



Mayor and Town Council
Town of Friendsville
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Town of Friendsville
Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing Minutes
July 23, 2024

Mayor Spencer R. Schlosnagle opened the public hearing for the Town of Friendsville Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. He introduced Dan Bowling from Mackin Engineers & Consultants, and Korey R. Layman, Regional Planner, Western Maryland Regional Office of the Maryland Department of Planning, who were available to answer any questions.

Representing the Town Council were:

- Council President: Pamela Humberson
- Council Members: Michael Artice, James Hook, Edward Kelley, Sheryl MacLane, and Robert Sines
- Wanda Guard: Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Fourteen citizens from the Town of Friendsville attended the hearing. Among them were several members of the Town of Friendsville Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeal. Additionally, Robin Bernard and Jessica Briggs represented the Garrett County Community Action Committee.

Mr. Bowling explained that the attached Comprehensive Plan serves as the official statement from the Town of Friendsville, outlining policies for future growth to guide both public and private development decisions. The document forms the basis for specific goals, policies, programs, priority projects, and legislative actions, including zoning and subdivision regulations. Comprising various major elements, the plan is designed to be an integrated and unified guide for future growth and development. Functioning as a comprehensive and long-range policy document, it covers the entire geographic area of the town, potential annexation areas, and incorporates all relevant functional elements affecting physical development, such as transportation, land use, water resources, housing, economic development, and community facilities. The plan's forward-looking nature extends beyond current issues, addressing problems and opportunities related to the future growth of the town for the next 10-15 years.

The planning process and timeline was as follows:

- Summer 2022 – Project kickoff with reviewing the existing plan.
- Fall 2022 – Identify issues, stakeholder outreach & public survey.
- November 2022 – Community input event.
- August 2022 – Public open house which included a survey of the public.
- December 2022 – August 2023 – Identified and develop recommendations.

- September 2023 – Second Community input event.
- September 2023 – March 2024 – Worked with steering committee drafting the plan.
- March 2024 – Plan sent to the State, public comment period.
- June 2024 – Plan was sent out to the Steering Committee for review.
- July 2024 – Adoption of the plan.

The meeting was opened to questions and comments from the floor. Future investigations into annexation and housing were highlighted as important areas of focus. The map in the plan emphasizes the current zoning ordinance. Once the plan is adopted, the next phase for the Town of Friendsville will involve reviewing and rewriting the zoning ordinance. This new ordinance will align with the Town's Comprehensive Plan and the county's comprehensive plan.

Mr. Bowling expressed his amazement & appreciation at the high level of participation from the residents, especially considering the Town of Friendsville has a population of only 475. It was noted that people recognize the need for progress and are willing to contribute to the town's growth.

After the adoption of Resolution 2024-03 by the Mayor and Town Council members, a copy will be forwarded to Dan Bowling for inclusion in the booklet. He will then print 10 copies of the Comprehensive Plan to be distributed throughout the community to be available to the residents.

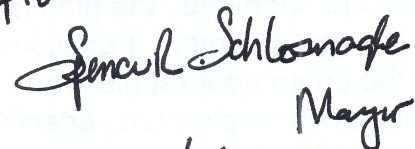
The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Wanda M. Guard,
Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:



Mayor

8/5/2024