

**CLARKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE
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Clarke County Planning Commission

AGENDA – Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting

Monday, June 22, 2020 – 11:00AM

Berryville/Clarke County Government Center – Main Meeting Room

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2019 Meeting**
- 3. Discussion Items**
 - a. 5-Year Review Resolution – Recreation Component Plan
 - b. Work Plan for Comprehensive Plan Review Process
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Adjourn**

Clarke County

**PLANNING COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES -- DRAFT
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019**



A meeting of the Planning Commission's Comprehensive Plan Committee was held at the Berryville/Clarke County Government Center, Berryville, Virginia, on Monday, August 19, 2019.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Robina Bouffault, Bob Glover, Doug Kruhm (arrived late), and Pete Maynard

Absent: None

Staff/Others Present: Ryan Fincham (Senior Planner/Zoning Administrator); Len Capelli (Economic Development)

CALLED TO ORDER

Mr. Stidham called the meeting to order at 2:00PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Under "Other Business," Ms. Bouffault asked to add an update on her efforts to get Shentel to extend broadband along Route 723. The Committee approved the agenda by consensus as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee approved the November 2, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

Yes: Bouffault (moved), Glover (seconded)
No: none
Absent: Kruhm
Abstained: Maynard

DISCUSSION, SCOPE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Mr. Stidham stated that last year the Committee began with the first round of conducting five-year reviews of the Comprehensive Plan and implementing component plans. He said that State code requires the Planning Commission to review the Comprehensive Plan and implementing component plans at the five-year anniversary mark of each plan's adoption. He noted that the Commission can choose to initiate an amendment of the plan or to keep the plan as is but the important part is that the Commission has to adopt a resolution to indicate what action they propose to take with each plan. He said the Commission adopted such resolutions for the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan last winter and that the Economic Development Strategic Plan is now up for consideration. He said that at the last meeting, the Committee agreed to have Mr. Capelli – potentially in concert with the

Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) – come up with a scope for a potential update of the Strategic Plan in the form of bulleted items that could be incorporated into a five-year review resolution. Mr. Stidham said that he provided this request to Mr. Capelli and received more information back than was expected. He said Staff received a May 15 packet from Mr. Capelli containing a revised list of priorities and a document that appears to be a revised Economic Development Strategic Plan. He then turned the floor over to Mr. Capelli to discuss the documents. Ms. Bouffault asked if this document had been sent out to everyone for comment and Mr. Capelli replied yes. Mr. Stidham replied that it was sent to him from County Administration in an email stating that this is for formal presentation to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Capelli said that the effort is to reduce the Strategic Plan from 150 pages down to less than 20 pages. He said that he submitted it to Mr. Stidham who said that it needed to have more narrative so they bumped it back up over 20 pages. Ms. Bouffault asked if the Board of Supervisors said that they wanted the size of the Strategic Plan to be reduced. Mr. Capelli replied yes and said that everyone he has talked to said that it should be reduced. He added that he thinks the consultants did a good job but that if they were getting paid by the word, they put a lot of words in there. He added that they are trying to take out a lot of the words that are not important. He said they are trying to focus on what the Strategic Plan is, what we need to do, how we need to go about it, and how we can report on it on a timely basis. He added that he wants to keep a lot of the stuff out of the plan that does not have to do with the transaction of business on a daily basis. He said that he thinks the first document in the packet really has the clear presentation of what we want to do and what is important such as broadband. He said they emphasize that broadband is a focal point of what we want to do. He said that he talked to a number of farmers at the Clarke County Fair who said they would like to expand their business but need broadband in order to do so. He added that across the board it is important to enhance broadband outside of the Town of Berryville. He said this is basically what we have.

Ms. Bouffault said that she wants to go with a whole new system of simplifying the document even more. Mr. Capelli replied that he is in favor of that because they added fluff back in because he was told that the document needed more narrative. Ms. Bouffault said that she has assembled her own version and distributed a copy for review to the Committee. She said that she has reprioritized the revised draft according to what she believes is the County's top priorities. She said she tried to get it as close to one page as possible with a plain and simple narrative and a bulleted list of priorities. She reviewed the narrative and explained how statistical information will be included in an appendix and not in the body of the document. She added that if we do not get fast broadband in this County, we are going to spin our wheels on everything else and she has made this priority number one. She said that broadband has to be built up as an infrastructure that can welcome businesses. She said that Waterloo, Boyce, and all government buildings have ultra-fast broadband and everyone else is left in the lurch. Mr. Capelli said that he agrees with Ms. Bouffault and added that with Amazon coming in, workers working from home will need to have fast broadband. Ms. Bouffault continued by stating that coordination between the County and Town of Berryville is on her priority list because all of the agencies are grouped in the back of the current Strategic Plan and they all need to be integrated better. She said there has to be communication and coordination. She then said that development of websites and outreach information for tourism and economic development are very clearly under the EDAC, Industrial Development Authority (IDA), and public information officer. She also said that establishment of regulations for AirBNBs and similar entities has to go through the entire process of

the Planning Commission, Commissioner of the Revenue, and the Board of Supervisors, noting that Planning Staff is working on this with the Policy Committee. Ms. Bouffault asked Mr. Stidham if this work requires a public hearing and he replied yes for text amendments. She replied that she wants to get this work product on the Commissioner of the Revenue's desk by the end of the year so that she can get it out to AirBNBs for their next season. Mr. Capelli said that once we get a legal change, AirBNB will start collecting taxes. Ms. Bouffault then said that it is the economic developer's charge to coordinate with regional economic development entities. Mr. Capelli added that he agrees with Ms. Bouffault that broadband is the most important thing that the County needs. Ms. Bouffault said that the problem is how to get it and that the Board of Supervisors to date has said they will not commit money to it. She said if we can persuade the Board not to have so many automatic carryovers from year to year, some of that money could be used for broadband expansion. Mr. Capelli said that he has been promoting a food and beverage tax for some time now as a means to help fund broadband.

Mr. Kruhm entered the meeting.

Ms. Bouffault reiterated that she wants to see a Strategic Plan that is slimmed down and that deals realistically with broadband problems. Mr. Stidham asked Ms. Bouffault if she envisions the revised Strategic Plan to be the size of the document that she distributed, and she replied that this is a document she assembled in about three hours to list the priorities in this order but she has not written out the document completely. She said the current Strategic Plan has so many details and so much stuff that you get bogged down in the details, adding that we need to be announcing the general direction we want to get into. Mr. Stidham replied that he was not involved in the assembly of Mr. Capelli's documents but he has heard that the EDAC and IDA want to make the current Strategic Plan smaller. He also noted that Ms. Bouffault's document is even smaller than the current Economic Development Objective #10 in the Comprehensive Plan. He then asked the Committee whether the Strategic Plan should remain as a component of the Comprehensive Plan given the complaints about its size and he added that he did not know if the Strategic Plan is being used. Ms. Bouffault replied that there needs to be a mission statement in the Comprehensive Plan that the EDAC and IDA can agree upon but it also depends on whether everyone can agree on the priorities. She added that the Board of Supervisors have to be encouraged to commit funding to broadband and she sees this Committee and the Planning Commission asking what can be done to entice companies like Shentel to install fiber in the County for us.

Mr. Stidham said that he thinks all of these concerns are important but the Committee's mission today is to figure out the process of updating these plans. He said that we will be working on the Comprehensive Plan update next year when the Ordinance Update project is near completion. He said that before there was an Economic Development Strategic Plan, there was always Objective 10 of the Comprehensive Plan regarding economic development. He noted that we will be updating Objective 10 in conjunction with that effort but this would not preclude the EDAC, IDA, and Board from moving forward on implementing economic development priorities. He added that they do not have to be in the Comprehensive Plan or Strategic Plan in order to be worked on and implemented. He said his recommendation for today was to adopt the five-year review resolution for the Strategic Plan and initiate its review for next year. He added that based on the conversations today, he now wonders whether the Strategic Plan should be uncoupled from the Comprehensive Plan in

conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan update process. Mr. Glover asked what was in place for economic development prior to the 2014 adoption of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Stidham replied that this is the County's first such plan and it was prepared by an outside consultant. Ms. Bouffault said that we are a small community with limited resources and we do have to respect and take advantage of our size. Mr. Maynard said that you create an additional work burden when you create a plan and mandate that it has to be updated, and added that Mr. Stidham said that he did not know if the Strategic Plan is being used. Mr. Maynard also suggested creating a document similar to the Zoning Ordinance Guidance Manual. Mr. Stidham said that the Strategic Plan was created prior to the establishment of Mr. Capelli's position and was intended to be a road map for putting economic development policies into place. He added that if those policies are in place and the Strategic Plan is not getting any further use, consideration should be given to uncoupling it from the Comprehensive Plan so it can be used and updated without the legal burdens of being a component plan. Ms. Bouffault asked whether the updated priority list could be the new Objective #10 in the revised Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Stidham said that we will be looking at all Comprehensive Plan objectives including Objective #10. Mr. Capelli said that he thinks that Ms. Bouffault's document only needs 2-3 more things added to it, and that the resultant document needs to be stated clearly. He said that agribusiness and agritourism needs to be an integral part of the revised Strategic Plan. Regarding Mr. Capelli's draft, Ms. Bouffault asked about the recommendation of performing surveys and what the purpose of such surveys would be. Mr. Capelli gave an example of using surveys to determine what kind of technical support could be brought in to help local businesses such as marketing and small business loans.

