

**WHAT DO YOU
LOVE?
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
TO
IMPROVE
IN
SHENANDOAH
COUNTY?**

**A REPORT ON SHENANDOAH COUNTY'S DISTRICT INFORMATION
SESSIONS OF 2021 HELD BY THE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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IN MEMORY OF JOHN HOWARD ADAMSON III
FOUNDING MEMBER AND SERVED 16 YEARS ON THE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

When asked how we should start our District Information Sessions, John suggested we open by asking questions anyone could answer:

***“What do you love about Shenandoah County?
What do you want to improve in Shenandoah County?”***

These questions drove the 11 meetings the Citizens Advisory Committee conducted in the fall of 2021, of which John assisted with many even when it was not in his District or close to home. The County would not be where it is today without John’s insight in 2005 when the current plan for 2025 was written, in 2010 when the County conducted a set of Community Visioning meetings, or now in 2021 as the Citizens Advisory Committee looks to 2045. John was a dear friend to all and will be missed. John, thank you for your service.

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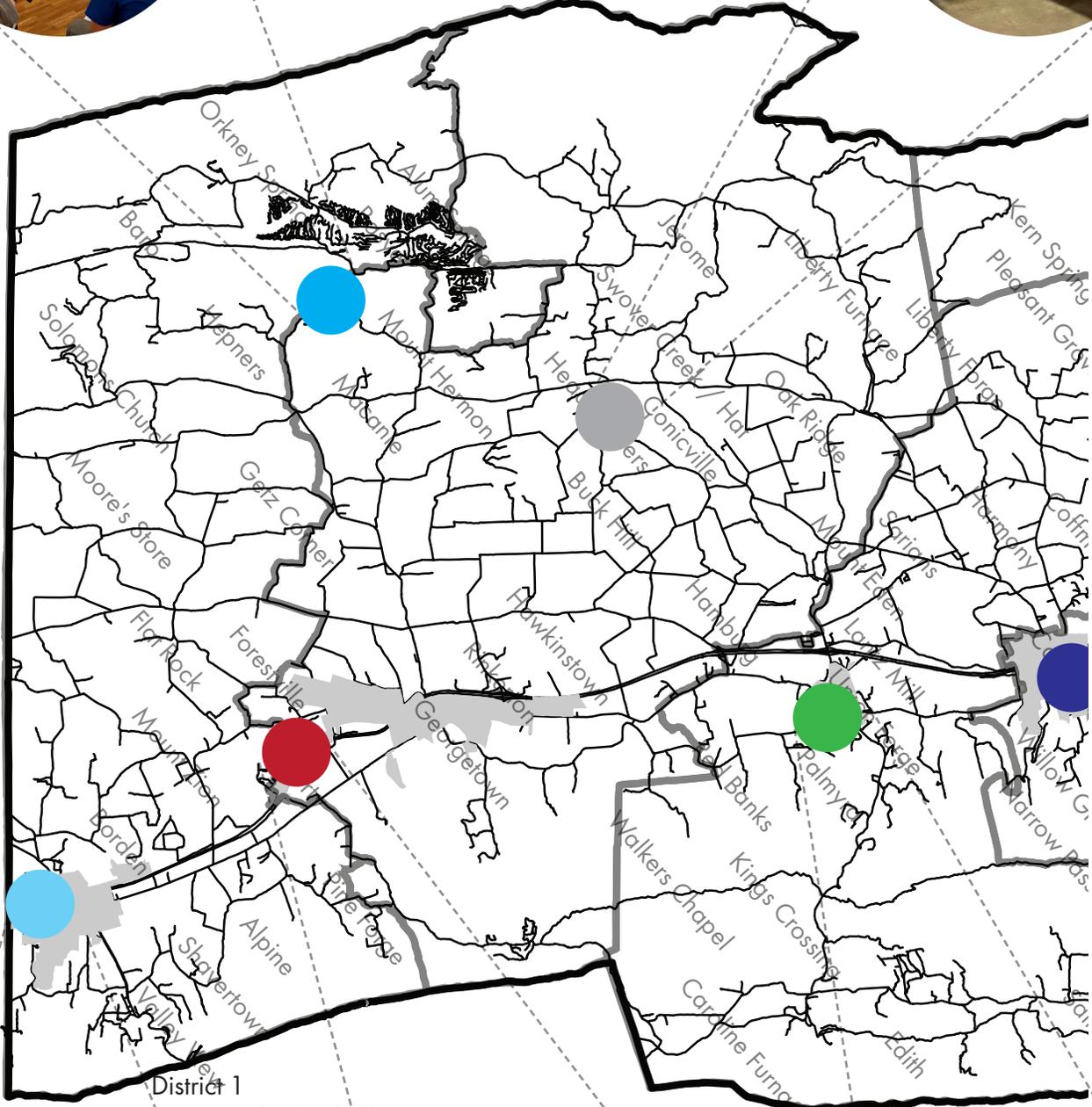
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District 1
Mount Hermon
October 4th, 2021



District 2
Conicville Firehall
October 6th, 2021



District 1
New Market Firehall
October 14th, 2021



District 2
Shenandoah Caverns
October 13th, 2021



District 3
Edinburg Firehall
November 29th, 2021

BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2021, the Citizen's Advisory Committee held 11 public sessions across Shenandoah County in order to inform the public that there was a plan for the future of the County. That plan for the future is called the Comprehensive Plan and it impacts every aspect of one's life from where you live and work, to where you can go out to eat, where the nearest fire station is located, and what view you see when traveling around the County. The Citizen's Advisory Committee, or more commonly known as the CAC, was first formed in 2005. They are comprised of 12 citizen members with two representatives from each of the six Electoral Districts of the County and are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The CAC also has a representative from the Planning Commission.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee and Shenandoah County have launched Shenandoah 2045: A Future Together, a community built plan for our County and all those who have a connection to it. The planning process will unfold over the next four years with majority of the community collaboration occurring from 2020-2022, with input in 2023-2024. As the next Comprehensive Plan is developed, we invite everyone to let us and the community know their ideas on the future of Shenandoah County.

The comprehensive plan is a community's guide to the future, its north star. It represents the shared vision that the community holds from where public investments in resources such as schools and roads should go, and where private investment, such as the development of housing and businesses, should occur. While the 20-year vision serves as the, "big picture," of where the community intends to go or the ultimate development of the community, most plans focus on five year increments to ensure the goals and actions recommended are measurable and achieved.

Since 1980, the State of Virginia has required localities to adopt a comprehensive plan and perform related planning activities. The State also requires that comprehensive plans are revised in their entirety every 20 years and updated every five years with substantial updates at the ten year mark. While the State of Virginia requires every locality to have a comprehensive plan, localities benefit as they give the community a level of protection for their future, provide a picture of what the community wants to be to the outside world, and provides a path for grant and funding providers to understand the public improvements we want to make from our schools and Internet to parks.

Currently, we are in the process of updating our entire Comprehensive Plan for the next 20 years, looking to what Shenandoah County could be in the year 2045. This effort began in the fall of 2019, when we launched a community survey in March of 2020. We understand that the survey may not capture everything. For this new comprehensive plan we intend to come to the public through the District Information Sessions which are explained in this report, then a set of community meetings or Community Collaboration Sessions in 2022 with maps to draw out where those improvements would occur, and then in 2023 we will host a set of Comprehensive Review Sessions to see if we captured the community's vision accurately.

The Comprehensive Plan is currently broken into ten chapters: History And Regional Setting, Natural Resources, Land Use, Economic Development, Population, Housing, Community Facilities, Transportation, Growth Management, and Implementation. In addition, the Comprehensive plan has a vision statement which seeks to summarize the purpose of the Plan. Shenandoah County's vision statement is that in the year 2025, Shenandoah County is and will be a primarily rural community that:

- Protects its natural resources
- Directs its growth to the towns ensuring its open, agricultural character
- Provides a variety of jobs in business, light industry, tourism, and sustainable agriculture
- Maintains moderate growth of a demographically varied population
- Supports safe and efficient interstate transportation and maintains the rural character of its primary and secondary roads
- Affords its students excellent and appropriate education
- Serves its citizens with public facilities and services that enhance their quality of life
- Ensures preservation of its natural beauty and unique, historical character by strictly adhering to the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

This report seeks to provide a clear picture of the information gathered at the 11 District Information Sessions held.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over 100 people attended one of the 11 District Information Sessions that were held in the fall of 2021 between September 29th and November 30th. Participants were asked to write the things they loved/liked the most about the County on a yellow sticky note and what to improve on a pink sticky note. Below are the top ideas:

- **RURAL / NATURAL BEAUTY**
- **SENSE OF COMMUNITY**
- **SMALL TOWN FEEL**
- **FARMING**

- **STATE ROADS / I-81**
- **SCHOOLS**
- **NEW BUSINESSES**
- **THINGS TO DO**

Participants were asked to sort their ideas into the chapters of the Comprehensive Plan, Vision Statement, and a section for new ideas or a new chapter for the Plan.

Information gathered on Chapter I: History, demonstrates the importance of local and family history as well as the traditions of the areas. At the same time it demonstrates the need to promote and support historic preservation and broadcasting information on the history of marginalized populations such as Native Americans.

The ideas provided for Chapter II: Natural Resources, shows that the rural beauty, natural landscape, outdoor activities, agriculture, and our water resources are the most cherished natural aspects of the County. The ideas also show that the largest concerns for our natural resources revolve around the preservation and protection of the resources we cherish, reducing the amount of pollution in our waterways, and increasing access points to waterways.

Results for Chapter III: Land Use reveal that agriculture, rural / natural areas, and natural public land such as the National Forest are the most important aspects to the County. The results also reveal that the loss of farmland through development and the need to have visually appealing lands are of the utmost concern for the County.

Comments for Chapter IV: Economic Development detail that residents love small businesses, tourism, and downtown activity. The comments also detail that citizens would like to see more job opportunities in the County with a specific focus on industrial jobs, support the ability to have products grown, processed, and sold in the County, and to develop more public private partnerships to support small business creation and job growth.

Ideas for Chapter V: Population cover the strong sense of community, small town feel, and friendly people in the community as aspects people love. While at the same time it details that people are concerned about how the County can be more welcoming to outsiders, to support growth in the Towns, and to find ways to keep young people.

There were no positives noted for Chapter VI: Housing, yet the improvements included the need for more affordable housing, allowing and promoting new types of housing, and promoting housing specific for different ages.

The comments on Chapter VII: Community Resources reveal that people love community organizations such as churches and libraries and things for kids to do in nature like hiking, while people would like to see more community centers specifically an auditorium, investment in public schools, better Internet, and more places to eat.

Chapter VIII: Transportation received comments showing that citizens like rural roads in certain areas while others like the resources in the Towns such as ShenGO. The comments also show that citizens are most interested in seeing I-81 and State Routes safer, routes for bicyclists safer, and ShenGO coverage and information is increased.

Information for Chapter IX and Chapter X affirm that growth should occur in the Towns and where people already live. This poses the following question for the CAC: Where will the new jobs, housing, and improved resources go and how can the location of that growth help to protect the natural resources everyone enjoys?

LAYOUT

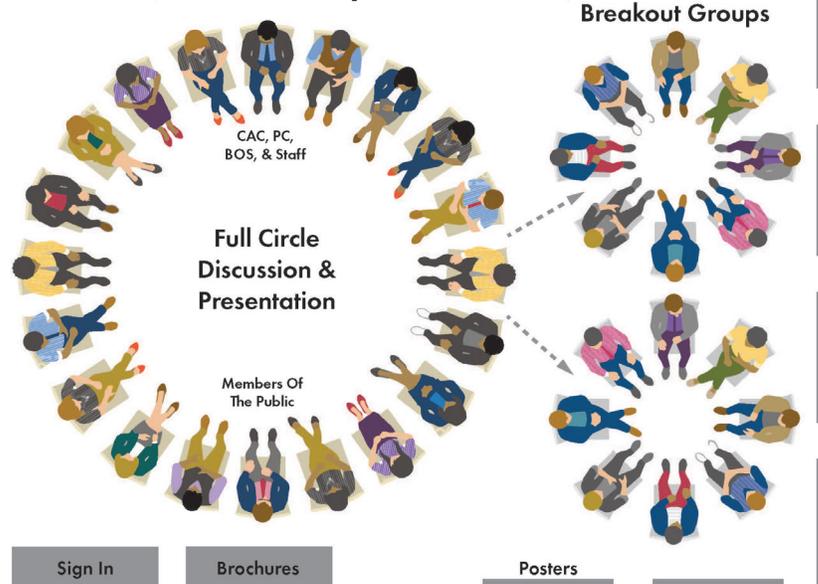
There were 11 District Information Sessions held in the fall of 2021, all of which took place over the course of 63 days between September 29th and November 30th. The layout for the Sessions was first developed in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021 based on the desires of the CAC concerning what the first round of public meetings would consist of for Shenandoah 2045. Members expressed that they needed to start with the basics and explain what a comprehensive plan is, how it impacts someone on a daily basis, the process the CAC is undertaking to revise the Comprehensive Plan for the next 20 years, and how citizens can give their input.

