Navigating traffic at summertime; controlling traffic; challenges elevation and susceptibility to sea level rise; access to those waterways, the health of waterways and resiliency; NOAA flood maps have not been updated; bridge lane expansion to 6 would match Rt 50 lanes on both sides of the bay

Discussion Topic: Vision for Grasonville

- Protect open areas and natural resources; concern about trash/litter
- Responsible growth might mean not making the Long Point area look like an Industrial Zone, as some planning is indicating
- Rt.50 blazes through the middle of Kent Island and Narrows making very difficult to travel – locals and even visitors need better connectivity, beauty not just for convenience, but much more for business and development. Seems very commercial, when locals do not live this way

Discussion Topic: Vision for QAC

- Pedestrian/bike access to local business and natural areas through and around Kent Narrows and Grasonville; love the Cross Island Trail extensions planned underway and those recently completed
- Designing roads to accommodate farm equipment with projected increase in traffic
- Would like to see something more direct about empowering farmers and land stewards
- Who wouldn't want to live and run business in a County in which zoning and permitting decisions implemented this vision?
- Great vision statement but it doesn't currently reflect the county considering development and traffic have come up frequently tonight as concerns
- Promote healthy living through access to parks, trails, and water activities and exceptional medical facilities
- Thoughtful planning based on increased traffic patterns, including bypasses around town clusters to allow residential and pedestrian patterns to be least impacted
- Expand trails/access to neighborhoods and business areas to encourage less traffic and less impact on the environment
- Don't want to see open space converted to large solar and wind farms
- Worried that development is already impacting quality of life for Kent island residents

Discussion Topic: Big Ideas

Rapid transit to Annapolis, Baltimore and DC; we can start with a bus rapid transit to test the waters; bike/ped opportunities; new ruling by the state concerning restricting off-freeway traffic to county residents; having a discreet composting facility in the QAC; balance growth w/protection of natural resources, maintain and enhance quality of life; county to become a model/leader for the state on its resiliency efforts; pedestrian bridge over rt. 50 to connect to Cross Island Trail; tech and agribusiness jobs and attracting companies top consider QAC to locate here; supporting the Delmarva oasis goal to preserve/conserv 50% of the shore of 2030; MS4 management and permit plan transparency/public education and how it relates to development and land preservation; expand heritage tourism; re-use of empty commercial space; true cohesion of development and the natural environment – development that prioritizes pedestrian access/open space/and preservation of habitat; make the education vision real – use public high schools and Chesapeake College to create a workforce to attract high value jobs; offer some kind of financial incentive to help some of the run-down business store fronts make visual improvements; push for greater community involvement; private development raising the bar without burden on tax payers/ local government to pay for doing such ie architectural/store front improvement, aesthetics, etc.; recruit a white collar industry that is looking for a nice location without the negative aspects of working in places like NYC; Community Center with green space!; create a mechanism for transparency and accountability of zoning and permitting decisions as to whether they support the vision developed by QAC residents and put into the Comp Plan; encouraging anything that would help improve the health of people who live in the County to help combat the growing obesity problem

Participant Question: How can the comp plan help address the growing trash problem?

Participant Question: Is sea level rise being seriously considered in this plan? What areas are going to be impacted quite a bit in Grasonville and will it be taken into consideration in future development?

Participant Question: Is there a plan in regard to walkability and design aesthetics around the Fisherman's Inn area?

Participant Question: Could the County create opportunity zones with property tax breaks to entice businesses to the County?

Participant Question: Where are the DEIJ communities in this process? Have we (QAC) reached out to these traditionally underrepresented citizens directly for this Comp Plan process?

Participant Question: How can we get communities involved that may not have access to adequate internet services to attend these workshops? Do you have paper surveys? A way to go and speak at church or community events?

A detailed summary of the five PlanQAC Visioning Workshops will be available in advance of the March 2021 Planning Commission meeting. 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/>