Ms. Bouffault asked about alternative energy as a priority in Mr. Capelli's draft and noted that the interest in solar farms may be waning with the price of gas going down and government incentives going away. She said that you may want to keep it on the list but it may not be a realistic priority in the future. Mr. Maynard said that he would not be supportive of wind farms and does not think that it is an appropriate use for the County. Mr. Stidham replied that this is the double-edged sword of having a Strategic Plan that is part of the Comprehensive Plan, as language could be interpreted to encourage a use or activity that the County does not want to come here or is incompatible. Mr. Kruhm said that he did not think the County is suited for wind farms.

Ms. Bouffault said that Mr. Stidham's idea of separating the Strategic Plan from the Comprehensive Plan is a good one. Mr. Stidham said that one other thing to think about is the County is bringing in a new county administrator by the end of the year and does the Committee want to factor in that person's vision for economic development. Ms. Bouffault said no and Mr. Maynard said that we want to form that person's opinion of economic development rather than factor it in. Mr. Capelli said that the Strategic Plan is open enough so that a new county administrator can steer it. Ms. Bouffault asked if Mr. Capelli would like to work with her on revising the draft for discussion at the Committee's next meeting. Mr. Stidham said that he was hoping to have the Committee recommend a draft five-year review resolution today for the full Commission to review in September and adopt by October at the latest. He referenced the draft resolution included in the packet. Mr. Capelli asked if this is to meet the legal requirements and Mr. Stidham replied yes. Ms. Bouffault said that the five-year period in this County is very fluid and Mr. Stidham replied that he has shepherded all of the plans through the update process and they are all now on five-year review schedules. He added that all he is looking for today is approval of a resolution to initiate the five-year review of the Strategic

Plan. Ms. Bouffault said that she does not think a resolution is needed at this time and that the Committee needs to work on the revised Strategic Plan and present it to the full Commission. She added that we are here to work on the revised Strategic Plan and Mr. Stidham replied that the Committee is here to work on the five-year review resolution. He added that review of the Strategic Plan is not on the Commission's work plan right now and that this is going to be a 2020 project. Ms. Bouffault said that the draft resolution knocks the Committee out of the process which is not very smart, and it basically says the review of the Strategic Plan is being started when we thought we are already way past that because we passed it off specifically to the EDAC and IDA. Mr. Stidham said that we did not delegate the Strategic Plan work. He said that after the Committee's last meeting, he discussed with Mr. Capelli the need to provide a scope for the five-year review resolution that would be brought back to the Committee at this time of the year. He added that the EDAC's and IDA's work was done on their own and was not what he had requested. Ms. Bouffault replied that this is not what she remembered and Mr. Stidham replied that he did not ask those committees to start work on anything. Mr. Capelli said that he remembers meeting with Mr. Stidham in his office and telling him that he would like to reduce the current Strategic Plan by about 120 pages, adding that Mr. Stidham said that this would be a great thing. Mr. Stidham replied that he also said that all he needed right now was a scope for the update. Mr. Glover asked for clarification on what the Economic Development Strategic Plan is. Mr. Stidham replied that it is a component plan of the Comprehensive Plan and pointed out the document to Mr. Glover.

Ms. Bouffault quoted the November 2, 2018 meeting minutes which say, "Mr. Stidham noted that the Economic Development Strategic Plan resolution does not contain any scope items yet as the task of reviewing this plan is to be delegated to the Economic Development Advisory Committee." Mr. Stidham replied that this is for the scope items. Ms. Bouffault replied what do you think the Committees have done if they aren't giving you the scope. Mr. Stidham replied that they have basically revised the Strategic Plan. Ms. Bouffault asked can we not take their recommendation and do whatever we want with it. Mr. Stidham replied yes but that he does not have time to work on it. Ms. Bouffault said that she can work on it with Mr. Capelli so Mr. Stidham will not have to do so. Mr. Stidham asked what we are going to do by October because a resolution has to be adopted. Ms. Bouffault said that she will work with Mr. Capelli and bring it to the Commission Work Session on September 3. Mr. Stidham asked if she meant that she is bringing a resolution and Ms. Bouffault replied that they will bring a scope with which everyone will be able to agree. Mr. Stidham asked for clarification that this scope would be plugged into the resolution that is in the meeting packet. He also said that the only thing that is on a deadline is the five-year review resolution and that we can spend as much time as we want to working on the Strategic Plan. Ms. Bouffault said that she will provide a scope and that Mr. Stidham can uncouple the Strategic Plan from the Comprehensive Plan five-year review, then they can work on the Strategic Plan update along with the other projects. Mr. Stidham said that is basically what the draft resolution says without providing a scope of the review and Ms. Bouffault said that she disagrees. He then read the action items to the Committee from the draft resolution. Ms. Bouffault asked why a resolution is necessary that would start the work all over again when you have the work product already done. Mr. Stidham said that it would not cause the work to be started all over again as the resolution is being done to comply with the five-year review requirement. Ms. Bouffault said that they have spent months and months on the work product that has been provided. Mr. Stidham said that the problem is that this work was never delegated to anyone to be developed but now we have it and what are we going to do with it. He added that he is

really confused as to how all of this work got done without coming back through this process first. Ms. Bouffault quoted the November 2 minutes again and Mr. Capelli replied that he thinks it is pretty clear. Mr. Capelli then said that what Mr. Stidham had expressed has been misinterpreted by a whole lot of people. Ms. Bouffault said that she could support a resolution that establishes the Strategic Plan as “economic development guidelines” that uncouples it from the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Stidham said that in order to separate it from the Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Plan needs to be amended first to state this. He added that a resolution will not accomplish this because the Strategic Plan is a part of the Comprehensive Plan, and Ms. Bouffault disagreed. He added that Public Hearings are required in order to make this change. He equated this to repealing the Berryville Area Plan or the Agricultural Land Plan. Ms. Bouffault said that we should uncouple it first then and draft the resolution accordingly.

Mr. Glover said that he understands that a five-year review resolution must be adopted and asked whether the resolution can say these concerns will be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan review process without stating a specific path. Mr. Stidham replied that he could make the end of the resolution way more open by saying that the Strategic Plan review will be folded into the Comprehensive Plan review process. Mr. Glover said that this should satisfy what Staff wants to accomplish. Mr. Stidham said that this moves all of these issues to the Comprehensive Plan process which is where we want it to be addressed. Ms. Bouffault said that Staff will need to send out an updated resolution for the Committee’s review. Mr. Glover said that Ms. Bouffault and Mr. Capelli can continue working on the Strategic Plan in the meantime. Mr. Stidham said that none of the issues addressed today are inconsistent with the current Comprehensive Plan, and he added that he did not see any reason why work could not begin immediately on these revised priorities instead of waiting for the Comprehensive Plan update to be completed. Ms. Bouffault said that she wants this work to be completed soon so the Commission can start working on the issue of incentives.

Ms. Bouffault then provided an update on her work with Shentel. She said a Shentel representative advised that they do direct mail solicitation to businesses in Waterloo regarding broadband access.

Mr. Stidham said that he will send out a revised resolution to the members and if he hears no objections, he will take it to the Commission in September. If members have concerns, he said he would schedule another meeting. Ms. Bouffault said that she will work with Mr. Capelli and bring it to the Commission’s work session or, if possible, send it out before the work session. Mr. Stidham asked Ms. Bouffault if she did or did not want a scope in the resolution and she replied that she wants to include a scope. Mr. Stidham asked Ms. Bouffault to send him the scope that she wants and he will add to the revised draft resolution and send out to the Committee members, then they can decide if another meeting is necessary.

Mr. Kruhm said regarding prioritizing broadband, he supports coordinating this with the Board and the new county administrator. He added that we need to be very specific with the new county administrator about a minimum accepted standard of what we want for broadband. Mr. Glover said that much of what is being described in broadband in the County does not meet the Federal broadband standard. Ms. Bouffault said that we need to determine what methods could realistically be successful in bringing broadband at the Federal standard. She also said that we will need to determine what we will ask the Board to provide as incentives to make this happen. Mr. Stidham

suggested considering the sanitary district model as a means of collecting funds for targeted broadband expansion. He noted that this is how Warren County pays to maintain the roads in its mountain communities. He asked whether people would want broadband bad enough to pay for it in this fashion and wait until enough money was collected to build it. Ms. Bouffault said that she thinks this would be a hard sell. Members then concluded with general discussion about broadband issues.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:03PM.