The layout was finalized in two mock meetings, the first was held on August 25th and the second took place on September 22nd. The mock meetings informed the CAC that there needed to be more time dedicated to the small group discussions were the most engaging aspects of the meeting. Members agreed that while engagement was important, the purpose of this set of meetings was to inform the public that there is a Comprehensive Plan and how they can give their input.

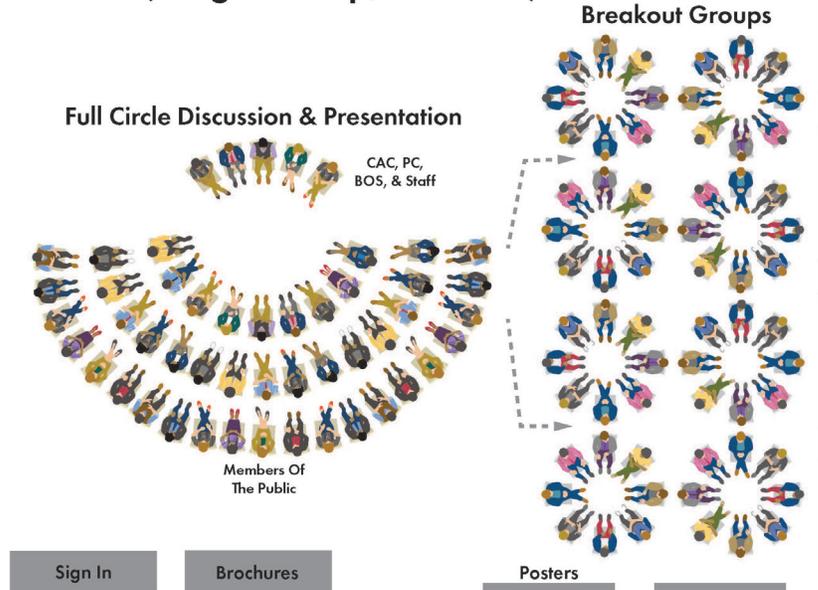
Two physical layouts were developed by the CAC in order to prepare for a situation where there are less than 15 attendees and situations where there are more than 15 attendees. The major differences with programming for the two options is that less time is given for questions and comments in Plan B, while Plan A allows for more time and flexibility in the group as there is more time for each participant to speak.

A final layout was developed for the November 17th virtual meeting and consisted of having questions sent to participants as polls and when the time came for everyone to break into smaller groups, the staff split each small group into their own breakout room.

PLAN A (Small Group, 15 Or Less):



PLAN B (Large Group, Over 15):



VIRTUAL FORMAT



Overview of the program layout

-0:20 - 0:00 Everyone

People are welcomed into the area. The room should be organized in a circular form.

0:00 – 0:05 Board Member

Welcomes participants and introduces organizers.

0:05 – 0:10 CAC Member 1

Ask, "What do you like the most about Shenandoah County?" Participants write idea on yellow sticky note.

0:10 – 0:15 CAC Member 2

Ask, "What could be improved in Shenandoah County?" Participants write idea on pink sticky note.

0:15 – 0:20

(Video is played to introduce everyone about why they are here and to get them excited about the meeting.)

0:20 – 0:25 Staff

Overview of the Comprehensive Plan, its purpose, how it impacts everyone, the process, and how to give input.

0:25 – 0:30 CAC Member

Overview of the Comprehensive Plan's Vision and ten chapters.

0:40 - 0:50 Planning Commissioner (Or Board Member)

Ask if anyone has any questions, then explain the next activity. Everyone breaks into small groups.

0:50 – 1:20 Group Leaders

Each small group goes around the circle and states what they like, and then go back around and state what they want improved. Group leaders engage participants and ask them to consider which chapter their ideas fit.

1:20 – 1:30: Board Member

Thanks everyone for attending and explains how they can give their input and stay connected.

DISTRICT 4:

WOODSTOCK BREWHOUSE

Date: September 29th, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Address: 123 E Court St, Woodstock, VA 22664

Attendees: 25

Notable Quotes:

"I don't like chain stores or restaurants, I want to see more small businesses."

"Keep downtown fresh! Keep it welcoming."

"Libraries are very important for events and meetings."

"I-81 creates an east and west, make more connections."

"Appreciate quaintness of the community."

Most Common Like:

- Natural beauty
- Rural community

Most Common Improvement:

- I-81
- Community recreation center



Chapter I:

- Lack of historic preservation

Chapter II:

- .Natural beauty
- .The scenery
- .Natural assets (River, mountains, access to recreation, etc)
- .Place to call home
- .Scenic beauty of farmlands
- .7 bends of the river, ox bows of Shenandoah with mountains surrounding
- .Agriculture: farms, wineries. and retail farmers markets on site.

Chapter III:

- Junky properties
- State park and outdoor opportunities

Chapter IV:

- Entrepreneurial business
- Employment and growth with in reason
- .Protection of Agriculture, supporting small business.
- .Good blend of natives with opportunities for newcomers.
- .Town enhancement
- .Variety of tourism options
- .Small town living
- .Beautiful surroundings

Chapter V:

None

Chapter VII:

- .Retail shopping
- .Strengthen support for Shenandoah County schools - we will only be as strong as our ability to educate our children
- .Support rails to trails
- .Need an indoor pool
- .Community recreation center
- .Community center w/ recreation such as indoor pool
- .Community meeting space
- Needs plan for growth - how to preserve rural nature but allows for growth within towns
- Modernization of school system - renovation of buildings to promote future needs - consider community elementary schools in Fort Valley and Basye
- .Rails to trails project
- .County library system as a community meeting place and a place for folks to access resources
- .River/Mountains
- .Outdoor recreation

Chapter VIII:

- .I-81 bisecting the county into right and left
- .Widen I-81
- .Connect to Corridor H
- .Wrecks on I-81
- .Rail transportation

Chapter VI:

- Assisted living apartments and center for elderly

Chapter IX:

- Communication
- .Feeling of family
- .Community
- .Rural community

Chapter X:

- .Friendly helpful people in a rural community

New Chapter / Idea:

- Negative = the opposite of belonging
- Division
- Lack of belonging & disenfranchisement
- .Vision = Quality of life vs implementation
- .Community - sense of belonging and contributing

Vision:

- .Common mission

DISTRICT 1: MOUNT HERMON

Date: October 4th, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Address: 3821 Orkney Grde, Mt Jackson, VA 22842

Attendees: 10

Notable Quotes:

"Stop thinking about yourself, think about your community. Do that and it will change your life."

"Why does our milk go to South Carolina and we buy our milk from Florida?"

"Place of performance irrelevant, can attract remote workers."

"We need business in the County to keep kids here."



Most Common Likes:

- Farming
- Friendly people
- Outdoor recreation

Most Common Improvement:

- Better paying jobs
- Ways to keep young people here
- More places to eat
- Better Internet

Chapter I:

None

Chapter II:

- .More employees in agriculture
- .Farming
- .Beauty of the Valley
- .Good amount of farmland
- .Small scale farming
- .Small entrepreneur farmers
- .Farmer Focus
- .Low taxes
- .Hiking
- .Hunting and fishing

Chapter III:

- .Solar is ugly

Chapter IV:

- .More better paying jobs
- .Valley Health Services
- .More trade schools
- .Foster entrepreneurship
- .Better paying jobs for young people
- .Airbnb
- .Low taxes

Chapter V:

- .Traditional folks
- .People are friendly

Chapter VI:

- .More affordable housing

Chapter VII:

- Business (more pay)
- Better Internet
- High Speed Internet
- Nice places to eat
- Good seafood restaurant
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- More things for young people
- Need affordable childcare
- How we take care of local people and take care of each other
- Better Internet than other areas

Chapter VIII:

None

Chapter IX:

- Have to have growth but don't want to be flooded like Northern Virginia
- .Rural character
- .Want it to grow but need more growth management

Chapter X:

None

New Chapter / Idea:

- Home school kids should be allowed to use County resources, they pay the same taxes.
- Section of plan should be on renewable energy.

Vision:

None

DISTRICT 2:

SHENANDOAH CAVERNS

Date: October 13th, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Address: 261 Caverns Rd, Quicksburg, VA 22847

Attendees: 6

Notable Quotes:

- "Not much to do here unless you want to be a farmer."
- "Preserving our County would be the best thing for our children and grandchildren."
- "I believe in restoring old buildings, we have many."
- "Clean water helps our environment."
- "People don't see a future here."

- Most Common Likes:**
- Feeling of community
 - Views

- Most Common Improvement:**
- More things for young people to do
 - Better job opportunities
 - River access



Chapter I:

- .Space - open areas for public movement
- .Feeling of community in the County
- .German Heritage remnants of family since 1750's in same church
- .Mountains and history
- .Rural area

Chapter II:

- .Waterway access and river clean up
- .Have companies help clean river
- .Boat access
- .River usage
- .Preservation of prehistoric archaeological sites
- .Process crops in County
- .Protect air and water
- .Mountain valley feel
- .Apple orchards

Chapter III:

- .Have fertilizer plants help pay for conserving farmland

Chapter IV:

- .Small industrial to develop a tax base
- .There are no jobs - nothing to hold our young people here
- .Not enough restaurants
- .Not enough to pull travelers off of I-81 to visit
- .Commercial cannery
- .Need more shopping opportunities
- .Need jobs with career elevation

Chapter V:

- .Need to hear from the younger population
- .Sense of community

Chapter VI:

None

Chapter VII:

- .Technology has destroyed social life
- .All social organizations are shrinking
- .Better healthcare and clinics
- .Need more social life
- .Exploring with your kids on things you missed out on as a kid

Chapter VIII:

- .Need ShenGo stops in Mount Jackson.

Chapter IX:

- .Controlled : Planned
- .Subdivision and strip mall development
- .Air and water quality

Chapter X:

None

New Chapter / Idea:

- .Comprehensive plan does not mention religion and the role of churches
- .Expand opportunities at Triplett Tech
- .Night classes

Vision:

None

DISTRICT 1:

NEW MARKET FIREHALL

Notable Quotes:

"I've been a lot of places, lived a lot of places, and I always find myself back here."

"I want to see more growth but not in my cornfield."

"A community center would be great, but I just need side-walks to the dollar general."

"Kids need to plan on initially not staying here."

Date: October 14th, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Address: 9771 S Congress St, New Market, VA 22844

Attendees: 8



- Most Common Like:**
- Feeling of community
 - Natural beauty of the area
 - Farming and agriculture
 - Crossroads to other communities

- Most Common Improvement:**
- Community center
 - More recreational opportunities
 - Better Internet and cell service
 - Improve public spaces

Chapter I:

- No cultural outlets or funding
- Native American mentioned in Chapter 1
- Stats on SWAM/BIPOC business in Shenandoah
- The beauty of mountains surrounding the Valley

Chapter II:

- Clean air and water
- Rural settings
- Pollinator garden at landfill
- Caves
- Outdoor recreation options
- Beauty of our area
- The beauty of our area and the good people that live here
- The rural nature
- Beautiful mountains and easy access to DC by way of 211 East

Chapter III:

- Rural
- Agriculture jobs
- Farmland and open land
- National Forest
- Agriculture
- 4 Seasons

Chapter IV:

- Internet
- Local gov't driven cell towers
- More industry to bring more jobs
- Economics of County
- More fiscal opportunities
- Walking trails
- Better Internet
- Industry and jobs (not Strasburg)
- Most shopping needs met
- Fresh match incentives program

Chapter V:

- More homes and population around Towns
- Nice people
- People wave when you walk
- Small Town feel

Chapter VI:

- More homes for young people

Chapter VII:

- Improve use of resources (ie parks)
- Improve library services
- Community center (like one in Elkton, convert old school)
- Equal pay for school use of park
- Better Internet (more diversity in providers)
- Better cell service

Chapter VIII:

- Sidewalks to the dollar store
- Secondary roads

Chapter IX:

None

Chapter X:

None

New Chapter / Idea:

- Walkability
- Young people
- New Market gap has benefit of view of Page and Shenandoah
- Walking trail in Luray is nice

Vision:

None

DISTRICT 3:

FORT VALLEY LIBRARY

Date: October 21st, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Address: 6190 Woodstock Tower Rd, Fort Valley, VA 22652

Attendees: 32

Notable Quotes:

- "We need larger lots."
- "I like my dirt roads, don't want them paved."
- "This County isn't like anywhere else in the world."
- "We need to keep what we have here."
- "We fought that (Fort Valley) school closing."
- "Only place where people wave when you drive."

