



# COMPREHENSIVE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## NOTES – AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP

June 20, 2018

Davie County Cooperative Extension  
11:00am

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**Attendees:** Anna Leonard, Cameron Colvin, Coleen - Director Cooperative Extension, Bob Cruz - Davie Agriculture Board, Jack Koontz -retired postmaster, Crystal - land trust for central NC, Lizzie - intern land trust, Phil Rucker - Landscape NC Coop extension, Phillip, Frankie Singleton -soil and water

The meeting began at 11am with a brief overview of the Davie County Comprehensive Plan and the question, “What do you first think of when I say Davie County?” Answers included:

- Bedroom Community
- Community in Transition
- Have what you need
- Pretty
- Natural Resources
- Home
- School system provides strong identity
- Sense of belonging
- Rural Character but more progressive with growth plans
- Strong Sense of Community

Meeting attendees noted they would like to see a more inviting and aesthetic pace, increasing beautification. Meeting attendees asked about what other focus groups are being held. Focus groups include Agriculture, Quality of Life, Aging Population, Underserved Communities, and Real Estate/Housing.

Questions were asked to address needs, gaps, and concerns and what additional partners should be involved. The questions and answers are provided below. Items with \* were identified as important issues to focus on by all focus group members.

### **What should be added? What is needed? (E.g. programs, facilities, or policies?)**

- Farmland and Preservation with Davie County and Land trust, conservation easement purchases
- \*\*Preservation of farmland
- More funding for conservation agreements
- Need incentive to keep farmland,
- Get young people into farming
- Commercial, nothing really comes to Mocksville, goes to Winston and Statesville
- Lack of shopping and \*\*entertainment options
- Recreation is good entertainment, need options to put in at river
- \*\*Better distribution of parks

**What should change?**

- Little knowledge about commuter options (PART, YVEDDI)

**What other ideas or concerns do you have?**

- If growth is expected, what housing options are there?
- Renovation and use of existing buildings
- \*Concerns about strip shops and big box stores, where do we find that space and how to keep rural character for it
- People want that rural feel but close access to 40
- \*Stronger education program of doing more land trust and easements to preserve the land (up in Farmington)
- Connect people who want to farm with farmland.
- Spread resource information: Online - NCFarmLink

**What else do we need to consider?**

- NCFarmLink
- Trust Funds – NC Agriculture and Preservation Development Trust Fund
- Agriculture Conservation Easement Program
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

**What partners or institutions need to be involved to ensure success?**

- Wildlife Commission
- Fire Department – volunteers
- First Responders
- \*\*Safety

**How can preservation of natural resources be prioritized, while encouraging growth?**

- Target farmland preservation among communities and prime farmland

**What are the biggest challenges to natural resources preservation?**

- Education
- Funding
- Prioritization of economic development over farmland preservation
- People don't know present use value, cheaper tax rates available

**Are voluntary agriculture districts and conservation easements being utilized well to support preservation of working farms? If not, why?**

- Not many conservation easements in Davie County
- Need awareness about funding and tax benefits of donating easements
- Better job of educating people of what is out there for them
- Voluntary Ag District has done fairly well