Brandon Stidham, Planning Director



Clarke County Planning Department

101 Chalmers Court, Suite B

Berryville, Virginia 22611

(540) 955-5132

www.clarkecounty.gov

TO: Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan Committee

FROM: Alison Teetor

DATE: May 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Recreation Component Plan 5 year update

The Recreation Component Plan requires a five year review in accordance with Code of Virginia §15.2-2230. The Recreation Plan was originally adopted August 18, 2015. Staff reviewed the current Plan and also requested a review from Jon Turkel who was the Planning Commission liason to the Recreation Plan sub-committee during the development of the original plan.

The primary goals of the Plan are:

- 1) Meet the recreation needs of the community
- 2) Increase awareness of all recreational activities
- 3) Assist in maximizing the recreation value of existing assets
- 4) Promote connectivity among the County's active and passive recreation resources
- 5) Update the Recreation Plan on a 5 year cycle

Based on the review staff recommends no changes to the current plan. The goals and suggested implementation steps outlined in the plan continue to accurately reflect the current recreational environment.

Accomplishments based on the Plan include installation of an educational Hawk Watch sign at Snickers Gap, expansion of existing parking for access to the Appalachian Trail, and educational outreach promoting the Counties recreational resources. Additional ongoing projects include developing partnerships for the Janet Kohn Memorial Park property (Kohn property).

DRAFT FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW 6-22-2020

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE 2015 CLARKE COUNTY RECREATION COMPONENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the 2015 Clarke County Recreation Component Plan was adopted on August 18, 2015, and

WHEREAS, Code of Virginia §15.2-2230 requires that at least once every five years, a locality's planning commission shall review the comprehensive plan "to determine whether it is advisable to amend the plan," and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Component Plan is an implementing component plan of the 2013 Clarke County Comprehensive Plan,

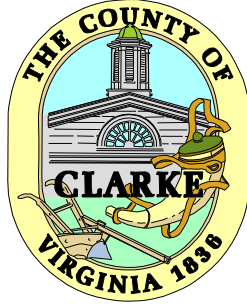
AND WHEREAS, August 18, 2015 will mark the five-year anniversary of the Recreation Component Plan's adoption date.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clarke County Planning Commission has determined that it is not necessary to conduct a review and update of the 2015 Clarke County Recreation Component Plan at this time as the Plan's goals and suggested implementation steps continue to accurately reflect the current recreational environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will schedule the next five-year review of the Recreation Component Plan to be completed by July 10, 2025.

Adopted this 10th day of July, 2020.

George L. Ohrstrom, II, Chair



Recreation Component Plan For Clarke County, Virginia

An Implementing Component of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan



Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on August 18, 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CLARKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

George L. Ohrstrom, II, Chair (Russell Election District)
Anne Caldwell, Vice Chair (Millwood Election District)
Frank Lee (Berryville Election District)
Gwendolyn C. Malone (Berryville Election District)
Scott Kreider (Buckmarsh Election District)
Douglas Kruhm (Buckmarsh Election District)
Jon Turkel (Millwood Election District)
Cliff Nelson (Russell Election District)
Robina Bouffault (White Post Election District)
Randy Buckley (White Post Election District)
John Staelin (Board of Supervisors representative)

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

David Weiss, Chair (Buckmarsh Election District)
Beverly B. McKay, Vice Chair (White Post Election District)
J. Michael Hobert, Chair (Berryville Election District)
John Staelin (Millwood Election District)
Barbara Byrd (Russell Election District)

RECREATION PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

Daniel Sheetz, Chair Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Lee Sheaffer, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Pete Engel, Conservation Easement Authority
Tom McFillen, Citizen
Jon Turkel, Planning Commission
Lisa Cooke, Director, Clarke County Parks & Recreation
Christy Dunkle, Town of Berryville Staff

CLARKE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Brandon Stidham, Planning Director
Ryan Fincham, Zoning Administrator
Alison Teetor, Natural Resource Planner
Debbie Bean, Administrative Assistant

Clarke County Planning Department
101 Chalmers Court, Suite B
Berryville, VA 22611
540-955-5132

**Recreation Component Plan
For Clarke County, Virginia**

An Implementing Component of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on August 18, 2015

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RECREATION COMPONENT PLAN

I. Executive Summary

Clarke County has numerous natural resources, indoor, and outdoor recreational opportunities. The purpose of this plan is to address the recreational needs of the community and describe existing resources, how they will be protected and promoted, and the steps that should be taken to insure the continued viability and enhancement of these resources for present and future generations.

This plan establishes specific functional strategies and recommendations to protect, promote, grow and enhance the County's active and passive recreational resources. This plan will place particular emphasis on passive recreation opportunities as active recreation needs are primarily addressed by the Parks and Recreation Department at Chet Hobert Park.

The Planning Commission appointed a subcommittee consisting of Jon Turkel (Planning Commission liaison), Pete Engel (citizen), Daniel Sheetz (Chair Parks and Recreation Board), Lee Sheaffer (citizen), Tom McFillen (citizen); and staff persons Alison Teetor (Natural Resources Planner), Lisa Cooke (Parks & Recreation Director), Brandon Stidham (Planning Director) and Christy Dunkle (Berryville Assistant Town Manager). The subcommittee met monthly to prepare the draft plan for approval by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. In addition to the Plan, a map (Map 1) detailing the recreation resources and an inventory list were developed.

II. Summary of Plan Goals

The Recreation Component Plan identifies the following overarching goals:

- 1) Meet the recreation needs of the community
- 2) Increase awareness of all recreational activities
- 3) Assist in maximizing the recreation value of existing assets
- 4) Promote connectivity among the County's active and passive recreation resources
- 5) Update the Recreation Plan on a 5 year cycle

III. Strategies to meet Goals

The following specific strategies are recommended in order to implement the Plan Goals:

1) Meet recreation needs of the community

- a. **Conduct formal Needs Assessment.** Under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department a community needs assessment should be undertaken that incorporates all components of community, including both users and non-users of county Parks and Recreation programs and amenities. The needs assessment should accomplish the following:
 - i. Identify demand levels of existing facilities and programs
 - ii. Identify demand for new or expanded facilities and programs
 - iii. Evaluate the County's ability to meet this demand over a ten year period
 - iv. Establish level of service needs based on above data
- b. **Evaluate the County's recreation needs on a regular basis.** This Recreation Plan should be evaluated every 5 years or as new needs are identified and prioritized for consideration. County facility needs should be evaluated annually by the Parks & Recreation Board in conjunction with the annual budget process.
- c. **Make changes to the Park Master Plan to meet new needs.** The Parks & Recreation Board shall continue its efforts to maintain an updated master plan of County park facilities, and shall strive to communicate any new or changing needs in a timely fashion to the Board of Supervisors. The County shall support the efforts of the Parks & Recreation Board to update the Park Master Plan.
- d. **Program capital improvements based on need/level of service and incorporate in the annual capital improvement program (CIP) process.** In conjunction with updating the park master plan, the Parks & Recreation Board shall use level of service criteria to help justify the need for future new or expanded facilities. The Board of Supervisors shall utilize the criteria to include future park projects into the CIP process in an effort to implement master plan recommendations in a fiscally-responsible manner.
- e. **Develop master plan for the Janet Kohn Memorial Park property (Kohn property).** The Parks & Recreation Board shall work to develop a new master plan for the future development of the Kohn property as a County passive recreation facility. The master plan shall identify initial amenities to meet the current needs of County residents, potential funding sources, and future improvements based on level of service criteria. The County shall support the efforts of the Parks & Recreation Board to create this new master plan.

- f. Encourage partnerships to expand active and passive recreational opportunities.** As an ongoing effort, the County shall seek opportunities to partner with public and private sector agencies and organizations in an effort to implement the recommendations of this Component Plan and the Parks & Recreation Board's master plans. Such opportunities may include co-sponsorship of recreation programs, recreation-related events, or partnering in the development of a new or expansion of an existing recreation facility.

- g. Enhance role of Parks and Recreation Board.** The Board serves as the advisory body to the Clarke County Board of Supervisors. As the liaison among the Parks and Recreation Director, the Board of Supervisors and the citizens of the community, they are tasked with consulting and advising the County Administrator, the Parks and Recreation Director and the Board of Supervisors in matters affecting recreation policies, programs, personnel, finances, and the acquisition and disposal of lands and properties related to the total community recreation program and to its long-range, projected program for recreation. The Board's role can be enhanced by empowering them to implement Park Master Plan recommendations as supported by data developed via needs assessments and community surveys. This will help to insure that the Board can address actual needs and avoid pressures from special interests.

2) Increase awareness of all recreational activities

- a. Provide updated website.** The County shall continue to maintain an updated website to support and promote recreational facilities, activities, and opportunities within the County. The County shall pursue partnerships with public and private-sector owners of recreational facilities to ensure that the website is current, user friendly, and contains reciprocal webpage links.

- b. Pursue partnerships with non-county and private recreation facilities to coordinate awareness of recreational opportunities in the County.** The County shall utilize partnerships with public and private-sector recreation facility owners to share and coordinate awareness of all recreation opportunities available in the County. Such collaboration could include coordination of recreation events or programs as well as creation of new or expanded programs and opportunities.