Most Common Likes:

- Beauty of the area
- Rural
- Farming / Agriculture
- Dirt Roads
- Tradition and history

Most Common Improvement:

- Fort Valley Road
- More businesses
- Pollution
- Over-development
- Stopping sprawl
- Separated bike routes



Chapter I:

- People mind own business
- Shenandoah is beautiful
- Remote and quiet
- Life here is simple, old-fashioned, and generally peaceful
- Tradition and history
- That is has not changed much, that it is not NOVA
- Museum and history offered here
- Family history
- Traditional values

Chapter II:

- Access to rivers and passage creek
- Pollution in river
- Access to National Forest
- Pollution
- Rural low population
- GW Forest and trails
- Streams and rural
- Rural
- Rural
- Farming

Chapter III:

- Over-development
- Green areas to brick and mortar
- Valley within a valley
- Agriculture
- Farms and agriculture
- Outdoors and unique
- Rural and natural areas
- Hunting and farms
- Beauty of the land
- Farming and agriculture
- Nature and wildlife

Chapter IV:

- Stop building mini NOVA!
- Airbnb
- Tourists
- Farms are selling
- Tax incentives for businesses and housing developers
- Local business
- Little industrial jobs
- Large businesses (Warehousing)
- Small businesses
- Low tax

Chapter V:

- Send NOVA's back
- Too many people moving here
- Strong sense of community
- No developers (yet 😞)
- Rural setting - small Town feel
- Wonderful people
- Friendly
- Seclusion

Chapter VI:

None

Chapter VII:

- Home food store
- Need more restaurants
- Need better grocery stores (food desert) and produce!
- No more cell towers
- Put the rail trail in the plan
- Fire Department
- Churches work together
- Community involvement

Chapter VIII:

- Bicyclists (said three times)
- Excessive weekend traffic
- Traffic
- Interstate
- Road needs to be widened (Fort Valley road)
- Focus on improving I-81
- For Fort Valley, no bicyclists
- The road through mine mountain should become a State Road
- With the new rules of bikers vs cars (distance passing etc) we need to do something about bicyclists on Fort Valley Road
- Guard rails on Edinburg gap road the whole way
- Bikes on road
- Road conditions
- Signage for danger of road
- Dirt roads and no sidewalks
- Dirt roads

Chapter IX:

- Don't let it become NOVA
- Concern about farm land sold
- Moved here to help keep Fort Valley rural and agricultural
- Reduce sprawl
- How to incorporate large business
- Over-development
- Over-development
- Land / Forest / Outdoor
- Underdeveloped

Chapter X:

None

New Chapter / Idea:

- Trees over Fort Valley Road
- Fair week off for school
- Why Fort not a Town?
- Notice to citizens (a mailer) of this group, I wouldn't have known about this planning committee without word of mouth
- Concerns about solar panels
- School regulations/environment
- Unsustainable rapid growth
- Peace and quiet, privacy

Vision:

None

DISTRICT 5 & 6: STRASBURG TOWN HALL

Notable Quotes:

“Shenandoah County is one of the top things when you think of Virginia.”

“My friends are leaving, they can’t afford to live here.”

“When I got here, I would go days without seeing another brown person.”

“Cultural issues stem from the education system.”

Date: October 27th, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Address: 174 E King St, Strasburg, VA 22657

Attendees: 8



Most Common Like:

- History
- Natural beauty

Most Common Improvement:

- Controlling growth and preventing sprawl
- Address diversity, equity, and inclusion issues
- Need more affordable housing
- Public-private partnerships for business growth

Chapter I:

- Protection of historic resources / buildings
- Historic areas
- History

Chapter II:

- Stricter regulation of river and creek adjacent properties, costs Town more to clean water due to runoff
- Stop trees from being cut down for single family homes
- Nature and vistas
- Rural character
- Natural beauty

Chapter III:

- Natural environment (mountains, forests, streams)
- Affordability

Chapter IV:

- Partnerships with industries with an emphasis on new technology
- Partnership with Lord Fairfax Community College for business development

Chapter V:

- Make the County more visitor friendly (from different cultures and/or geographical areas)
- Concerns on number of people involved in the community, want more

Chapter VI:

- More affordable housing
- Allow tiny houses
- Need builders interested in new types of housing
- Proffers from 2005 won't cut it

Chapter VII:

- More public spaces
- Solid waste disposal
- Add performing arts venue
- Lack of apparent workforce education
- Recycle, reduce, reuse.
- Concerns of digital divide

Chapter VIII:

- Fix I-81
- Add rail to trail
- Bike lanes
- Public transportation

Chapter IX:

- Control growth pattern

Chapter X:

None

New Chapter / Idea:

- Need to have a joint County and Town meeting on Comprehensive Plan
- Include diversity equity and inclusion in new plan
- Invite and seek out people of color
- Proximity to DC, NOVA, and Winchester

Vision:

None

COUNTYWIDE: MICROSOFT TEAMS

Date: November 17th, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

Address: Microsoft Teams

Attendees: 7

Notable Quotes:

"People here are very supportive of the kids."

"Need to be easier and appealing to work from home."

"By providing a way for people to get around, leads to some economic development."

"We need to have a space where we can really support our kids so they will want to start a family here later on."

Most Common Likes:

- Nature and natural beauty
- Character of Towns and their resources
- Feeling of community

Most Common Improvement:

- Improving State Routes with widening and pull offs
- Internet
- Invest in old buildings



Chapter I:

- .Historical buildings

Chapter II:

- .Protect karst areas
- .Mountains
- .River
- .Seven Bends
- .Agricultural use
- .Rural nature
- .Natural resources and beauty
- .Rural feeling and beauty
- .Water quality
- .Natural beauty and nature
- .Recreational opportunities

Chapter III:

None

Chapter IV:

- .Support Rail Trail
- .Focus on economic development to create good paying jobs in the county
- .Improve Internet services, could open the door to new businesses
- .Look to Broadway and Bridgewater, re-purpose of buildings.
- .Walk-ability increases the opportunities of businesses
- .Downtown Strasburg is buzzing

Chapter V:

- .Make Town gateways more attractive
- .People
- .Feeling of community in the County
- .Real good sense of community

Chapter VI:

- .Affordable housing

Chapter VII:

- .Mental health improvements, specifically for kids in the schools
- .Indoor gyms and recreation centers
- .Long term planning for facilities
- .Auditorium
- .Arts investment
- .Spaces for bands and the arts
- .Public platform to support kids
- .Schools
- .Serving those less fortunate

Chapter VIII:

- .Improve Interstate 81
- .Entrance to Seven Bends Park
- .Improve access to the schools
- .More information on how to use the ShenGO bus
- .Need pull offs in Fort Valley
- .Widen Route 42
- .Walking in Town (Strasburg)
- .Likes when buses stop in middle of street to protect kids
- .Like the ShenGO bus

Chapter IX:

- .Growth is focused in the urban areas and Towns
- .Close proximity to Washington D.C.

Chapter X:

None

New Chapter / Idea:

- .Invest in new enterprises like electric vehicles
- .Reopen Strasburg Hotel
- .More put-in and takeout points are needed on the North Fork
- .Unique character that each town has to offer

Vision:

None

DISTRICT 3:

RIDGE RUNNER BREWERY

Notable Quotes:

- “When you come back home, you see everything you enjoy. Which is the farms for me.”
- “Have to leave to make money, then you’ll come back.”
- “Need to find a way to deal with population growth.”
- “If subdivisions come, don’t impact agriculture or views.”
- “This part of the County is much more appealing.”

Date: November 18th, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Address: 6895 Back Rd, Maurertown, VA 22644

Attendees: 4



<p>Most Common Like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Locally sourced foods ■ Rural nature ■ Nice place to live 	<p>Most Common Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support local farms and invest in farming economy ■ More workforce development ■ Plan for future of the railroad ■ Stricter zoning
---	--

<p>Chapter I:</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Chapter II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ .Support family farms, farmers markets, and town restaurants ■ .Farms, farmers markets, and agriculture ■ .Locally sourced foods and alcohol ■ .Way of rural life ■ .Quiet forests 	<p>Chapter III:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ .Need stricter zoning 	<p>Chapter IV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ .Leverage agritourism ■ .Connect farmers with restaurants ■ .Small business ■ .Jobs for people to stay here and work ■ .Want kids to work here ■ .Woodstock Cafe
<p>Chapter V:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ .People 	<p>Chapter VI:</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Chapter VII:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Triplett Tech ■ Expand Triplett Tech so we have more skilled laborers ■ .Home safety 	<p>Chapter VIII:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ .Referendum for Rail to Trails ■ .Need a plan for the impact the rail trail could pose on the area ■ .Consider antique train (Cass railroad)
<p>Chapter IX:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ .Need to control development and how houses are built ■ .How it is now 	<p>Chapter X:</p> <p>None</p>	<p>New Chapter / Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More people to come to these meetings ■ .Nice driving distance to NOVA, 1 hour and 15 minutes to Dulles 	<p>Vision:</p> <p>None</p>

DISTRICT 3: EDINBURG FIREHALL

Date: November 30th, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Address: 200 Stoney Creek Blvd, Edinburg, VA 22824

Attendees: 2

Notable Quotes:

- "I live in the most beautiful spot", said speaker one, "No, I do!" exclaimed speaker two.
- "Lets face it, the rail(road) is never coming back here."
- "We need to make it easier for people to start a business"
- "With clean water a good air we can grow anything."
- "I wish folks understood the benefits of land use taxation."

Most Common Likes:

- Rural
- Community

Most Common Improvement:

- Invest in Triplett Tech
- Develop business incubator
- Assist small businesses and start ups



Chapter I:

- .Family history

Chapter II:

- .Protect mountains from building
- .Rural character

Chapter III:

- Educate citizens on land use
- .Can be in the middle of nowhere in five minutes

Chapter IV:

- Agritourism
- .Strasburg to Edinburg tourism train, biodiesel train
- .Industry with good paying jobs and benefits
- .Incentivize small business
- .Help new small business
- .Business incubation
- .Partner with Mike Rowe Works
- .Reduce the number of barriers for large businesses to come here

Chapter V:

- Incentive students to stay here
- .Good schools, good people

Chapter VI:

None

Chapter VII:

- Expand and invest in Triplett Tech
- Better healthcare and clinics
- Need more social life
- Need lawyers, doctors, electricians, plumbers, butchers
- More push to technical schools to promote working at or opening their own business in the County

Chapter VIII:

None

Chapter IX:

- Promote more growth at southern end of County, business and residential (This would help with overcrowding at Central and Northern School Campuses)

Chapter X:

None

New Chapter / Idea:

- Need an online method of networking and finding small businesses
- Commercial kitchen for start ups
- Shared greenhouse / community garden

Vision:

None

MEETINGS WITH NO ATTENDEES

DISTRICT 5 & 6: TOMS BROOK FIREHALL



Date: September 30th, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

Address: 3342 S Main St, Toms Brook, VA 22660

Attendees: 0

DISTRICT 2: CONICVILLE FIREHALL



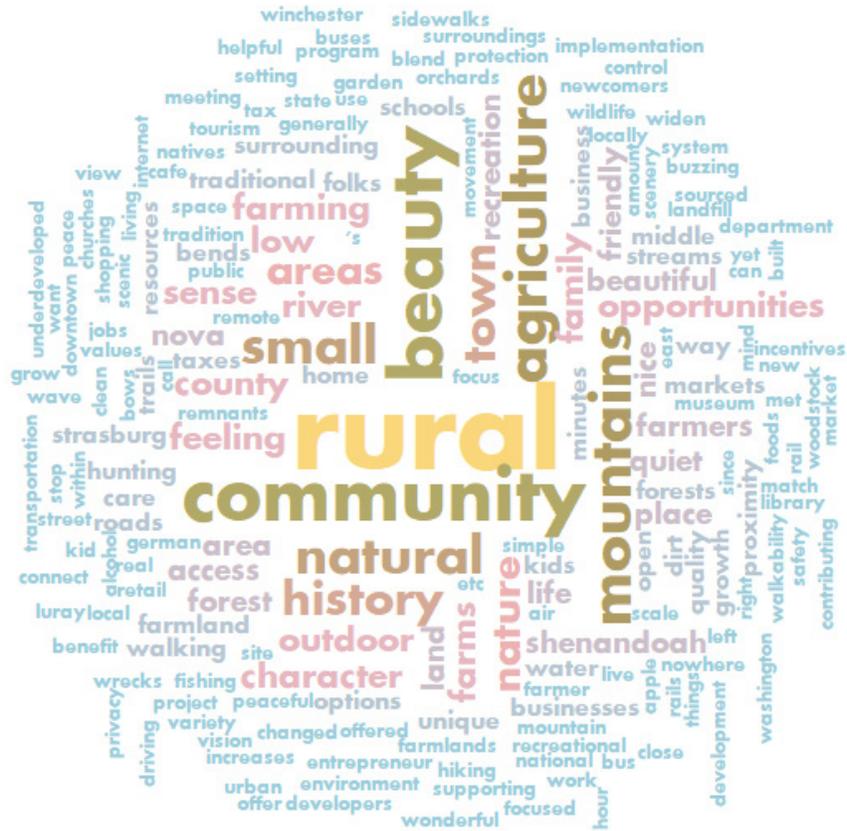
Date: October 6th, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

