

Beaufort Comprehensive Plan Update

Focus Group Meeting - Group 5 – Beaufort Residents

Meeting Information

Date: » April 1, 2021
Time: » 1:30 PM
Location: » Zoom Meeting: Video / Conference Call
Attendees: » Sarah Spiegler, Logan Louis, Liz Kopf, Beth Arrington, Harriet Altman, Sheresa Elliot, Dr. Susan Schmidt, Jon Besch; Kyle Garner (Beaufort), Kate Allen (Beaufort); Jay McLeod (Stewart), Jaquasha Colon (Stewart)

Agenda Items

- Project Purpose and Schedule
Jay provided a summary of talking points at Public Meeting 2 for those who were unable to attend, and shared that a recording of the website is on the project webpage. He provided a brief overview of the plan purpose, as well as the UDO creation which will start upon completion of the land use plan.
- Introductions
Jay introduced project team members in attendance
- Input

Summary of Input

Opportunities/Assets

- What brings people here?
 - Estuaries and water access
 - Historic district
 - Views of natural environment
 - Friendly people
- Small-town charm
- Quiet residential neighborhoods

Concerns/Challenges

- Protection of natural assets/environment
- Excessive littering concerns

- Failing Infrastructure
- Beaufort is becoming a resort community and losing a lot of its character; need to find a balance as tourism is necessary but should be promoted in a positive way
- Gentrification; shortage of affordable housing stock for working-class residents of the community
- Stormwater runoff; fill dirt for new developments exacerbates
- Sea level rise & climate change; developers allowed to clear cut trees
- Short-term rentals are not regulated; AirBnBs are taking over
- Lack of diversity
- Cost of living is high in Beaufort
- Lack child/family-friendly activities

Context/Suggestions

- Efforts to ban plastic in town
- Big changes forth coming; doesn't feel the Town is adequately prepared/committed to a direction for growth; Going to face problems similar to issues out west by "loving the area to death"
- Referenced growth in Wilmington; new I-42 will allow travelers to get from Raleigh to Beaufort in 2 hours rather than 3 as currently; Existing development regulations are not strong enough to protect the Town
- Make Beaufort a sustainable community
- Would like to see a dog park
- Additional [safe] bike routes