3) Assist in maximizing the recreation value of existing assets

- a. Support the development of Chet Hobert Park in accordance with the Park Master Plan.** Chet Hobert Park serves as the County's primary indoor and outdoor active and passive recreational asset. Centrally located adjacent to the Town of Berryville, the Park is ideally located to serve the daily recreational needs of the County's residents. The Park property also contains an undeveloped area for future expansion consistent with the park master plan. The County shall

continue to develop the Park according to the Park Master Plan and shall explore partnerships with public and private-sector entities to enhance and expand programming opportunities.

b. Facilitate more effective public use of the Shenandoah River while simultaneously protecting it as a critical natural and environmental resource.

The Shenandoah River is a national treasure that attracts thousands of visitors annually for fishing, kayaking, boating, or simply enjoying its natural beauty. Promoting use of this unique recreational resource must be balanced with the critical need to protect it from pollution, erosion, and corruption of its scenic value.

The County shall explore opportunities with State and Federal agencies and private landowners to improve public access, parking, and amenities. Such improvements, however, should ensure that the integrity of the River is not compromised and that the rights of landowners along the River are not unreasonably affected. An additional consideration is the impact of increased traffic on secondary roads and the neighbors living along those roads. The County shall continue to maintain land use controls to protect the River and should explore adoption of new controls to further protect this asset.

Partnerships with other public and private entities can also be sought to promote and to protect the River. Efforts should be undertaken to better identify the specific roles that the County may take in this endeavor and to address specific challenges that may be faced.

c. Facilitate more effective public use of the Appalachian Trail while simultaneously protecting it as a critical resource.

The Appalachian Trail (A.T.) is a world-renowned recreational resource that is enjoyed by thousands of hikers, camping enthusiasts and outdoor lovers annually. Promotion of the A.T. must include protecting it from corruption of its scenic and recreational value.

The County shall explore opportunities with State and Federal agencies and private landowners to improve public access, parking, and amenities. Such improvements, however, should ensure that the integrity of the A.T. is not compromised and that the rights of landowners along the A.T. are not unreasonably affected. As with River access, consideration should also be given to the potential impact of increased traffic on secondary roads. The County shall continue to maintain land use controls to protect the A.T. and should explore adoption of new controls to further protect this asset. Partnerships with other public and private entities can also be sought to promote and protect the A.T. Efforts should be undertaken to better identify the specific roles that the County may take in this endeavor and to address specific challenges that may be faced. The Town of Berryville and Clarke County were accepted as an Appalachian Trail Community in 2014. This designation recognizes communities that promote

and protect the A.T. In addition, the County should continue to pursue acquiring conservation easements along the A.T. corridor as a preservation measure.

- d. Facilitate more effective public use of the Bear’s Den Hostel and property while simultaneously protecting it as a critical resource.** The County should also explore partnership efforts with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club to promote awareness of Bear’s Den as a related recreational asset. Bear’s Den is a well-known scenic location along the Appalachian Trail containing the only formal lodging and camping facilities along the County’s section of the A.T. as well as providing public access points, scenic view access, internal trail network, programming and events for day users as well as through hikers. Such partnership efforts could include coordination of events and promotion as well as exploring ways to protect the resource and expand its amenities.
- e. Support the efforts of Shenandoah University to develop and maintain its River Campus as conservation, educational, and passive recreation resource.** Shenandoah University received the former Virginia National Golf Course property along the Shenandoah River in 2013 as a gift from the Civil War Trust with the goal of developing the property as a satellite campus for historic, conservation and environmental education. In furtherance of this goal, the University has opened the campus to the public for passive recreation opportunities during daylight hours. The County should work with the University in furtherance of these goals and should seek opportunities to promote the Campus as a passive recreation facility. The County should also consider support of ongoing improvements proposed by the University provided they are context-sensitive and do not compromise the aforementioned goals.
- f. Support the efforts of the University of Virginia to maintain Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia (“Blandy”) as a conservation, educational, and passive recreation resource.** Blandy is operated by the University of Virginia as an educational and research facility with a goal of increasing public outreach and awareness of environmental issues and the natural world. The Farm is open to the public and is used by many as a passive recreational facility for walking, jogging, or simply enjoying the unique environment that the University has created. The County should work with the University in any available capacities to help further the stated goals of the Farm and to promote it as a passive recreation facility. The County should also consider support of any future improvements that are consistent with the aforementioned goals, and should continue to support the Farm’s existing mission.
- g. Support the efforts of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and The Clermont Foundation to develop and maintain Clermont Farm as conservation, educational and passive recreation resource.** Clermont Farm, a working 360-acre farm just east of Berryville, was surveyed by George

Washington in 1750 and has mid-18th, 19th, and 20th century buildings and important archaeological sites. The bequest of the site to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the creation of The Clermont Foundation (a non-profit with a local board of trustees) were gifts of Elizabeth Rust Williams, a local lawyer and judge whose family had owned Clermont for 185 years. The bequest at her death in 2004 was intended to benefit not only all citizens of the Commonwealth, but specifically also citizens of Clarke County. Clermont is now a research and training site in history, historic preservation and agriculture, with partnerships with Virginia Tech in agriculture and James Madison University in archaeology, and with the Clarke County Public Schools in agricultural education. Clermont is currently open by appointment to researchers, teachers, and students. It is open to the public only for specific scheduled events, such as the annual Clermont Farm Day. The County should consider support of future improvements which might extend use of the farm for passive recreational and educational (historic and agricultural) opportunities which would benefit local citizens as well as draw heritage and agro-tourism. The County should also consider support of any future improvements that are consistent with the Department's and Foundation's existing mission for the farm, with the County's Economic Development Plan, and with the goals of the Clarke County Historic Preservation Commission.

h. Promote the development, maintenance, and promotion of Driving Tours.

Driving tours are an effective way to raise residents and visitors awareness of the County's active and passive recreational resources and to promote their ongoing use. These tours can also help promote linkages among recreational, historic, and tourism assets. The County's scenic byway designations and State Birding and Wildlife Trail designations also serve as attractors to County recreational assets.

The County's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has developed a series of driving tour maps that are centered around the County's current historic districts. The County should promote driving tours using these maps as well as electronic media and the County website. Owners/operators of public and private recreational facilities should be made aware of driving tours and their benefits of increasing usage and visitation.

- i. Coordinate cross-promotion of adjacent recreational assets.** The County should consider establishing partnerships with adjacent or nearby recreational resources for co-promotion and public awareness. Building a solid network of public and private recreational assets within the County is critical, but including related facilities adjacent or close to the County's borders will make citizens and visitors more aware of the wealth of resources available to them. This would ultimately help increase tourism and potentially decrease demand for the County to provide new or similar amenities.

Publically accessible facilities immediately adjacent to the County borders include Sky Meadows State Park (Fauquier County) and Lake Frederick (Frederick County). Other regional facilities are listed in Appendix B.

- j. Work with Public Schools to insure public understanding of policies in place for use of school facilities for passive outdoor recreation.** All public school facilities have large expanses of open land that are informally used for passive recreation by nearby residents. Other facilities that are routinely used are the track at Johnson Williams Middle School, and playground facilities at Berryville Primary, Boyce Elementary and Cooley Elementary Schools. Working with public school administration to insure public understanding of policies in place for use of school facilities may strengthen the access for the public and reduce safety concerns for the school system.

4) Promote connectivity among the County's active and passive recreation resources

- a. Support the use of the 2014 Town of Berryville and Clarke County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and implementation of its recommendations.** In September 2014, the Board of Supervisors accepted the 2014 Town of Berryville and Clarke County Bicycle & Pedestrian for use as a guidance document by the Planning Commission in updating the Comprehensive Plan and relevant implementing component plans. This Plan was developed by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission in a cooperative effort with the Town and County. The Plan provides recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian enhancements to better serve transportation, recreation, and economic development objectives.

The Plan's recommendations should be evaluated in developing any bicycling-related strategies in this Recreation Plan.

- b. Develop and promote hiking, biking, and vehicular connectivity among active and passive resources.** As noted in some of the previous strategies, helping citizens and visitors connect the County's active and passive resources is an important strategy. Connectivity helps to build a County-wide recreational network in lieu of separate recreational assets accessible only by motor vehicle. Connectivity also promotes awareness of all recreational assets which boosts tourism and potentially reduces urgent demand for new or expanded County recreational resources.

Connectivity should be promoted through asset awareness such as cross-promotion of facilities via electronic media. Physical connectivity options should also be evaluated including shuttle service for Appalachian Trail hikers to reach retail and dining options in the Town of Berryville, and for boaters and floaters on the Shenandoah River to reach put-in sites. Multi-modal connectivity should be promoted for bicycling using the recommendations of the Bicycle & Pedestrian

Plan, hiking via awareness and promotion of trails, and vehicular transportation via driving tours.

5) Update Recreation Plan on a 5-year cycle

In order to ensure that this component plan is kept up to date, it should be evaluated for changes at a minimum on a 5-year cycle. This will enable careful evaluation of the Plan's recommendations against current demographics and the County's fiscal condition.