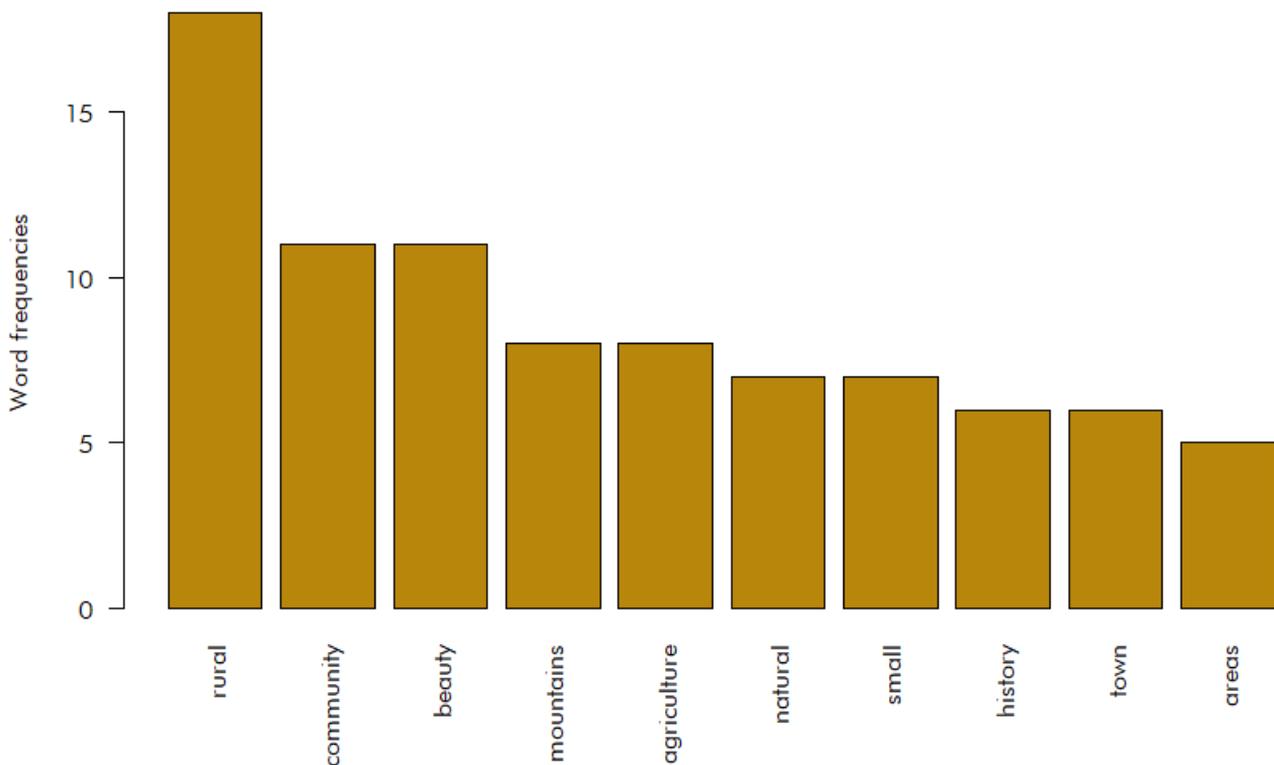
Address: 763 Conicville Rd, Mt Jackson, VA 22842

Attendees: 0

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?



Most frequent words



NOTABLE QUOTES

"Keep downtown fresh! Keep it welcoming."

"I don't like chain stores or restaurants, I want to see more small businesses."

"Why does our milk go to South Carolina and we buy our milk from Florida?"

"We need business in the County to keep kids here."

"Not much to do here unless you want to be a farmer."

"Preserving our County would be the best thing for our children and grandchildren."

"I want to see more growth but not in my cornfield."

"Kids need to plan on initially not staying here."

"I like my dirt roads, don't want them paved."

"This County isn't like anywhere else in the world."

"My friends are leaving, they can't afford to live here."

"When I got here, I would go days without seeing another brown person."

"People here are very supportive of the kids."

"Need to be easier and appealing to work from home."

"Have to leave to make money, then you'll come back."

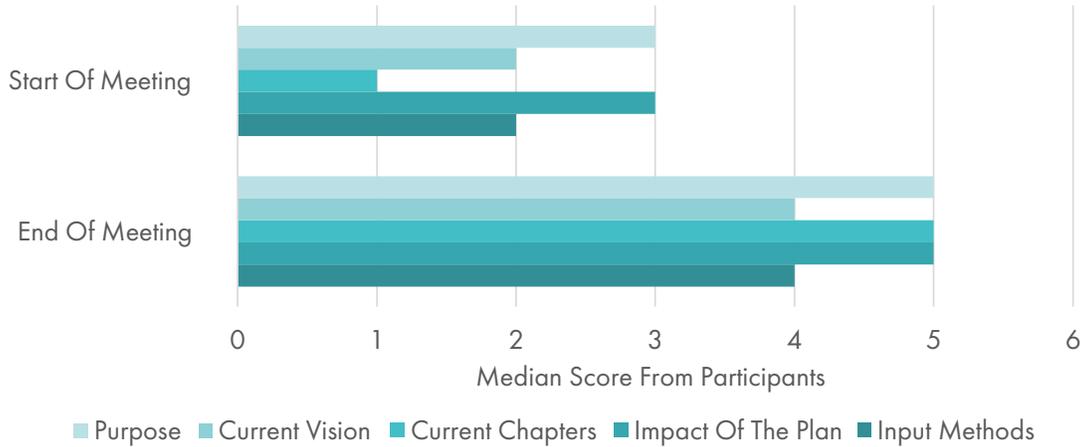
"If subdivisions come, don't impact agriculture or views."

"Let's face it, the rail(road) is never coming back here."

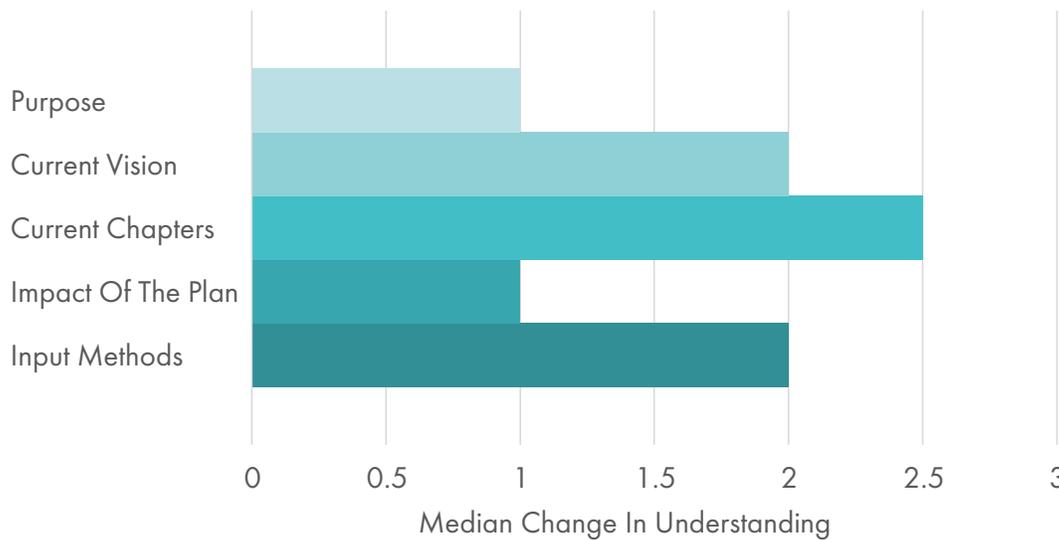
"We need to make it easier for people to start a business"

EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

Citizens Better Understand The Comprehensive Plan



Heart Of Meeting Was Most Impactful



What Participants Liked:

- Great time used for open discussion of those throughout the county.
- Glad to see our BOS member here!!
- Great meeting; well organized. Good opening and transition into small groups.
- so far so good as an introduction , no improvement suggestion at this point

What Could Improve:

- Spanish interpretation
- Maybe more time to discuss.
- Less focus on the chapters - more on the info - allow chapters structure to develop - not important at this stage
- More time and follow up meetings would be nice.
- Follow back with other groups to see similarities and differences.
- Attendance
- Save Q's for last 30 minutes.
- Longer meeting time.

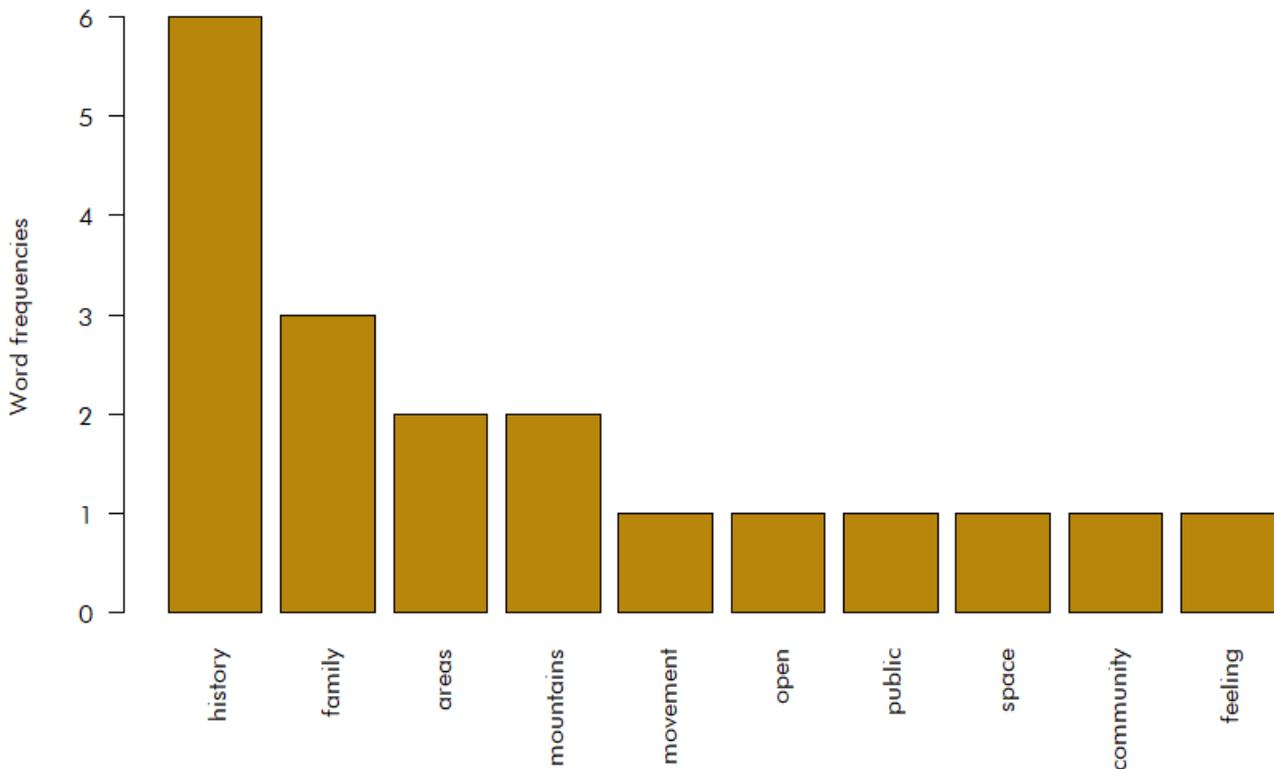
APPENDIX

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

CHAPTER 1: HISTORIC RESOURCES



Most frequent words



Space - open areas for public movement

Feeling of community in the County

German Heritage remnants of family since 1750's in same church

Mountains and history

Rural area

The beauty of mountains surrounding the Valley

People mind own business

Shenandoah is beautiful

Remote and quiet

Life here is simple, old-fashioned, and generally peaceful

Tradition and history

That is has not changed much, that it is not NOVA

Museum and history offered here

Family history

Traditional values

Historic areas

History

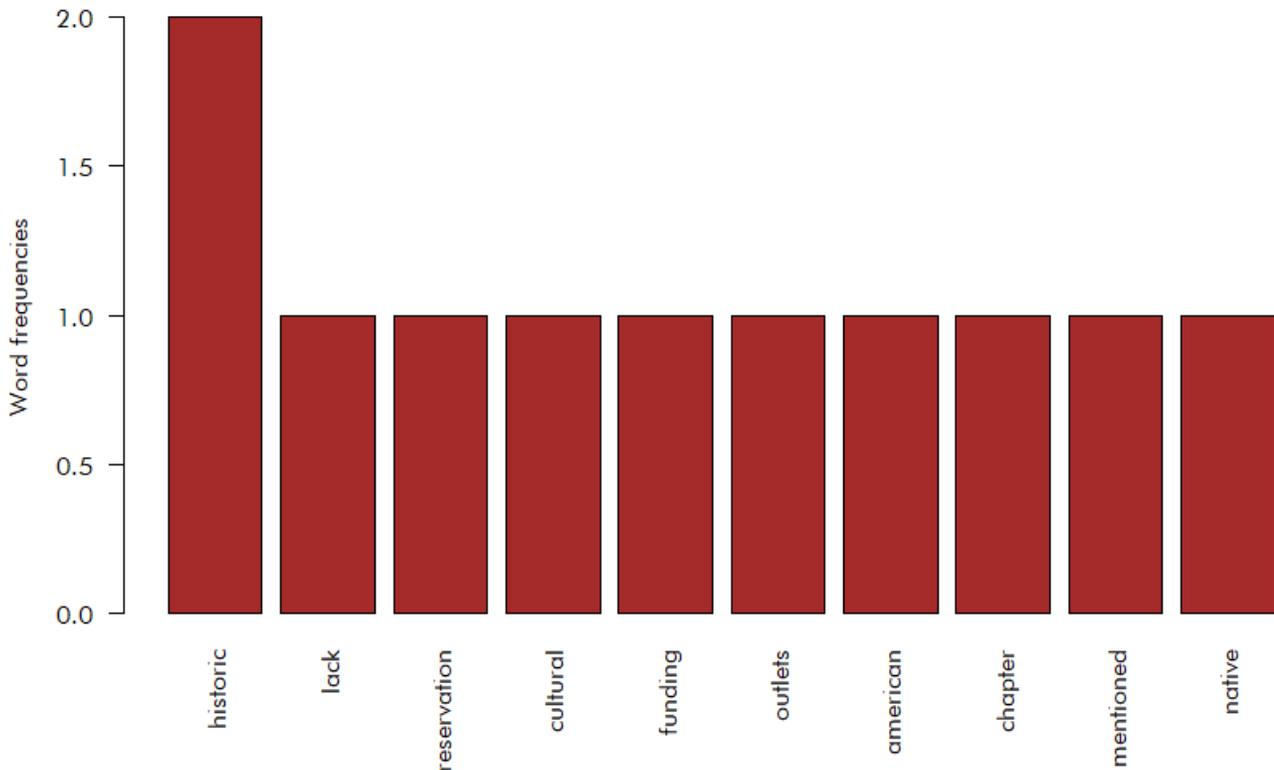
Family history

WHAT TO IMPROVE?

