

Bethlehem Community Plan Meeting 9/27/18

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Mr. Pilkenton.

Johnny Wear gave an overview presentation that covered the purpose of land use planning, community vision and goals, transportation, land use, demographics, employment trends, and housing trends. See attached presentation for more details.

A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis was conducted to help identify what the plan needs to cover. Separate lists were created then committee members voted on which topics they felt were most important. See the results below:

Strengths:

- Utility Infrastructure future (6)
- Highway 127 Project (4)
- Proximity to Lake Hickory (3)
- Proximity to I-40 and Hickory
- Low taxes (2)
- Highly educated population
- Room to grow (1)
- Close knit community
- Recreational opportunities
- Alcohol sales (4)
- Low crime rate
- Commercial corridor (future)
- Fire department
- Faith community
- Good schools
- Post office
- Library

Weaknesses:

- Diversity (1)
- Lack of significant industrial base
- Lack of recreational parks (1)
- Proximity to Hickory
- Lack of retail (6)
- Lack of technology infrastructure
- Lack of low market housing
- Lack of current sewer infrastructure (1)
- Lack of municipal structure
- Highway 127
- Lack of destination (3)
- Hickory addresses

Opportunities:

- Vacant land
- Vacant buildings (2)
- 127 widening project (5)
- Sewer infrastructure (9)
- Branding/destination (4)
- Highly educated population
- Splash Park (3)
- Park/recreation opportunities (3)
- Whittenburg access (1)
- Proximity to lake/marinas

Threats:

- Big box retail
- Hickory (1)
- Older population (3)
- Declining workforce
- Consolidation of school system
- Loss of young population (1)

Next meeting is at 6 pm on the fourth Thursday of every month at Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department.

Bud Caywood was nominated as Committee Chair. The motion was seconded by Andi Jack and approved unanimously.

Andi Jack was nominated as Vice-Chair. Ryan Mayberry seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.