IV. Resource Inventory

The Plan is divided into two main components, (1) active and (2) passive recreation, a secondary component describes facilities immediately adjacent to and accessed from Clarke County but not in the County. As defined, active recreation involves organized activities that require infrastructure such as playgrounds and ballfields. Passive recreation or "low intensity recreation" is that which emphasizes the open-space aspect of a park and allows for the preservation of natural habitat. It usually involves a low level of development, such as rustic picnic areas, benches and trails. Special use is categorization that includes nature centers, golf courses, historic sites, and linear features such as bike paths. In addition sub categories describing the availability of facilities includes full access, limited access, and restricted access. Each resource is described in Table 1. A complete list of website links is detailed in Appendix A.

1) Active Recreation

The Clarke County Parks and Recreation Department offers a host of recreational activities and programs for all ages. The Department manages the 102 acre Chet Hobert Park, which houses an outdoor swimming pool, lighted outdoor tennis courts, 6 ball fields, numerous soccer fields, a Recreation Center, 4 picnic shelters, 2 playgrounds and a fitness trail. (full public access)

The Clarke County Public Schools also have a number of active recreation facilities including a football/soccer stadium, baseball/softball fields, track, playgrounds, and indoor/outdoor basketball (limited access).

The Town of Berryville owns and maintains the three-acre Rose Hill Park in the heart of downtown Berryville. Rose Hill Park provides a great place for families to relax and enjoy a peaceful outing. Park facilities include a playground designed for our younger citizens, basketball courts, and a gazebo.

2) Passive Recreation

Clarke County has an abundance of passive recreational activities available. Resources include the Shenandoah River, which is a state designated scenic river throughout its 22 mile length in Clarke County. Public access to the river is maintained by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) at 3 boat landings. The boat landings are located at the Route 50 bridge, Lockes Landing off of Route 621, and the Route 7 bridge. Additional private access is located on private property or maintained by home owners associations such as River Park, Shenandoah Farms, and Calmes Neck. The Shenandoah River follows along the foot of the Blue

Ridge Mountains and provides both great scenic views and an up close experience with nature. The American Bald Eagle, Blue Herons, Deer, Red Tail Hawks and Osprey are just a few examples of wildlife found in this special landscape. Kayaking, canoeing, tubing, fishing and camping are all part of the experience. There are also fish weirs constructed by native American Indians that extend from shore to shore can still be clearly seen in several parts of the river today, nearly 400 years later. Canoe, kayaks and tubes can be rented at Watermelon Park campground (private) and other private facilities

The Appalachian Trail crosses through the entirety of Clarke County from north to south. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy states, “This is one of the best places on the Appalachian Trail for spring break hikes.” Primitive shelters can be found along the trail for overnight stays. More formal lodging may be found at the Bear’s Den Hostel located in an old stone house with castle like features and magnificent views of the Shenandoah Valley (full public access). In addition to the Hostel, the Bear’s Den property offers picnicking, primitive camping, and a nature trail.

The Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum of Virginia (Blandy) is located on Route 50 in Clarke County and provides passive recreation and educational. The primary purpose of Blandy is to increase understanding of the natural environment through research and education. Blandy exists to promote this understanding through education and research on plants, plant biology, ecology, evolution, the environmental sciences, and the manner in which all of these are used and affected by humans. The three principal programs designed to achieve this mission include: 1) University research and education; 2) Outreach and environmental education; and 3) The Orland E. White Arboretum (also known as the State Arboretum of Virginia). Walking and horseback trails are open to the public (full public access).

The Shenandoah University River Campus was established in 2013 on the site of the former Virginia National Golf Course. The property is located north of Route 7 and has nearly 2 miles of frontage on the Shenandoah River. In 2012, the Civil War Trust acquired the 195-acre property as it played a crucial role in the July 18, 1864, Battle of Cool Spring. Once purchased, the Trust placed it in permanent Conservation Easement with the Department of Historic Resources before gifting it to the University. This property is similar to Blandy in that it is open to the public but used by the University as an experiential learning campus for academic programs in the fields of outdoor leadership and education, environmental studies and history. The property has a paved shared use trail open to walkers and bicycles with interpretive signage highlighting the historic and natural resources. This facility is currently under development and it is anticipated that future plans will include additional passive recreational opportunities (full public access).

A currently undeveloped site that was gifted to the County is the Kohn property located on the mountain off Ebenezer Rd. This property consists of 50 acres that was placed in Conservation Easement with the County by the owner. The deed of easement specifies the intended use for environmental education, passive recreation, and bird/wildlife watching. As a county facility, the Parks and Recreation Department and Advisory Board is tasked with developing a master plan for this facility.

3) Special Use

A. Long Branch Plantation The mission of Long Branch Plantation is to preserve,

maintain, and interpret the site, the house, the grounds, and the story of life in rural Virginia in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the community and the general public.

Long Branch is working to become the most accessible, engaging and cutting-edge historic home in America. We are working tirelessly to bring history alive in order to add value to the lives of our neighbors, near and far. At Long Branch Plantation we refuse to barricade our history – it is open to all ages and will become 100% hands-on. Our house and farm is where visitors come to engage in history in a meaningful way.

In addition to the preservation of our 200-year-old historic home, we oversee a farm of nearly 400 pristine, permanently preserved acres. Long Branch Plantation's herd of retired horses is an important aspect of our overall operation and adds life, excitement and beauty to the farm which they call home. They are a living, vibrant reminder of our equine heritage. Our farm is an integral part of our story and is host to a wide variety of community events that celebrate the history, heritage, and lifestyle of Virginians living in the lower Shenandoah Valley.

In addition to being open for tours and programs, our site is open to community functions, meetings, and events that wish to take advantage of our spectacular setting and phenomenal architecture. (full public access).

- B. Clermont Farm** is owned by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and managed and funded by The Clermont Foundation, and it is a research and training site in history, historic preservation, and agriculture. The farm includes the oldest extant house in Clarke County, a timber-frame structure built in 1755-56, plus 18th and 19th century additions, with a suite of plantation service buildings which supported what was one of the highest-producing wheat farms in Clarke County for almost 200 years. The land has an occupancy record reaching at least 10,000 years and a number of archaeological sites. Access for researchers, teachers, and students is by appointment. Access for the public is scheduled on the website for 5-8 days per year, including Clermont Farm Day and Smithsonian National Museum Day. (limited public access)
- C. The Burwell Morgan Mill** is a fully restored and operable grain mill has been milling wheat since 1785 in the center of historic Millwood. In addition to the Mill being open for tours, the area's largest Art Shows are held here annually. The mill was owned by Lt. Col. Nathaniel Burwell and operated in partnership with one of the American Revolutionary War's most notable patriots, Gen. Daniel Morgan. The grounds surrounding the mill have picnic tables and the property is adjacent to Spout Run. (full public access)
- D. Barns of Rose Hill** is a performing arts venue and community center in historic Berryville, Virginia. Housed in two early 20th century dairy barns that were fully restored in 2011, our mission is to enrich lives through programs in the

performing, visual, and literary arts. More than 10,000 people have attended events since opening in September 2011 and the Barns have become a vital center of activity in downtown Berryville, drawing people to concerts, exhibits, films, workshops, classes, and community programs.

- E. Clarke County Historical Association Museum** - In 2004, the Clarke County Historical Association began planning a new and exciting museum experience for visitors to our headquarters in Berryville. On November 19, 2009, the vision of our late president, Roger Chavez, became a reality. Designed around the unifying theme “Our Land Is Our Legacy,” the new museum exhibits, specially commissioned art work, and state-of-the-art audio/video displays allow us to share our collection in a way that is both educational and entertaining.

Artifacts on display in the museum’s three rooms include the money chest from Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax’s Greenway Court land office, a pistol carried by a member of Company D, 6th Virginia Cavalry (the “Clarke Cavalry”) during the Civil War, a Chinese punch basin that once belonged to 18th century plantation owner Nathaniel Burwell, racing silks from Audley Farm, and a former slave’s corn-cutting knife from a home in Josephine City.

Two of the rooms also feature extraordinary films that combine historical photographs, contemporary footage, and the art of noted illustrator Richard Schlecht to tell a panoramic story of the pre- and early history of Clarke County and of the county’s continuing efforts to preserve a unique and land-based way of life.

- F. Josephine School Community Museum** - The Josephine School Community Museum is a living museum dedicated to restoring our original 1882 school house and sharing the people, objects, and stories that form the continuing legacy of Clarke County's African American history and heritage.

In 1882, the former slaves and free colored people of this community built the Josephine City School to provide their children with a grade school education. Under the leadership of Rev. Edward Johnson, a new building was completed in 1930 to provide high school education for Negro students and was called the Clarke County Training School. It was named the W.T.B. Williams Training School in 1944 to honor a Clarke County native who served as Dean of Tuskegee Institute. From 1949 to 1966, the school was known as Johnson-Williams High School. After the integration of public schools, it became the Johnson-Williams Intermediate School and served students of all races from 1966 until it closed in 1987. The high school building was converted into apartments for older persons in 1992. The original Josephine City School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2003 it became the first museum devoted to the history of Clarke County's African-American community.