CHAPTER 1: HISTORIC RESOURCES



Most frequent words



Lack of historic preservation

No cultural outlets or funding

Native American mentioned in Chapter 1

**Stats on SWAM/BIPOC business in Shen-
co**

Protection of historic resources / buildings

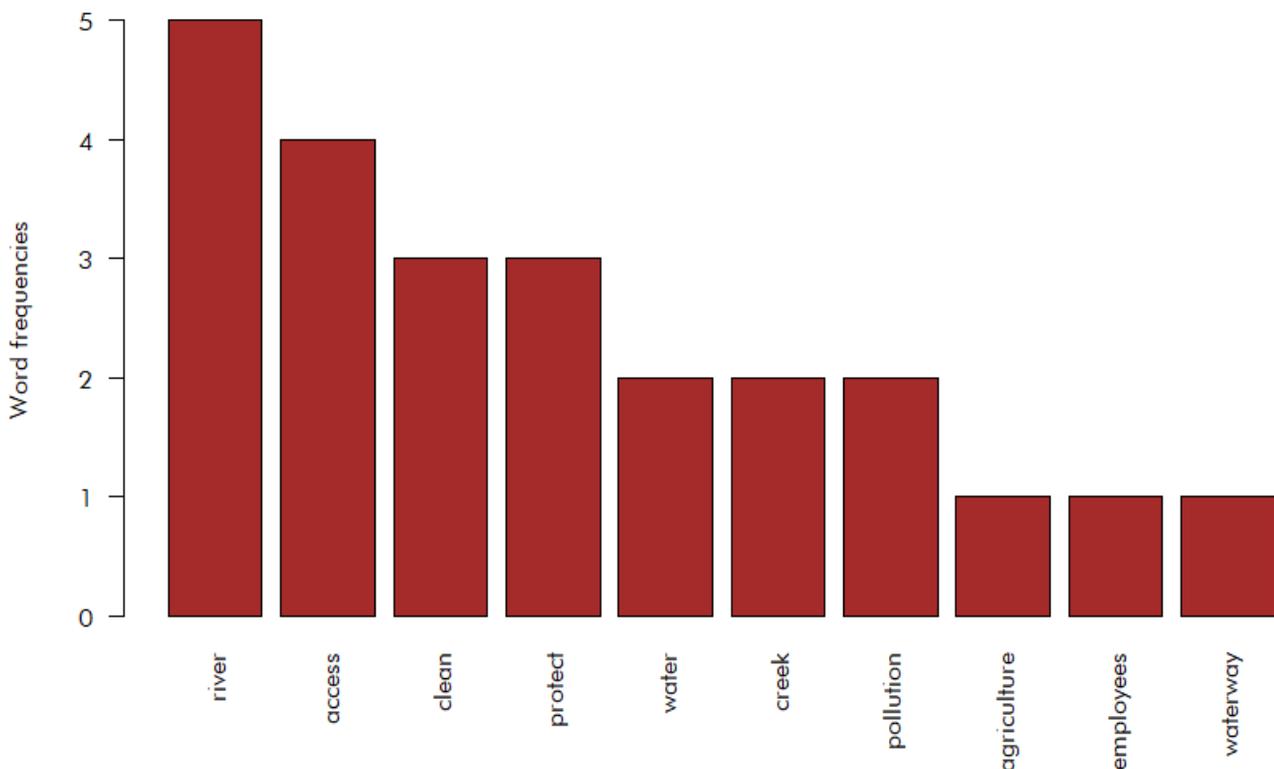
Natural beauty
The scenery
Natural assets (River, mountains, access to recreation, etc)
Place to call home
Scenic beauty of farmlands
7 bends of the river, ox bows of Shenandoah with mountains surrounding
Agriculture: farms, wineries and retail farmers markets on site
Farming
Beauty of the Valley
Good amount of farmland
Small scale farming
Small entrepreneur farmers
Farmer Focus
Low taxes
Hiking
Hunting and fishing
Mountain valley feel
Apple orchards
Clean air and water
Rural settings
Pollinator garden at landfill
Caves
Outdoor recreation options
Beauty of our area
The beauty of our area and the good people that live here
The rural nature
Beautiful mountains and easy access to DC by way of 211 East
Rural low population
GW Forest and trails
Streams and rural
Rural
Rural
Farming
Nature and vistas
Rural character
Natural beauty
Mountains
River
Seven Bends
Agricultural use
Rural nature
Natural resources and beauty
Rural feeling and beauty
Water quality
Natural beauty and nature
Recreational opportunities
Farms, farmers markets, and agriculture
Locally sourced foods and alcohol
Way of rural life
Quiet forests
Rural character

WHAT TO IMPROVE?

CHAPTER 2: NATURAL RESOURCES



Most frequent words



More employees in agriculture

Waterway access and river clean up

Have companies help clean river

Boat access

River usage

Preservation of prehistoric archaeological sites

Process crops in County

Protect air and water

Access to rivers and passage creek

Pollution in river

Access to National Forest

Pollution

Stricter regulation of river and creek adjacent properties, costs Town more to clean water due to runoff

Stop trees from being cut down for single family homes

Protect karst areas

Protect mountains from building

State park and outdoor opportunities

Rural

Agriculture jobs

Farmland and open land

National Forest

Agriculture

4 Seasons

Valley within a valley

Agriculture

Farms and agriculture

Outdoors and unique

Rural and natural areas

Hunting and farms

Beauty of the land

Farming and agriculture

Nature and wildlife

Natural environment (mountains, forests, streams)

Affordability

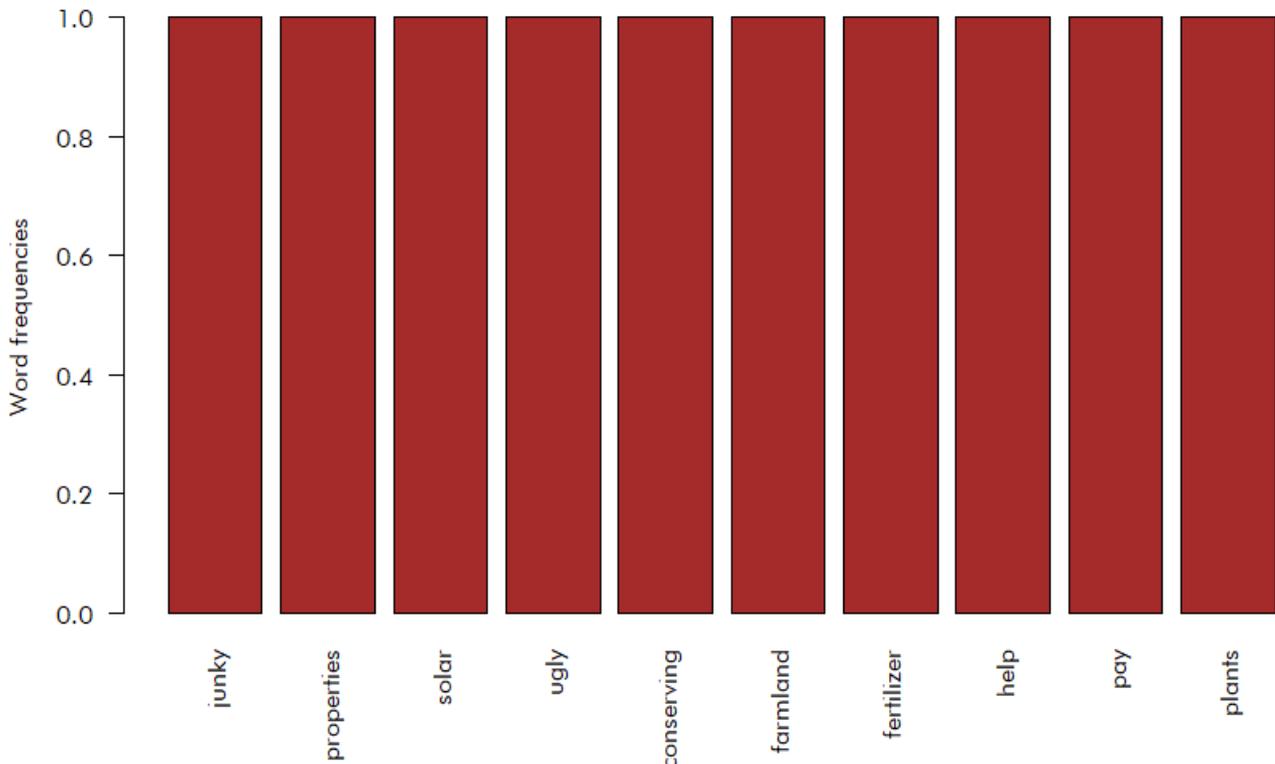
Can be in the middle of nowhere in five minutes

WHAT TO IMPROVE?

CHAPTER 3: LAND USE

use areas
farmland
conserving
properties
fertilizer
solar
junky
ugly
pay
help
brick

Most frequent words



Junky properties

Solar is ugly

Have fertilizer plants help pay for conserving farmland

Over-development

Green areas to brick and mortar

Need stricter zoning

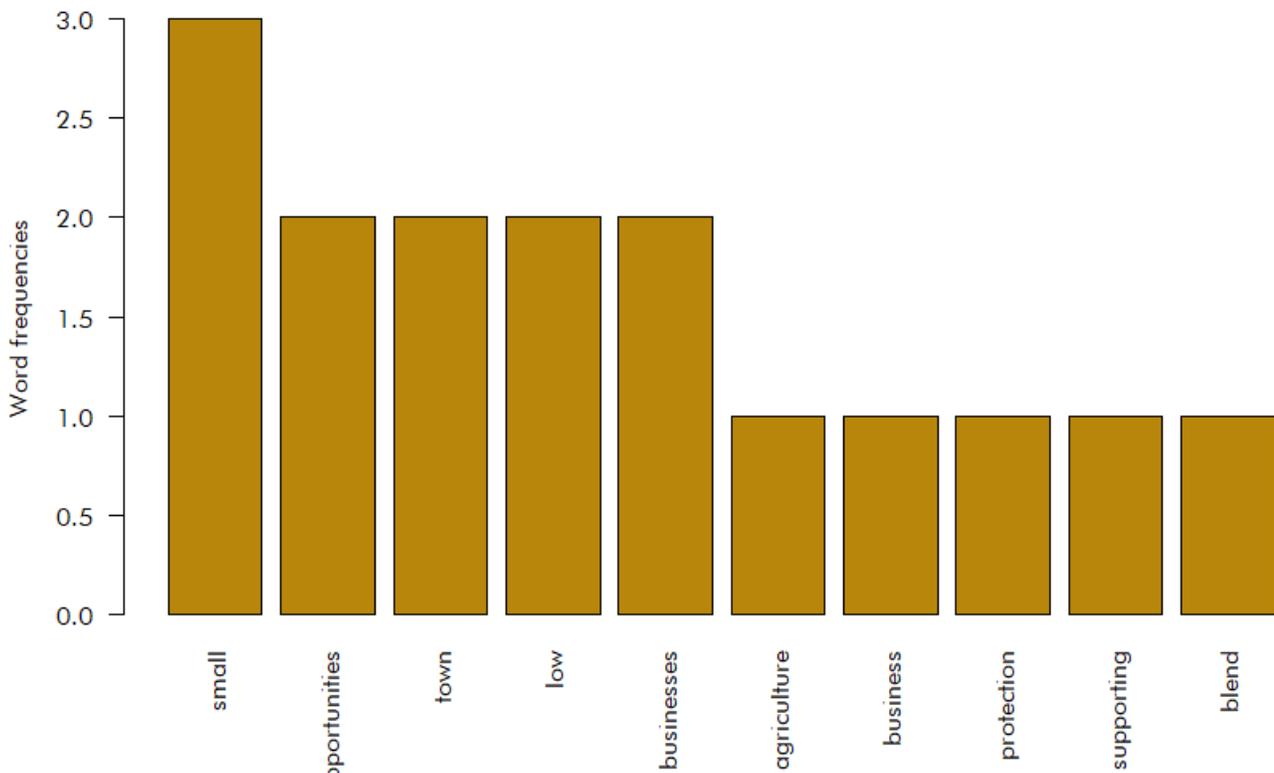
Educate citizens on land use

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

CHAPTER 4: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Most frequent words



