



PlanQAC's last Visioning Workshop was held virtually on Thursday, February 11, 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 North County and Queen Anne's County as a whole. North County 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: North County Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities: agriculture; rural – future value lays in its farms; preserving agriculture identity will help with future and tourism; natural resources can be an economic driver; embolden and equip volunteers to help maintain and establish programs that help beautify and improve the county

Challenges: development; development should come from inside the county and not always outside; pressure to develop is always pressing at the borders; need for broadband; development sprawl along 301; range of housing opportunities, services, jobs; roadside garbage and poor commercial property maintenance

Discussion Topic: QAC Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities: Support development that will keep money within the County- what do people need to live here and encourage development along those lines; more higher paying and skilled jobs along with more career and technology training; it may be necessary to devote a small percentage of our farmland to solar power. (2 Or 3% at most) It would be our contribution to helping with climate change. And it would be a part of land preservation, because this solar would revert to productive farmland after a 40 year lease for solar. Hope we consider it a plus for the future.

Challenges: Preserving the character of our town communities but allowing possibility of growth for housing and business opportunities: Key to all of this is traffic design and learning from the sprawl that occurred in Middletown, Delaware with no plan. This could include thoughts about a bypass around Sudlersville and other towns where the downtown walkability and character can be maintained; Conquest is lovely, but to those who have less access to personal vehicles, that is a long journey. The more public access points throughout the county, the more citizens who will feel they have adequate access to nature and water. Which is invaluable for mental health and quality of life

Discussion Topic: Vision for North County

Public access to the water front expanded; increased trails and places to launch boats; protecting the environment; increased community involvement to encourage a more “year round” environment; more focus on history – incorporate more museums on QAC history

Discussion Topic: Vision for QAC

This statement does not seem to reflect what has happened in the County over the last 10 years. How is a vision statement made real?; Are we doing what's right by the developer or what's right by the county? We put this plan together – how do we make sure that it is enforced? How do we make sure that the safety of our river and our residents are not overridden by the plans of the Town?

Discussion Topic: Big Ideas

- Commitment to resiliency for communities and transparency for citizens;
- pledge County full support for Delmarva Oasis;
- big idea of looking at pressure from the greater region outside of county and state and how to best deal with them while maintaining the character/vision heard here tonight;
- would love to see Grasonville over the next 10 years turn into an antique alley;
- Countywide hike and bike trail that goes through a variety of ecosystems;
- more public access points to Chester river;
- major overhaul of stormwater management practices of all counties;
- halting all further development on Kent Island;
- acknowledge that growth will happen and realistically and holistically plan for it in a way that can benefit residents;
- wholesale produce market for farmers to be able to sell produce to actual users;
- establishing the rt. 301 corridor as a County Scenic Byway;
- preserving our unique farmlands;
- outlets at Kent Narrows could be a location for wholesale and retail produce markets;
- education for the youth in the county – going with desire to preserve land and agriculture – County lands and public education programs could be put in place to allow students to learn farming techniques;
- plan should include planning for sand mining that occurs in North County, turning Ag land into holes in the ground that can never be farmed again;
- INCLUSION of historically underrepresented communities in our County that are growing in number and becoming increasingly valuable members of our society and improve diversity on the Shore. We can start with the Planning Comm and County Comm demographics and P&Z staff diversity that better represents that of the County as a whole.

Participant Question: What financial support is there for businesses looking to provide broadband services in QA County?

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/>