The renovation of the Josephine School Community Museum building was completed in October 2002 with assistance from the Virginia General Assembly and the Clarke County Board of Supervisors. The inaugural exhibit of the museum was opened on July 12, 2003.

- G. Bicycling** - The Town of Berryville & Clarke County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was prepared in response to a joint-request from the Town of Berryville and Clarke County under the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC) Rural Transportation Work Program. The plan provides a comprehensive overview of the existing transportation network and outlines recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian enhancements in each locality to better serve transportation, recreation and economic development objectives. Appendix A and the Bike/Ped Plan list several cycling organizations that have established bike routes in the County.

- H. Historic Driving Tour** - The Historic Preservation Commission is tasked with educating, promoting, and protecting the County’s historic resources. An updated driving tour brochure is currently available at the County Planning Department, Clarke County Historical Association office, and other locations throughout the County. The brochure describes significant historic structures throughout the County.

- I. Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail** - Within Virginia's 43,000 square miles of diverse natural habitat, you can find some 400 species of birds, 250 species of fish, 150 species of terrestrial and marine mammals, 150 species of amphibians and reptiles, and a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail celebrates this diversity. It is the first statewide program of its kind in the United States. In Virginia, three phases of the trail link wildlife viewing sites throughout the state. Clarke County has portions of the Mountain Trail within its borders included on the Route are:

1) Snickers Gap Hawk Watch

Snicker's Gap is at its best from mid-August through the end of October when thousands of migrating birds of prey stream past overhead. The area was established as a “hawk-watching” site in 1990 and counts have taken place every fall since. The most widespread species seen is the broad-winged hawk, which, depending on the weather, may occur in the 1000s or 10,000s. Other species frequenting the lookout include red-tailed, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, northern harrier, osprey, bald eagle, American kestrel, merlin and peregrine falcon. Each fall supports the opportunity to spy a few true rarities, especially later in the season. Golden eagle and northern goshawk have appeared annually, but rough-legged and Swainson's hawks are more particular about gracing birders with their presence. Numerous other species use the ridge top as a migration corridor, including migrant passerines such as warblers, vireos, thrushes and tanagers and, occasionally, migrant waterfowl. Monarch butterflies and

dragonflies also migrate along the ridge, providing food for the migrating American kestrels and broad-winged hawks. (full public access)

2) Smithfield Farm

Smithfield Farm supports an historic bed and breakfast, set amongst the rolling hills of a working farm. The brick manor house was built in 1824 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The farm is the product of seven generations of cattle farmers and, in recent years, has branched out to support other livestock, including goats, pigs and chickens, all of which are now reared organically. These rolling acres provide an excellent spot to relax overnight so you can search for the area's wildlife. The combination of woodland, orchards, fields and riparian belts support a diversity of species. Birds to look for include red-tailed hawk, mourning dove, ruby-throated hummingbird, red-bellied and downy woodpeckers, eastern wood-pewee, great crested flycatcher, eastern kingbird, tree and barn swallows, and purple martin. The moist areas and fields of wildflowers that line the stream are an excellent place to search for butterflies and dragonflies. The results of pesticide-free farming practices are seen clearly in the clouds of pearl crescents, eastern tailed blues, and common checkered skippers that line the stream banks. A walk through the fields should produce eastern tiger, black, spicebush and pipevine swallowtails, as well as the occasional monarch. Dragon- and damselflies are represented by the ebony jewelwing that reside along the shadier stretches of stream and by the brash common whitetail that may appear anywhere along your walk. (full public access)

3) Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum of Virginia

The Blandy Experimental Farm is a field station operated by the University of Virginia. Its 700 acres are a good representation of the habitats found in the Shenandoah Valley, making it an excellent spot to watch birds and other wildlife. The Orland E. White Arboretum sits at the center of the property, providing an excellent opportunity for visitors to familiarize themselves with the local flora. The Virginia Native Plant Trail is not to be missed during spring and early summer when the wildflowers are vibrantly in bloom. The numerous wildflowers on the property attract a high diversity of butterflies, while the various ponds and marshes attract a variety of dragon- and damselflies. Birds to search for in the woods and meadows of the farm include red-tailed hawk and American kestrel as they patrol the open fields and Cooper's hawk darting through the woods. Woodpeckers on the farm include red-headed, red-bellied, downy and pileated, as well as northern flicker. The farm's extensive undisturbed meadowlands provide nesting habitat for several of Virginia's waning species, which are declining or have disappeared elsewhere in the state. These species include northern bobwhite, loggerhead shrike, dickcissel, and grasshopper and vesper sparrows. Winter on the farm is the best time to search for sparrows and hawks. Even short-eared owl has been reported on the farm. (full public access)

4) Limited Access Facilities

Active Recreation

A. Public Schools

Includes D.G. Cooley Elementary School, upper and lower campuses, Boyce Elementary School, Johnson Williams Middle School, and the Clarke County High School. Table 1 lists the resources available at each school. Use of school grounds for organized sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, etc.) requires a written request in advance and fees are associated with use. (limited access)

Passive Recreation

A. Powhatan School

Powhatan is a private school that believes in and is committed to community use of its facilities. Facility use is by appointment only. Uses include indoor basketball, summer camps, cross country runs, and conservation fairs. Additional outdoor recreation opportunities may exist in the future on the Crocker Conservancy. The Crocker Conservancy is a 48 acre property held in permanent conservation easement by the County Easement Authority, which is being developed to enhance environmental education and includes trails and bird & wildlife watching areas. (limited access)

B. Public Schools

Passive recreation of outdoor facilities by the general public is permitted (during non-school hours) without fee on playground equipment, and grounds for individuals. (limited access)

C. Private campsite rentals

1. **Watermelon Park** – Campground, Recreation & Event Venue along the beautiful Shenandoah River on Lockes Mill Road (Route 621) in Clarke County Virginia. Family owned and operated since 1939, the Park offers Kayak, canoe, tube rentals, tent and RV camping, and a store.
2. **Family Campground** – a small privately owned campground with river front lots rented seasonally. This facility is located on the north side of Chilly Hollow Road at its intersection with the Shenandoah River.
3. **Mountain Lake Campground** -- a quiet family owned campground located near the head of the Shenandoah Valley. The facility contains two small lakes, each about half an acre in size, a campground for tents, and RV parking. The campground is located on the west side of Mount Carmel Road (Route 606) approximately ½ mile north of John Mosby Highway (Route 50).

Special Use

A. Holy Cross Abbey

Holy Cross Abbey Monastery is located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains bordered by the Shenandoah River on over 1,000 acres of fertile and scenic farmland. The monastery belongs to the Cistercian Order that was first founded in France in 1098. The monastery makes its own food products. The Abbey also has a retreat house on the property open to guests that wish to spend time in silence and prayer. The peaceful surroundings and spiritual energy here is a far cry from two hot summer days in July 1864. On those two fateful days the Battle of Cool Spring was fought between General Early of the Confederacy and General Crook of the Union. The old manor house on the monastery property remains and is a central part of the monastery structures. The entire property was placed in Conservation Easement with the Department of Historic Resources in order to protect the Battlefield. The Conservation Easement provides for signage, walking trails or footpaths to aid in the historical interpretation of the Property as a Civil War Battlefield. The Property shall also be made accessible to the public for 2 days per year for the purpose of touring the Battlefield. (limited public access)

5) Adjacent Facilities

Passive Recreation

A. Sky Meadows State Park

Rich in history, this 1,864-acre park has scenic views, woodlands and the rolling pastures of a historic farm that captures the colonial through post-Civil War life of Mount Bleak House. Nature and history programs are offered year-round. Hiking, picnicking, fishing and primitive hike-in camping for families and groups are favorite activities in this peaceful getaway on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The park has 9.5 miles of bridle trails, 19 miles of hiking trails, 8 miles of bike trails and Appalachian Trail access.

Located in Fauquier County, on the east side of the mountain, the Park is accessible from Clarke County by foot via the Appalachian Trail south of Route 50 or by vehicle via Rt. 17 south. (full public access)

B. Lake Frederick

Located south of Double Tollgate on U.S. 522, Lake Frederick is a 117-acre impoundment owned by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and includes a 100 foot buffer around the entire shoreline. Lake Frederick has a paved entrance road, gravel parking lot, paved boat launch with courtesy dock, and a handicapped accessible fishing pier. (full public access)

There is adequate bank fishing access along the breast of the dam and around the lower end of the lake. Boats and boat anglers are welcome, but gasoline motors are prohibited. Only electric trolling motors are allowed.

A privately operated concessions, "Lake Frederick Bait and Tackle", offers rest room facilities, snacks/drinks, bait, tackle, and boat rentals. Contact Lake Frederick Bait and Tackle: at (540) 333-1344 for store hours and lake conditions.