Protection of Agriculture, supporting small business

Good blend of natives with opportunities for newcomers

Town enhancement

Variety of tourism options

Small town living

Beautiful surroundings

Airbnb

Low taxes

Most shopping needs met

Fresh match incentives program

Small businesses

Low tax

Walk-ability increases the opportunities of businesses

Downtown Strasburg is buzzing

Woodstock Cafe

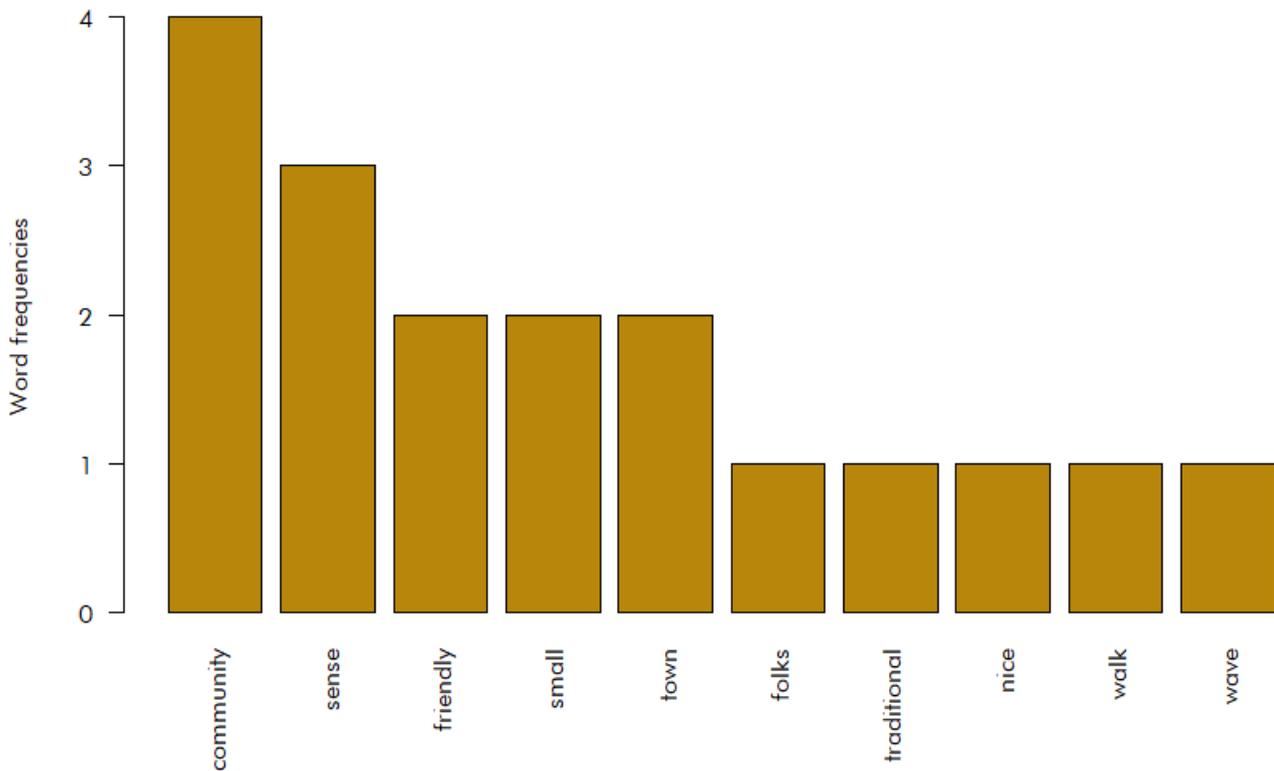
Entrepreneurial business
Employment and growth with in reason
More better paying jobs
Valley Health Services
More trade schools
Foster entrepreneurship
Better paying jobs for young people
Small industrial to develop a tax base
There are no jobs - nothing to hold our young people here
Not enough restaurants
Not enough to pull travelers off of I-81 to visit
Commercial cannery
Need more shopping opportunities
Need jobs with career elevation
Internet
Local gov't driven cell towers
More industry to bring more jobs
Economics of County
More fiscal opportunities
Walking trails
Better Internet
Industry and jobs (not Strasburg)
Stop building mini NOVA!
Airbnb
Tourists
Farms are selling
Tax incentives for businesses and housing developers
Local business
Little industrial jobs
Large businesses (Warehousing)
Partnerships with industries with an emphasis on new technology
Partnership with Lord Fairfax Community College for business development
Leverage agritourism
Connect farmers with restaurants
Small business
Jobs for people to stay here and work
Want kids to work here
Agritourism
Strasburg to Edinburg tourism train, biodiesel train
Industry with good paying jobs and benefits
Incentivize small business
Help new small business
Business incubation
Partner with Mike Rowe Works
Reduce the number of barriers for large businesses to come here

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

CHAPTER 5: POPULATION



Most frequent words



Traditional folks

People are friendly

Sense of community

Nice people

People wave when you walk

Small Town feel

Strong sense of community

No developers (yet)

Rural setting - small Town feel

Wonderful people

Friendly

Seclusion

Good schools, good people

Feeling of community in the County

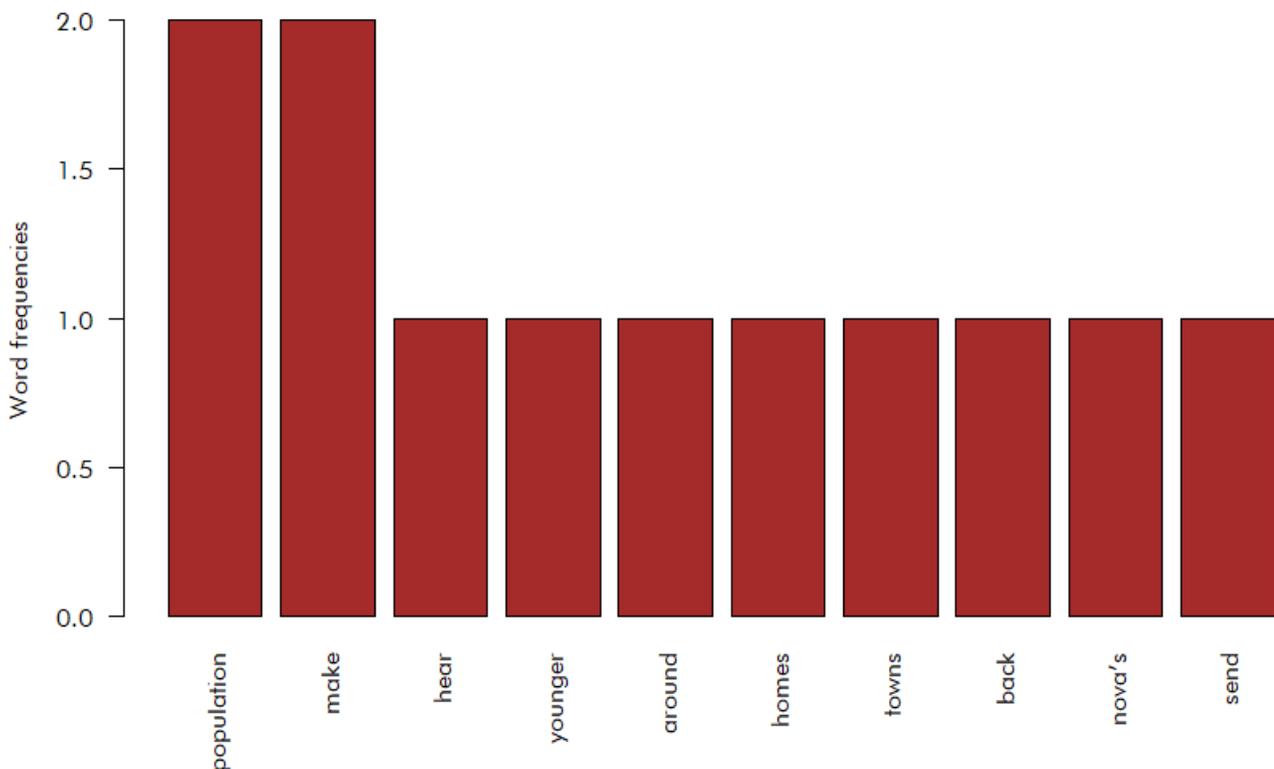
Real good sense of community

WHAT TO IMPROVE?

CHAPTER 5: POPULATION



Most frequent words



Need to hear from the younger population

More homes and population around Towns

Send NOVA's back

Too many people moving here

Make the County more visitor friendly (from different cultures and/or geographical areas)

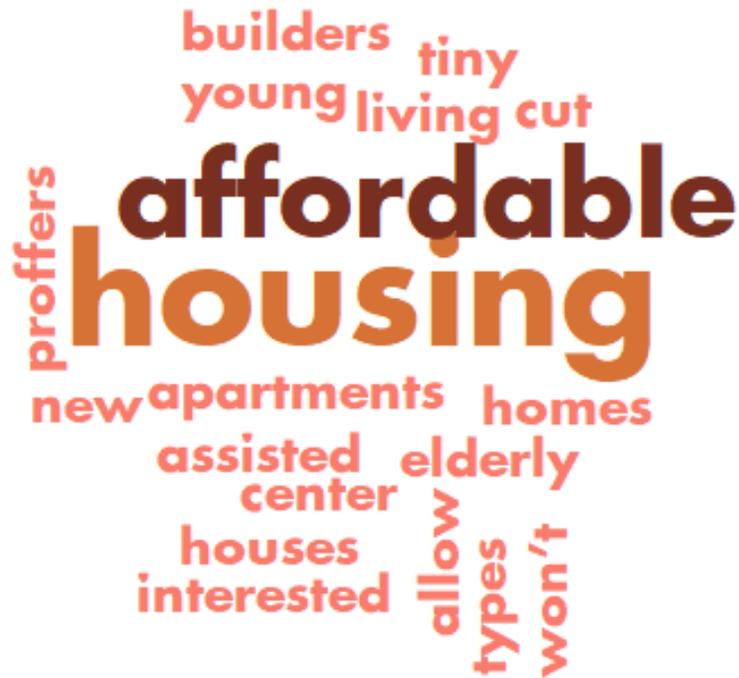
Concerns on number of people involved in the community, want more

Make Town gateways more attractive

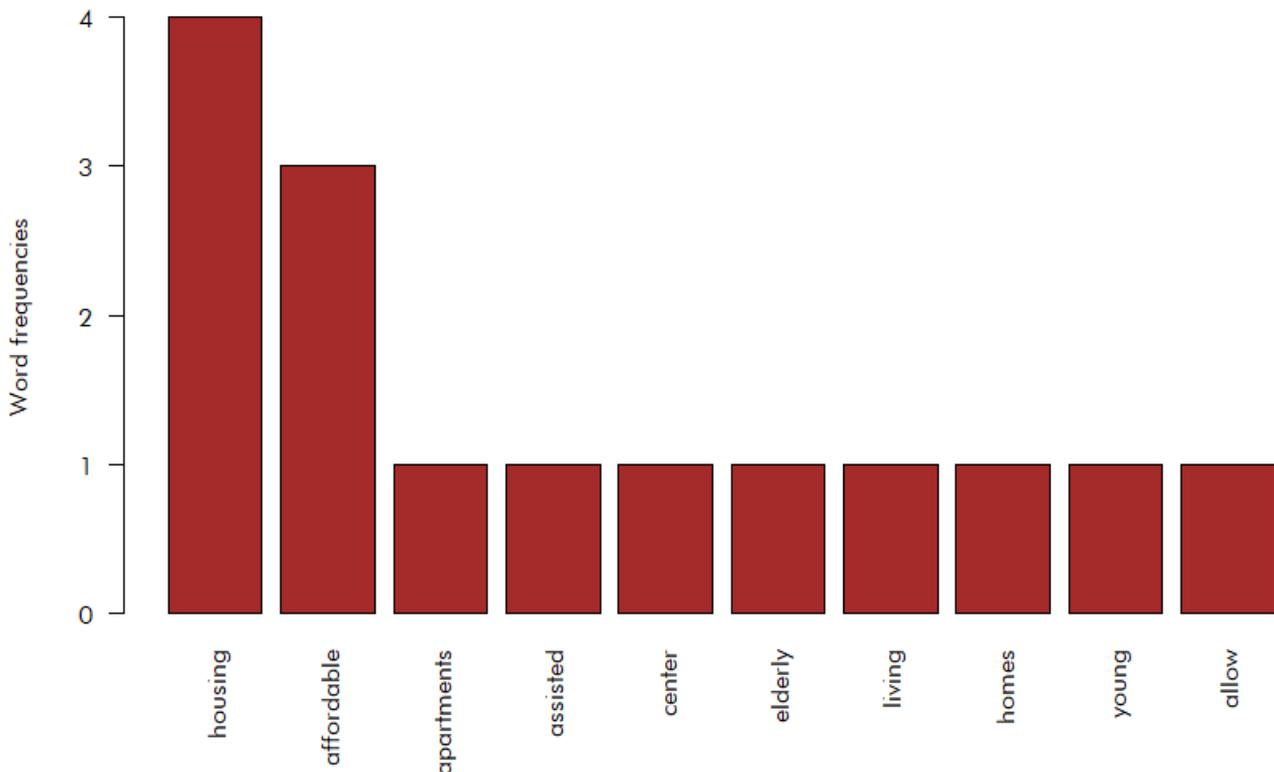
Incentive students to stay here

WHAT TO IMPROVE?

