

Comprehensive Plan Update Online Feedback Responses

All responses were received between August 10, 2016 and November 9, 2016.

Respondents were asked to consider the following questions below to direct their feedback:

- 1. What is the City of Poquoson doing right?**
- 2. Do you have any concerns regarding the future of Poquoson?**
- 3. If you could make anything happen in Poquoson, what would it be?**
- 4. Any additional comments?**

As electronic vaporizer (vape) and hookah shops and lounges are increasing in popularity, the comprehensive plan should indicate whether they should be classified with "tobacco and related supplies" as a permitted use in the Village Commercial District.

We desperately need sidewalks! Especially along Little Florida and parts of Poquoson Avenue that don't already have them. Hudgins would be terrific, too. This is really a safety issue!

Basic survival needs are Food, Water, and Shelter. Food is a individual responsibility. What is the status of the water system? From a government (City) perspective, Shelter is Police, Fire and Emergency Services - are they adequate?

1. Continue to look for opportunities to grow the city so it is sustainable in another 50 years (e.g. big woods development). 2. Consider a special tax/fund to create a system of side walks / make the city more pedestrian friendly. 3. Collaborate with York County to gain transportation funds to widen Victory Blvd to Rt. 134

I'm sure you all are receiving enough negative feedback so I would like to contribute positive feedback. I am majoring in environmental science and I am thoroughly impressed by the attention environmental issues received within this document. It is simply amazing. In some of my classes, the documents we view from huge cities are not nearly as detailed as this plan. The maps are simply wonderful and full of amazing details. I've never seen this plan before, and that's probably because the other times you all had meetings about it I was too young to participate. Keep working on this document. Poquoson is in good hands. As for anything to add, I'm not entirely sure. If at all possible, soliciting the younger generation to comment on this would be helpful. We have a different mindset than older generations. Furthermore, we are the people that will have to deal with the changes called for in this proposal. Thank you.

Poquoson is a primarily residential community. Therefore, it should be the best it can be in that light. Many candidates expressed a desire for the "small town" environment. However, the proverbial "Main Street" was lined with trees and had sidewalks. So, the first thing Poquoson needs to do is line its main streets, such as Wythe Creek Road, with trees that provide shade to pedestrians, such as crepe myrtles that do not interfere with power lines and provide 3 months of summer color. Between the trees need to be shrubs that create a visual barrier between pedestrians and cars. Streets without sidewalks need to have them added. And bicycle lanes need to be added. Increases in bicycle and pedestrian traffic will improve the health of citizens, the air quality, and (from research) the overall vitality of Poquoson. Cost to the city for the trees and shrubs could be nothing, as donors, civic clubs, boy scouts and girl scouts could readily raise the amounts needed. And the scouts could also tend to the landscape materials to earn more badges. Next, you need to create a "Crowdsourcing" web site. Citizens can then propose any idea they think will benefit many. Others can endorse someone's idea. If an idea gains a specified number of endorsements, the City Council must vote on it ... not "study it" or "table it" - with the names of Council members and their votes posted. The idea is already being done in Finland, with great success, as it increases citizen potency and satisfaction. The city should adjust its automobile property tax, so that low-mileage cars and trucks pay more, and higher mileage or electric cars and trucks pay a

lot less. This sliding scale will bring in the same revenue, and will help improve air quality. New developments must plant 2 trees of a specified size for every tree they cut down. And they must use pervious paving, to inhibit runoff. They also cannot use blacktop paving, because it's toxic and harms the waterways and the Bay. Pavements will cost a bit more, but soil and water quality will be better. Poquoson has excellent schools. But they can no longer think K-12. Generation behave in waves. We're into the low end of a wave - as happened in the late 1960s and the 1970s. Poquoson schools need to add to each end of their current K-12, to keep classrooms filled. That means pre-school. And it means adult education - which can be done in collaboration with local community colleges and universities. Poquoson has a lot of retirees; they needn't stop learning at 65. In fact, they have more time to do so. The school system can readily identify topics of interest and create daytime and evening courses that attract adults of all ages. It fills the classrooms, brings in added revenue, and enhances the quality of life in Poquoson. The Mayor and each Council member should spend one evening a week at a specified location at which citizens can come and speak their mind, one-on-one. The Mayor of Wichita Fall, TX did this at each of their 3 shopping centers, with a sign, "The Mayor is in." He listened, and later suggested actions. A member of Bermuda's Parliament went door-to-door every Saturday morning, to introduce himself and do a few minutes of listening. When's the last time any of our elected "representatives" actually did any of this, so they could truly represent us? (I could go on, but that's enough for now.)