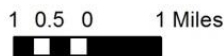
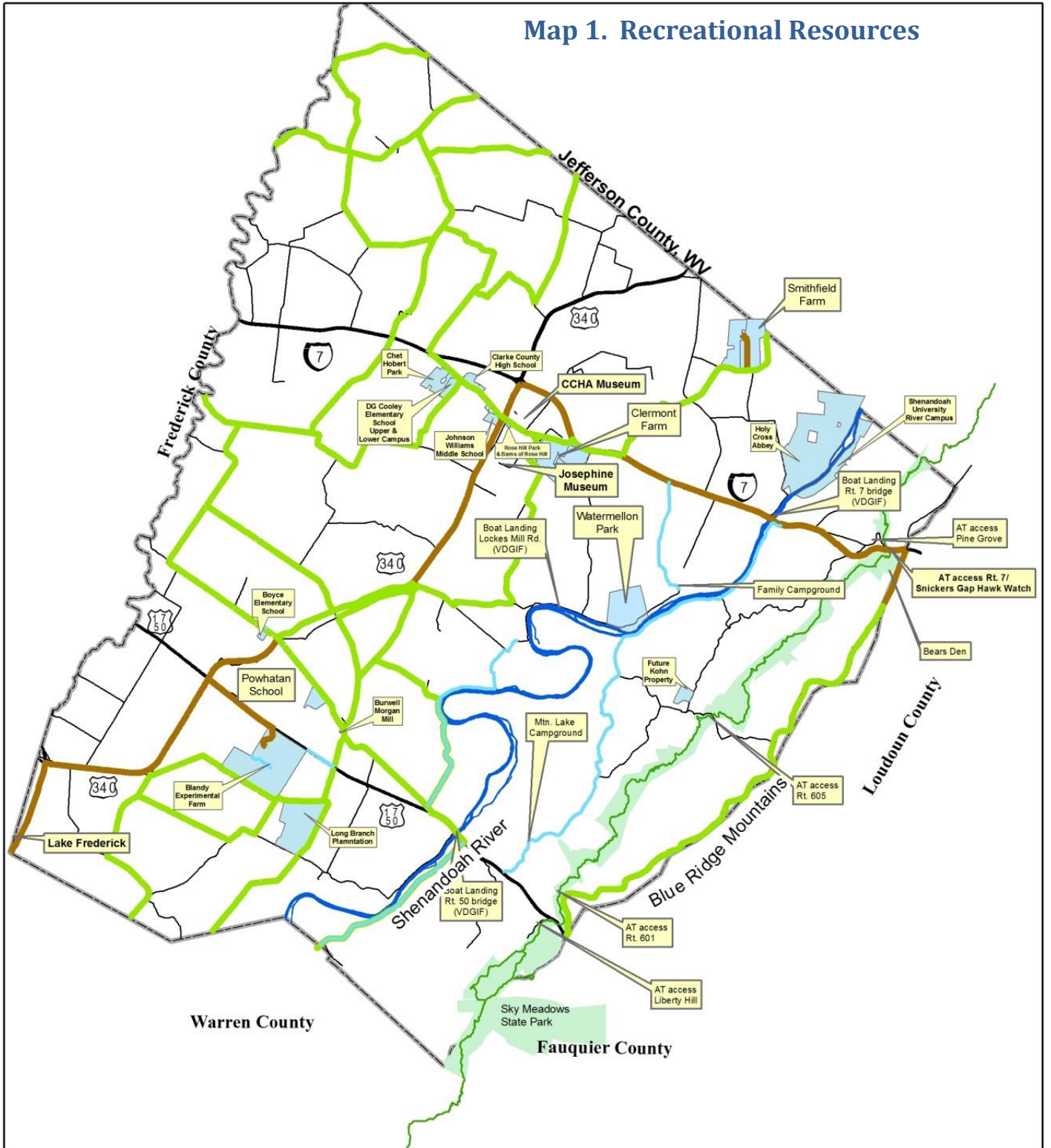
V. Conclusion

In focusing on recreation in Clarke County, this plan strives to address the existing and potential recreation needs of the community. The Plan establishes specific functional strategies and recommendations to protect, promote, grow and enhance the County's active and passive recreational resources. This plan will place particular emphasis on passive recreation opportunities. The Recreation Component Plan identifies the following overarching goals:

- 1) Meet the recreation needs of the community
- 2) Increase awareness of all recreational activities
- 3) Assist in maximizing the recreation value of existing assets
- 4) Promote connectivity among the County's active and passive recreation resources
- 5) Update the Recreation Plan on a 5 year cycle

Assessing the recreation needs of the community is essential to insure that future recreational facilities are available. Protecting and promoting these resources is the purpose of the plan, working with private and public partners to enhance recreational opportunities a valuable tool to insure success. The Recreation Plan committee, who developed this plan, will be maintained and will continue to meet to implement the goals and strategies outlined. Development of park master plans and conducting surveys will primarily be the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with support and guidance from the local governing bodies.

Map 1. Recreational Resources



Legend

- River roads
- Bike Routes
- Birding and Wildlife Trail
- Properties of Interest
- Appalachian_Trail
- Appalachian Trail properties

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

Table 1. Existing Recreation Resources Inventory

Table 1. Existing Recreation Resources Inventory		Playground Equipment	Shelter	Rest Rooms	Concession Stand	Football Field	Baseball Diamond	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Soccer Field	Dog Park	Recreation Center	Swimming Pool	Gazebo	Outdoor Grills	Picnicking	Nature Trails	Fishing	Bicycling	Arboretum	Water Access	Camping	Horseback Riding	Hiking/Backpacking	kayaking\canoeing	Bird Watching	Trails	Historic	Swimming
Full Access Facilities																													
Active Recreation																													
	Chet Hobert Park	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x								x		x
	Rose Hill Park	x					x						x			x													
Passive Recreation																													
	Blandy		x	x											x	x	x		x	x				x		x	x		
	Shenandoah University River Campus																x		x							x	x	x	
	Shenandoah River																	x							x	x			x
	Appalachian Trail		x												x	x	x					x		x	x	x	x		
	Bear's Den Trail Center		x	x											x	x	x					x		x	x	x	x		
	Kohn property		o													o	o				o				o	o			
	Snickers Gap																									x			
	Smithfield Farm																	x								x		x	
Special Use																													
	Long Branch				x												x												x
	Burwell Morgan Mill				x												x												x
	Barns of Rose Hill				x																								x
	Clarke County Historical Association Museum				x																								x
	Josephine School Community Museum				x																								x
	Bicycle Routes																			x									
	Historic Driving Tour																			x									x
	Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail																			x						x			x
	Scenic byways																			x									x
Limited Access Facilities																													
Active Recreation																													
	Berryville Primary School	x																											
	Upper DG Cooley Elementary School	x						x																					
	Lower DG Cooley Elementary School	x					x																						
	Boyce Elementary School	x						x																					
	Johnson Williams Middle School			x	x	x			x	x																			
	Clarke County High School					x	x	x		x																			
Passive Recreation																													
	Powhatan School	x						x		x																x	x		
	Watermelon Park	x	x	x	x										x	x	x				x	x				x			x
	Family Campground																					x	x						x
	Mountain Lake Campground																					x	x		x				x
Special Use																													
	Holy Cross Abbey																										x		x
Adjacent Facilities																													
Passive Recreation																													
	Lake Frederick			x	x																	x				x	x		
	Sky Meadows State Park	x													x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x

x - existing use
o- anticipated use

Appendix A. Web links

Chet Hobert Park - <http://clarkecounty.gov/>
Rose Hill Park - <http://www.berryvilleva.gov/>
Clarke County Public Schools -
http://www.clarke.k12.va.us/pages/Clarke_County_Public_Schools
Shenandoah River (access/fishing) - www.dgif.virginia.gov/
Watermelon Park Campground - www.watermelonpark.com/
Appalachian Trail - <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/>
Bear's Den - <http://www.bearsdencenter.org/>
Long Branch - <http://www.visitlongbranch.org/>
Blandy – <http://blandy.virginia.edu/>
Barns of Rose Hill - <http://barnsofrosehills.org/>
Clarke County Historical Association Museum - <http://www.clarkehistory.org/museum.html>
Josephine School Community Museum - <http://www.jschoolmuseum.org/>
Clermont Farm - www.clermontfarm.org
Shenandoah University River Campus - <http://www.su.edu/venue/cool-spring/>,
<http://www.su.edu/blog/cool-spring-protecting-land-for-future-generations/>
Burwell-Morgan Mill - <http://www.burwellmorganmill.org/>
Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan – Town of Berryville & Clarke County – www.clarkecounty.gov
Historic Driving Tour – www.clarkecounty.gov
Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail - <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/>
Mountain Lake Campground -
<http://www.virginia.org/Listings/PlacesToStay/MountainLakeCampground/>
Powhatan School - <http://powhatanschool.org/>, <http://thecrockerconservancy.blogspot.com/>
Holy Cross Abbey - <https://www.virginiatrappists.org/>
Sky Meadows - http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/sky-meadows.shtml#general_information
Lake Frederick - <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/waterbodies/display.asp?id=53>
Historic Resources in Clarke County - <http://www.clarkehistory.org/>
Bicycle Routes
 Winchester Wheelmen- <http://www.winchesterwheelmen.org/ride.php>
 Potomac Peddlers – Backcountry Century Ride - <http://www.potomacpedalers.org/>
 Panhandlers Peddlers - <http://www.panhandlepedalers.com/>
Hiking - <http://www.hikingupward.com/>
 www.patc.net