CHAPTER 6: HOUSING



Most frequent words



Assisted living apartments and center for elderly

More affordable housing

More homes for young people

More affordable housing

Allow tiny houses

Need builders interested in new types of housing

Proffers from 2005 won't cut it

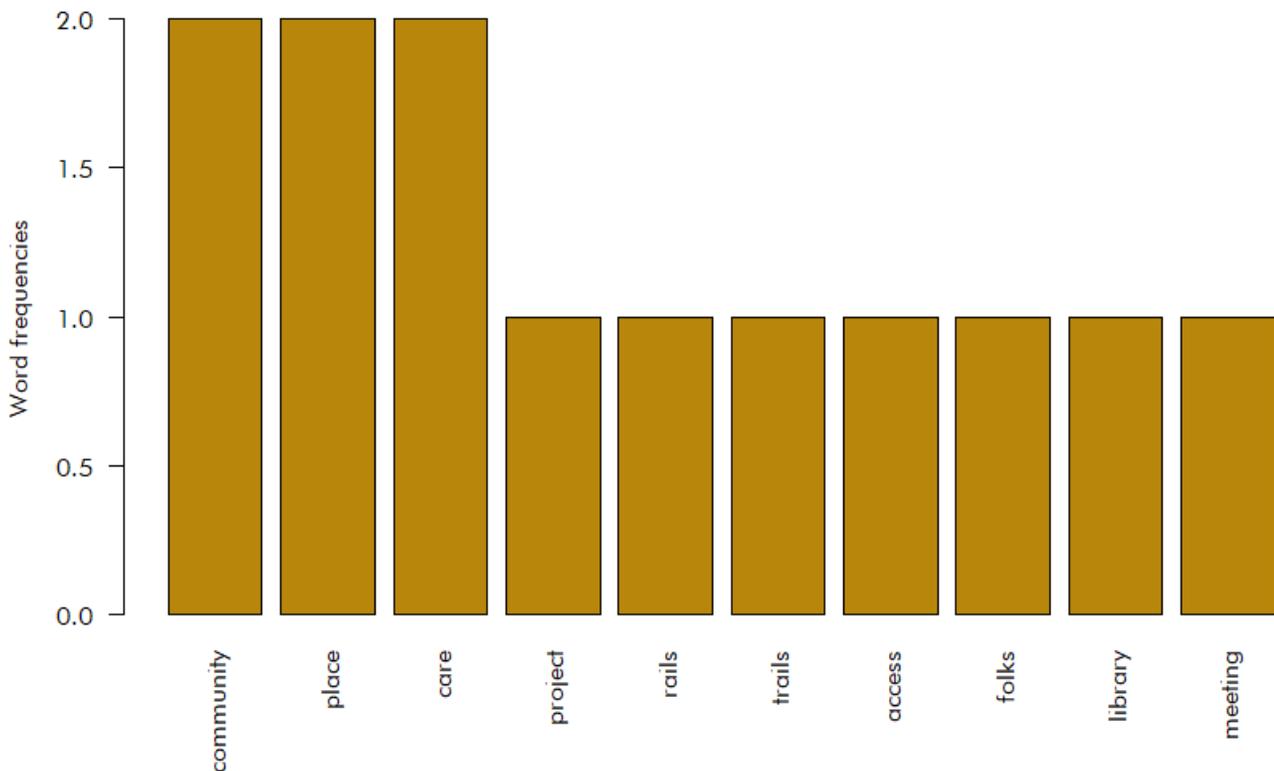
Affordable housing

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

CHAPTER 7: COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Most frequent words



Rails to trails project

County library system as a community meeting place and a place for folks to access resources

River/Mountains

Outdoor recreation

How we take care of local people and take care of each other

Better Internet than other areas

Exploring with your kids on things you missed out on as a kid

Fire Department

Churches work together

Community involvement

Schools

Serving those less fortunate

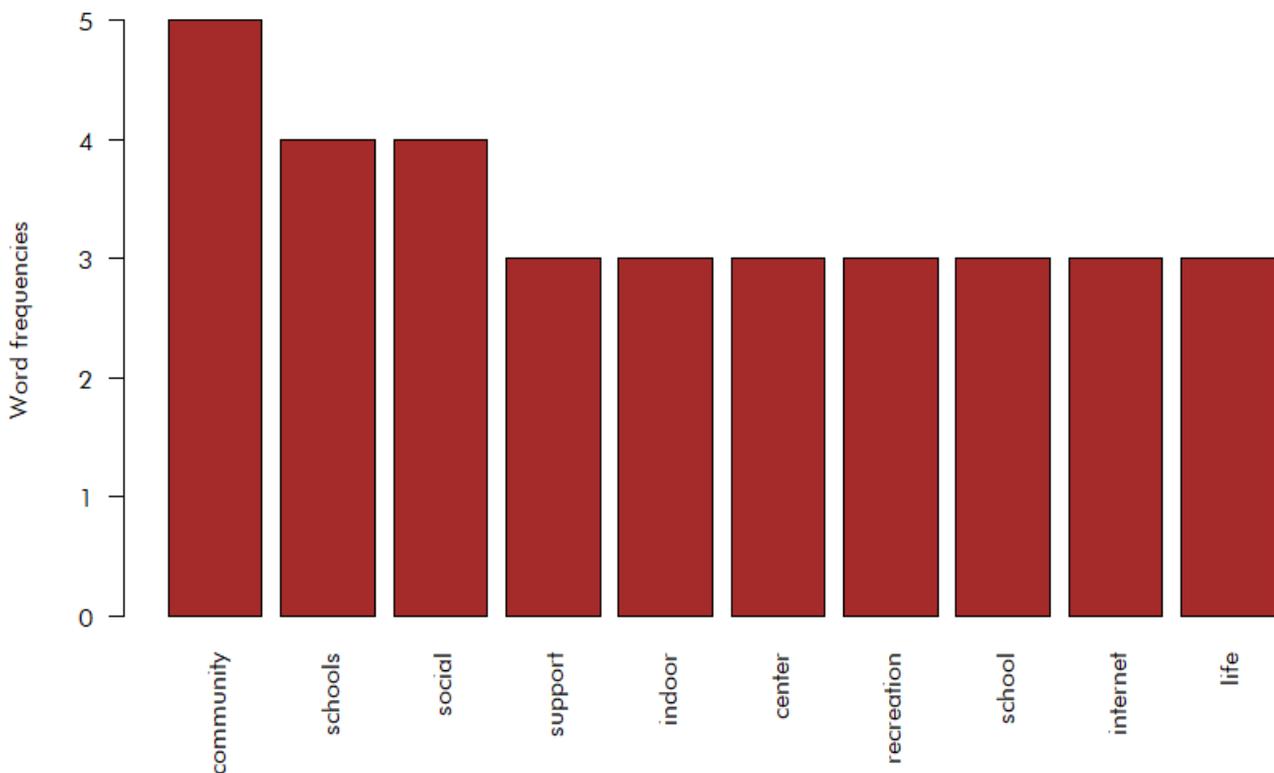
Home safety

WHAT TO IMPROVE?

CHAPTER 7: COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Most frequent words



Retail shopping

Strengthen support for Shenandoah County schools - we will only be as strong as our ability to educate our children

Support rails to trails

Need an indoor pool

Community recreation center

Community center w/ recreation such as indoor pool

Community meeting space

Needs plan for growth - how to preserve rural nature but allows for growth within towns

Modernization of school system - renovation of buildings to promote future needs - consider community elementary schools in Fort Valley and Basye

Business (more pay)

Better Internet

High Speed Internet

Nice places to eat

Good seafood restaurant

Buffalo Wild Wings

More things for young people

Need affordable childcare

Technology has destroyed social life

All social organizations are shrinking

Better healthcare and clinics

Need more social life

Improve use of resources (ie parks)

Improve library services

Community center (like one in Elkton, convert old school)

Equal pay for school use of park

Better Internet (more diversity in providers)

Better cell service

Home food store

Need more restaurants

Need better grocery stores (food desert) and produce!

No more cell towers

Put the rail trail in the plan

More public spaces

Solid waste disposal

Add performing arts venue

Lack of apparent workforce education

Recycle, reduce, reuse

Concerns of digital divide

Mental health improvements, specifically for kids in the schools

Indoor gyms and recreation centers

Long term planning for facilities

Auditorium

Arts investment

Spaces for bands and the arts

Public platform to support kids

Triplett Tech

Expand Triplett Tech so we have more skilled laborers

Expand and invest in Triplett Tech

Better healthcare and clinics

Need more social life

Need lawyers, doctors, electricians, plumbers, butchers

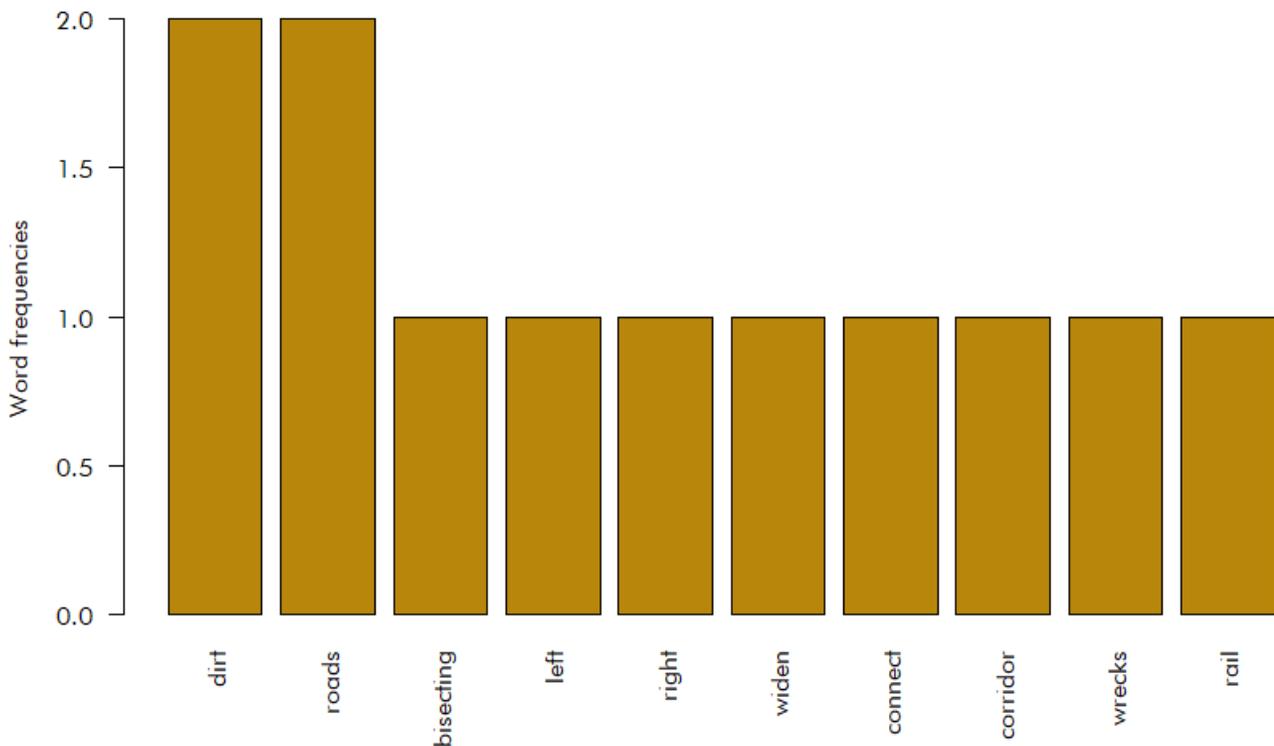
More push to technical schools to promote working at or opening their own business in the County