I would really like more ways to safely bike and walk. Poquoson Avenue is a particular concern and also an opportunity. I also wonder about the assumption that more development is needed to fund city services. More development usually means increased costs especially anything that increases the number of school children (which is often cited as necessary and desirable). I think more school children is a good thing but we ought not fool ourselves into thinking this would help fund city services as it costs a lot to educate a child - usually far more than the family will contribute in tax revenue.

I would suggest that the city give more consideration to bicycle paths and sidewalk through out the town.

1. Not sure, negative items always get noticed, the good stuff gets missed. 2. Bringing in business that negatively impacts the long time vendors, too many people which causes the small town feel to disappear and the strain on city infrastructure, uncontrolled development for the sake of tax revenue, lack of oversight/transparency in city spending and impact on tax funds. 3. Government transparency and abolishing the good old boy network. 4. I like living here and want to stay here but am concerned with recent displays of power flexing by our governing body. I believe also that the appointed positions need to be elected so there is some accountability, and opportunity for more citizen involvement.

Improvements: Exploit few public boat ramps in City - Only one (Messick) has parking for trailers. Not sure how the others can be improved. - Add kayak launch/pier, possibly at Amory's Wharf area Add sidewalks and bikeways to major thoroughfares in City - Little Florida Road - Poquoson Ave - Hunts Neck Road - Yorktown Road Keep any new businesses north and east of Oxford Run - That was supposed to be the plan, then Storage World was approved On the schools, instead of trying to get the student population up, optimize the educational opportunities provided to the students we do have. Decrease student-teacher ratio, spend more per student to increase STEM and Arts focus, making schools more

desirable. Adopt the "If you build it, they will come" attitude. Not happy with City's decision at White House Cove. - Should have allowed condos there. Resulting mobile homes show the soft underbelly of Poquoson Not happy with City Council's decision on Legacy of Poquoson project - I agreed with the project overall - Did not agree with the City Council approving project with changes made after Planning Commission approval o Increased height of apartment unit closest to Victory Blvd from three to four stories, a height denied at White House Cove o Decreased set back from 60 feet to 25 feet for apartment unit closest to Victory Blvd - Why bother having the Planning Committee if City Council is going to override on issues?

What is the city doing right? I think we have wonderful city employees who take care of our city in many ways that go unnoticed. Our city hall employees, in my experience, are very responsive to citizen requests. I think the city has done a good job with flood preparation and information given to citizens to help our city be more prepared during storms. We also are in a sound financial position at the moment. My main concern about the future of Poquoson is the amount of residential growth we seem to be doing in a very short period of time with no planned infrastructure or road widenings to handle the increased population. I think this is done with the idea that we need more students to get more federal funds, but the total picture often seems to be overlooked and the cost of those citizens compared to the funds rec'd isn't looked at correctly. Some developments going in, will actually have a null or negative impact to the city. Our population is changing, and instead of sinking money into more schools and increasing the population beyond what our city's infrastructure and roads can accommodate, why not look at cutting costs - possibly going to three schools like it used to be. Increasing residential development before we are ready to handle it, doesn't seem to me to be the best solution to the problem. If I could make something happen in Poquoson it would be to institute some architectural standards so that our Wythe Creek and Victory Blvd. corridors have some continuity and the buildings all use the same building materials. It would make such a difference to the appearance of the town. I would replant some type of trees (that wouldn't damage the sidewalks) as was promised on Wythe Creek road. I would start in small increments, whenever funding is available, to put in storm piping in the ditches and pave over those to make a bike/walking lane down Little Florida and Poquoson avenue in the sections where there is no sidewalk. That way, the path is on top of the sewer on public right of way and there is no need to take property owner's land. I hope as the comprehensive plan is updated that inconsistencies between sections can be removed and things are purposefully included that indicate what we want the face of our city to look like in the future. I'd like to see statements included specifically regarding what we don't want. Sometimes its not enough to just say what you do want. For me, we need to make sure we keep the small town feel of our city, protect our environment and wildlife, have more recreation and green space for our citizens. Have a city that looks and feels like a small bedroom community. The comprehensive plan is the guide to the future of our town. But updating the plan is not enough. We need our city council to make sure the ordinances we have in place back up and protect that plan. Without that, the document is just paper with no power. THANK YOU for all your hard work on this!!! I'm sure we are going to get a great update!!!

2 issues: (1) Current increase in high density multi-family housing. Degrades the suburban bedroom character of Poquoson. May temporarily increase students in our school system, and possibly gain an

increase in state funding (also likely temporary). Likely also an increase in "affordable" housing via political, HUD overreach. Such housing may well result in an increase in crime, as has occurred in Denbigh since the greatly increased high density push over the last 30 years. cf Daily Press and Aqueduct Apts We don't need that here. (2) Commercial aquaculture (many steel oyster cages, and their work tending) in our shallow Poquoson waters. This issue is currently being addressed with VMRC via private citizens input, and by our City Council. The oyster industry is pushing to displace and replace our shallow recreational water with industrial size shellfish industry. This must be opposed. The placement of oyster factories is a blight and a danger to the people and property of our City.

1. What is Poquoson doing rightkeeping us as a small town focused on the residents and making it a residential community and not a business center. 2. Concernsthat residents will keep demanding more services and drive taxes up and require bringing in more business to provide the tax needed. 3. What is needed? Zero base budgeting with careful review of each service and expense. 4. Additionalkeep residents informed of all potential new development, both residential and commercial. Offer public hearings often, before the panic arises.

Please consider keeping our city "small" with locally owned businesses. Changing the "landscape" of our city by adding large corporate business and large developments would damage the very fiber that makes our city what it is...a small town with small town values. Also, when adding large communities consider the strain on our public service. How will our fire department keep up with demand as-is? How will our schools keep up?

Parks and Recreation - They run wonderful programs, for the wealthier families, but nothing but an Easter egg hunt for the other half of the community. In their current offerings, the charge for fall soccer is \$60.00 with "Coaches are usually parent volunteers," For swimming, two weeks is \$55.00, sailing. one week for \$225. When asked what they offer for children on free and reduced lunches, the reply was, oh, York Social Services would have to take care of that. Parks and Rec is a city department, it needs to expand its programing to meet the needs of all residents, especially children. When sports instruction and teams are only available to the advantaged, it contributes to a continuing split in the community between the "haves" and "have not so much." All the kids in Poquoson should be able to participate and play together. That's how you build community. Schools can't do it all. The ability of a child to learn to play soccer, or swim, shouldn't be dependent on whether or not their parent is an executive at the ship yard, a Colonel in the Air Force, a shipyard hourly union worker, or an Airman. We are a relatively wealthy community! If we can't provide programs for all, then we shouldn't be providing them with taxpayer money for only the wealthier half. Some suggestions: set up a fund to cover costs for one activity per season for children on free lunch, then expand it for those on free and reduced lunch. Ask parents who are registering their children to add 10% to help pay for others, require a certain percentage of each class to have slots for those who can't pay, involve community organizations to support the program, charge more for non-Poquoson residents to participate, seek volunteer teachers and coaches, cut back on the frills, shirts, trophies etc., seek grants to cover costs, and finally commit city funds to cover at least minimal participation for all children in Poquoson. As a water-surrounded community, with a sad history of drownings, and a public pool, there is absolutely no reason now that every child in town should not have the opportunity to learn to swim. The basic classes should be

available to all. I know the history of older generations not wanting their children to feel too comfortable around the water, but I think, now, most people want their children "waterproofed." Cost of Parks and Rec programs should not be a factor for participation. Find a way to assure all residents have an opportunity to learn to swim! The library is an admirable example of how it includes invitations to everyone at no cost in many of its programs. Parks and Rec has long looked at itself as a self-sufficient organization, providing programs that "pay off." It needs to shift its focus to providing programs for all, and the city needs to step up to help it do that!

I would really like to see a waterfront area to bring the family to. Maybe a beach area, boardwalk area, restaurant on the water. I think it would be great to have more town events. We really enjoyed the Easter egg hunt. Would love some more holiday events for the kids!

"Poquoson is at a crossroads between becoming an extension of York County/Hampton and making smart decisions to maintain our own path and identity. This election cycle (and for the past 18 months), we have heard about declining school enrollment, revenue shortfalls and growth opportunities but what has been missing is how Poquoson plans to manage that growth. We are facing a second 'big-box' pharmacy, a major influx of new housing projects and other cookie-cutter initiatives that lack innovation and creativity. Part of what I would like to see the Comp Plan accomplish is balancing the old with the new. Growth is inevitable but it needs to be done wisely. The hottest topic is the Big Woods and while it has never been a secret that this is earmarked for commercial use, it's imperative to be as selective as possible for its long-term strength. What about a nursing facility, a (high-quality) child care center or other 'human services' that generate tax revenue? There are numerous studies about the benefits of elderly and youth interacting. Or an entire 'human services' campus that can also support our other local businesses.

What about a thoughtfully designed light-industrial park, encouraging small business owners to base their businesses in Poquoson? This is the last undeveloped gateway into our city so this is our opportunity to create plans that can put our best foot forward. Putting another 'strip center' will create additional commercial vacancies and will devalue the existing real estate of this town. Why not encourage use of existing facilities and the creation of additional unique opportunities?"

When will new trees be planted along Victory & Wythe Creek sidewalks, such as Crepe Myrtles? What is being done to bring new businesses into Poquoson to help offset tax revenue? Why can't we have sidewalks all the way on all major roads & street lights every block on dark roads??