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

CHAPTER 8: TRANSPORTATION



Most frequent words



I-81 bisecting the county into right and left

Widen I-81

Connect to Corridor H

Wrecks on I-81

Rail transportation

Dirt roads and no sidewalks

Dirt roads

Walking in Town (Strasburg)

Likes when buses stop in middle of street

to protect kids

Like the ShenGO bus

Need ShenGo stops in Mount Jackson

Sidewalks to the dollar store

Secondary roads

Bicyclists (said three times)

Excessive weekend traffic

Traffic

Interstate

Road needs to be widened (Fort Valley road)

Focus on improving I-81

For Fort Valley, no bicyclists

The road through mine mountain should become a State Road

With the new rules of bikers vs cars (distance passing etc) we need to do something about bicyclists on Fort Valley Road

Guard rails on Edinburg gap road the whole way

Bikes on road

Road conditions

Signage for danger of road

Fix I-81

Add rail to trail

Bike lanes

Public transportation

Improve Interstate 81

Entrance to Seven Bends Park

Improve access to the schools

More information on how to use the ShenGO bus

Need pull offs in Fort Valley

Widen Route 42

Referendum for Rail to Trails

Need a plan for the impact the rail trail could pose on the area

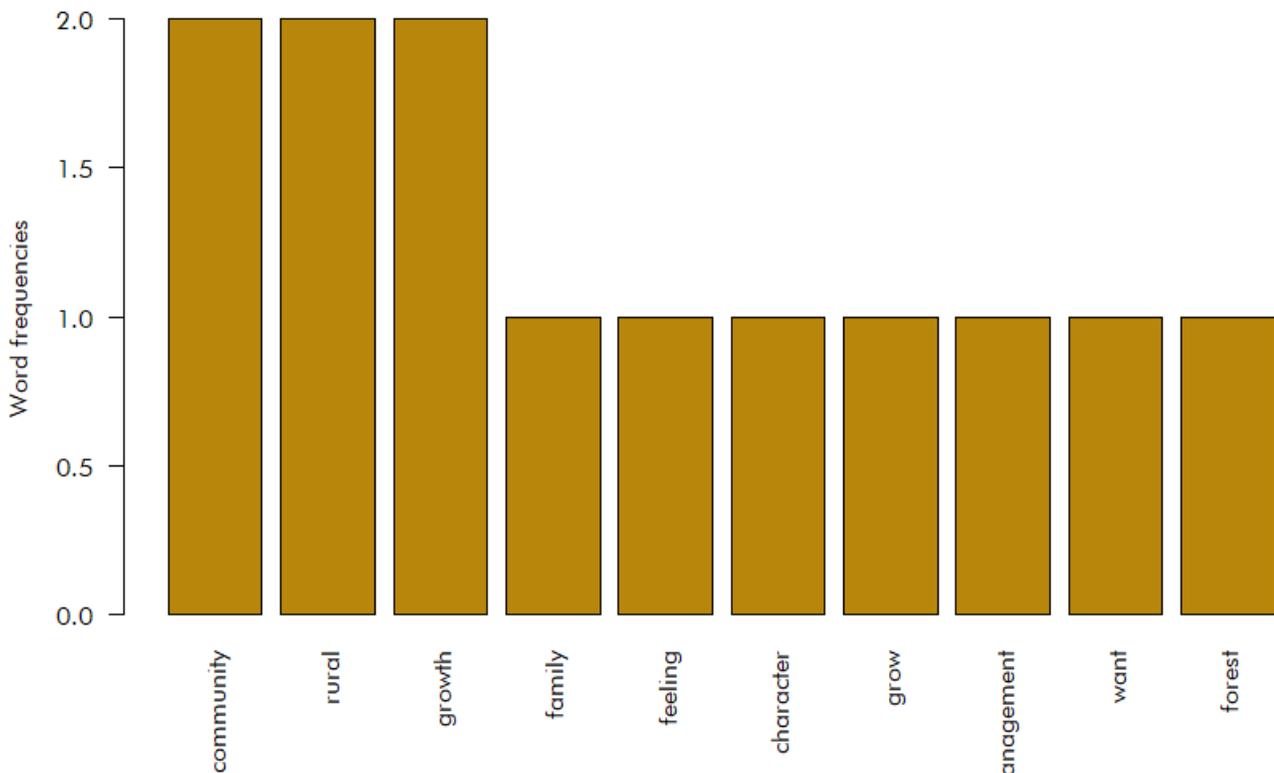
Consider antique train (Cass railroad)

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

CHAPTER 9: GROWTH MANAGEMENT



Most frequent words



Feeling of family

Community

Rural community

Rural character

**Want it to grow but need more growth
management**

Land / Forest / Outdoor

Underdeveloped

**Growth is focused in the urban areas and
Towns**

Close proximity to Washington DC

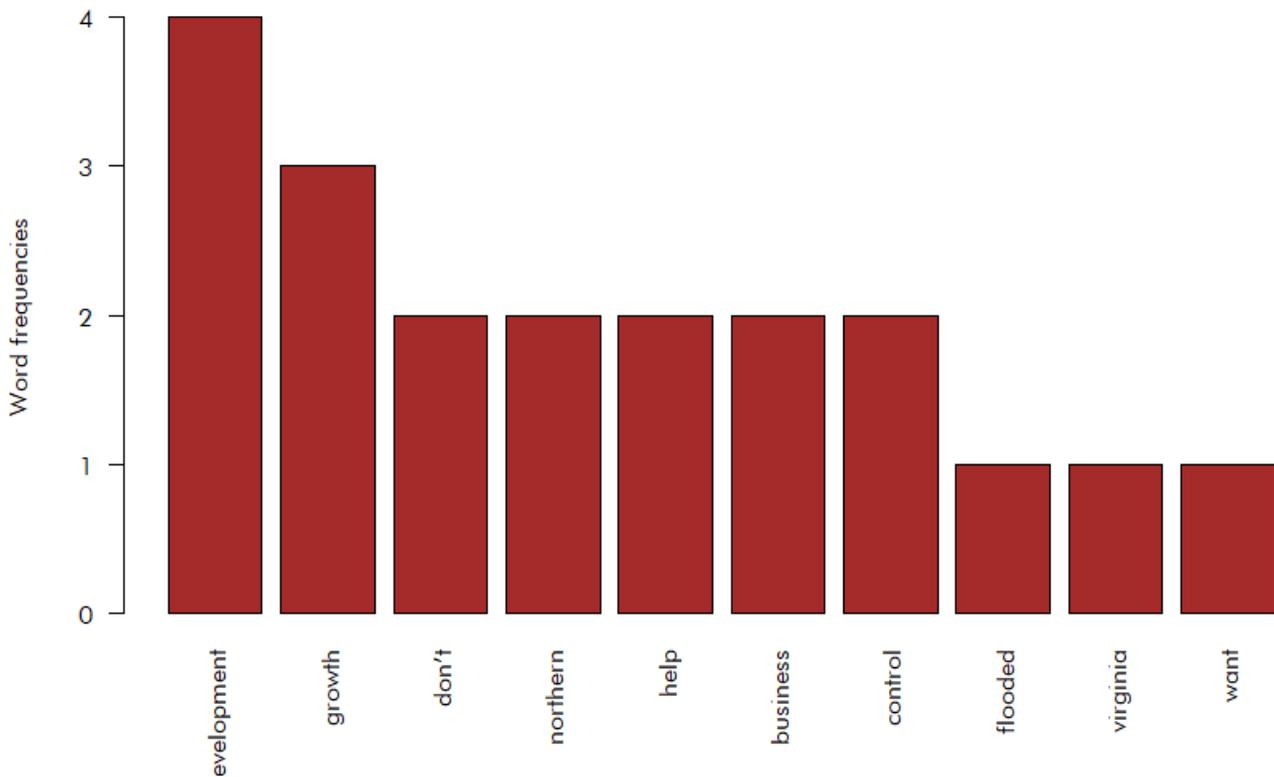
**Need to control development and how
houses are built**

WHAT TO IMPROVE?

CHAPTER 9: GROWTH MANAGEMENT



Most frequent words



Have to have growth but don't want to be flooded like Northern Virginia

Controlled : Planned

Subdivision and strip mall development

Air and water quality

Don't let it become NOVA

Concern about farm land sold

Moved here to help keep Fort Valley rural and agricultural

Reduce sprawl

How to incorporate large business

Over-development

Over-development

Control growth pattern

Need to control development and how houses are built

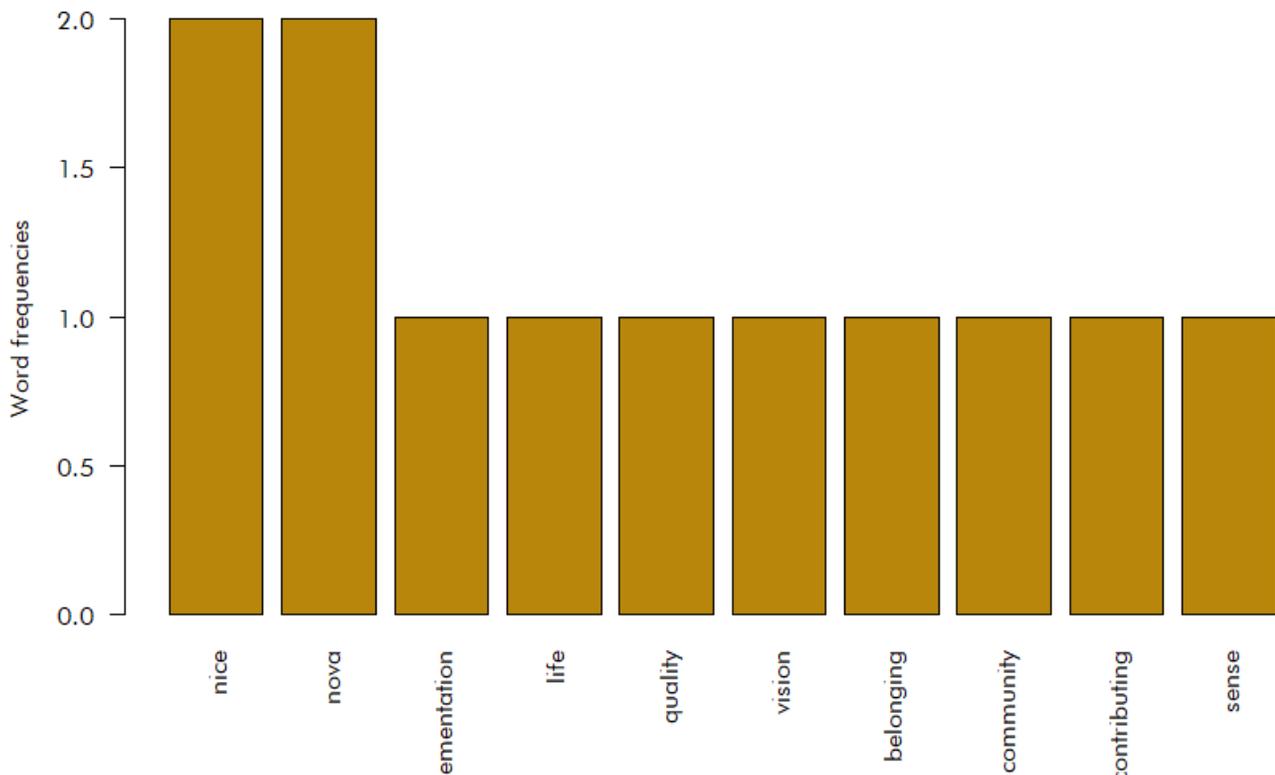
Promote more growth at southern end of County, business and residential (This would help with overcrowding at Central and Northern School Campuses)

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

NEW CHAPTERS AND IDEAS



Most frequent words



Vision = Quality of life vs implementation
Community - sense of belonging and contributing

New Market gap has benefit of view of Page and Shenandoah

Walking trail in Luray is nice

Peace and quiet, privacy

Proximity to DC, NOVA, and Winchester

Unique character that each town has to offer

Nice driving distance to NOVA, 1 hour and 15 minutes to Dulles

Negative = the opposite of belonging

Division

Lack of belonging & disenfranchisement

Home school kids should be allowed to use County resources, they pay the same taxes

Section of plan should be on renewable energy

Comprehensive plan does not mention religion and the role of churches

Expand opportunities at Triplett Tech

Night classes

Walkability

Young people

Trees over Fort Valley Road

Fair week off for school

Why Fort not a Town?

Notice to citizens (a mailer) of this group, I wouldn't have known about this planning committee without word of mouth

Concerns about solar panels

School regulations/environment

Unsustainable rapid growth

Need to have a joint County and Town meeting on Comprehensive Plan

Include diversity equity and inclusion in new plan

Invite and seek out people of color

Invest in new enterprises like electric vehicles

Reopen Strasburg Hotel

More put-in and takeout points are needed on the North Fork

More people to come to these meetings

Need an online method of networking and finding small businesses

Commercial kitchen for start ups

Shared greenhouse / community garden