Appendix B. Regional Facilities

Refer to the Virginia Outdoors Plan for a complete list and map of regional recreation facilities
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/vop.shtml

Appendix C. Resources

- a. Virginia Outdoors Plan
- b. County Park Master Plan
- c. County Comprehensive Plan
- d. Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
- e. Berryville Area Plan
- f. Berryville Comprehensive Plan
- g. Town of Berryville and Clarke County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- h. Shenandoah River Use Plan - NSVRC



Clarke County Planning Department

101 Chalmers Court, Suite B

Berryville, Virginia 22611

(540) 955-5132

www.clarkecounty.gov

TO: Planning Commission members

FROM: Brandon Stidham, Planning Director

RE: Work Plan for Comprehensive Plan Review Process

DATE: June 15, 2020

Item #3b is a discussion regarding work plan development for the upcoming Comprehensive Plan review process. As you are aware, the Planning Commission initiated a review of the Comprehensive Plan by resolution in January 2019 but the start of the review has been impacted by delays in completing the Ordinance Update Project. In an effort to gain some forward progress on the Comprehensive Plan review, Staff would like the Committee's initial comments and direction on the work plan for the review process along with some tasks to be completed this summer.

2014 Comprehensive Plan Review Process

The previous Comprehensive Plan review process conducted in 2012 and 2013 was a detailed, cover-to-cover evaluation of the document. Prior to this review, the Plan had been amended several times over the years but it had been many years since a complete review was last conducted. The review process was conducted with the following general goals:

- Update any information that may be out of date or obsolete.
- Commit to and prioritize any unfulfilled strategies for completion over the next five years.
- Reconcile any Plan recommendations that may be inconsistent with recent State code changes or local ordinance changes.
- Strive to coordinate recommendations across topical lines to avoid potentially conflicting or contradictory recommendations and to produce well-rounded strategies.

Beginning in Fall 2012, the Commission agreed to review the Comprehensive Plan as a committee of the whole rather than delegating work to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Staff held visioning workshops with the Commission to identify key policy questions to be addressed in the update, and also provided updated statistical data and other information inputs for the Commission to consider. The Commission then reviewed the current Plan to identify specific sections to be updated and provide direction to Staff to draft revised text. The Commission also evaluated each Goal, Objective, and Policy in Chapter II to answer the following questions:

- Is the Goal, Objective, or Policy still relevant (in whole or in part)? If not, does it need to be modified or eliminated?

- If still relevant, has the Goal, Objective, or Policy been fully implemented? If not, why has implementation not occurred and how can we prioritize implementation in the coming years?
- Are there Goals, Objectives, and Policies to be added and, if so, how should they be prioritized?

To facilitate this evaluation, Staff provided suggested changes to address these points and also to address any key policy questions that were identified in the visioning workshops. The Commission finalized an initial draft for public comment in May 2013 and held informal public input sessions at three locations around the County in June 2013 (Government Center, Boyce Fire Hall, Blue Ridge VFD). Input from these comment sessions was incorporated into a final draft Comprehensive Plan document in September 2013. The Commission held a formal public hearing and recommended adoption of the revised Plan in October 2013. The Board of Supervisors held their formal public hearing on March 18, 2014 and adopted the revised 2013 Comprehensive Plan.

Proposed work plan for the current Plan review process

Since the last Plan review was an in-depth, cover-to-cover review, Staff envisions the scope of this review process to be more straightforward with a focus on the impact of guidance developed in recent component plan updates along with new or evolving issues facing the County since the last update. The Commission's 2019 review resolution included the following list of scoping issues to evaluate:

1. Evaluate the current Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for relevance and consistency with recent Implementing Component Plan updates. Consider adding or revising language to address any new County priorities such as broadband internet access for residents and businesses.
2. Update demographics and statistical information that have changed since 2013 and for which new data is currently available.
3. Determine whether to incorporate data or other information from the Cost of Community Services Study.
4. Update Implementing Component Plan descriptions in Chapter III to reflect recent updates of these Plans.
5. Evaluate whether to conduct a comprehensive review and update of the Mountain Land Plan and, if so, develop objectives and strategies that will inform the update process.
6. Determine whether to retain reference to the Capital Improvement Plan as an Implementing Component Plan and make changes to the applicable objectives and strategies as necessary.

Staff recommends that with a narrower review scope as compared to the previous review, the Comprehensive Plan Committee should act as the steering committee for this effort as opposed

to the Commission acting as a committee of the whole. Staff's recommended work plan is outlined as follows:

TASK 1A – Evaluate Issues and Provide Drafting Direction to Staff (3-4 months concurrently with Task 1B).

- Committee and Staff will evaluate each current Plan Goal, Objective, and Policy in Chapter II to determine their relevance and consistency with recent component plan updates. New Goals, Objectives, and Policies will also be considered to address any new or insufficiently addressed issues such as broadband internet access for residents and businesses.
- Committee and Staff will evaluate the component plan descriptions and priorities in Chapter III and amend them to reflect recent component plan updates. The Committee will provide direction on the status of existing component plans such as whether the Capital Improvement Plan and Economic Development Strategic Plan should remain as implementing component plans. The Committee will also evaluate how to prioritize the update of the Mountain Land Plan and development of the new Village Plan, and whether any new component plans should be developed in the future.
- Deliverables – Staff will create a report of the Committee's recommended changes to Chapters II (Goals, Objectives, and Policies) and III (Implementing Component Plans) and will present them to the full Commission for review and comment.

TASK 1B – Update Demographics, Statistical Data, and Outdated Text (3-4 months concurrently with Task 1A).

- Conduct a cover-to-cover analysis of the current Plan and flag data, statistics, and text that is outdated, replacing with current information. Most of this work will impact data and statistics in Chapter I but Staff will review the entire Plan for consistency.
- Incorporate any new factual information, milestones, or applicable reports that have occurred or created since 2014. Examples of reports would be the Cost of Community Services Study and the Telecommunications Infrastructure and Broadband Study 2020.
- Deliverables -- Staff will incorporate all updated information into the revised draft Plan Document and generate a table of changes to catalog all of the information that will be updated from the 2013 Plan.

TASK 2 – Develop Initial Draft of the Revised Comprehensive Plan for Evaluation by Planning Commission (1-2 months).

- Following review of the Committee's recommended Task 1A changes by the full Commission, Staff will develop an initial draft of the revised Comprehensive Plan for the Committee's review and comment. The Committee's requested changes will be

incorporated into the initial draft and the Committee will determine whether to take formal action to forward to the full Commission for review.

- Deliverables – Initial Draft of the revised Comprehensive Plan and a complete table of changes will be developed by Staff.

TASK 3 – Develop Final Draft of the Revised Comprehensive Plan; Conduct Formal Public Hearings and Adopt Plan (4-6 months)

- The Committee and Staff will present the Initial Draft of the revised Comprehensive Plan to the full Commission for review and comment. Any changes requested by the Commission will be used to develop a Final Draft for the Commission’s consideration.
- The Commission will determine whether to accept the Final Draft and schedule formal public hearing on the Final Draft of the revised Comprehensive Plan. Following the formal public hearing, the Commission will take action to recommend adoption of the revised Plan.
- Once the Commission has made their formal recommendation to adopt the revised Plan, it will be presented by Staff to the Board of Supervisors. Any changes requested by the Board will be incorporated into the revised Plan. If there are significant changes requested, Staff will recommend that the Plan be remanded to the Commission for review and additional recommendations. Once the Board is satisfied with the revised Plan document, the Board will schedule formal public hearing on the Final Draft and take formal action to adopt it.

TASK 4 – Component Plan Review Prioritization (1 month)

- In conjunction with or shortly after the Board’s adoption of the revised Comprehensive Plan, the Commission will be asked to prioritize component plan review process work plans. As of the drafting of this memo, the Commission has initiated review of the Transportation Plan and the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Near-Term Activities for the Committee

If the Committee is comfortable with the proposed work plan, Staff would recommend working over the summer on the evaluation steps in Task 1A. Committee members should review Chapters II and III and develop lists of questions, comments, edits, or additions/deletions for discussion at a Committee meeting to be scheduled in August. Ideally we may be able to complete a significant amount of work on Task 1A before pausing again to resume the Ordinance Update Project work. Staff is looking for direction from the Committee as to whether this is an acceptable approach.

If you have questions or concerns in advance of the June 22 meeting, please feel free to contact me.

**RESOLUTION TO INITIATE REVIEW
OF THE 2013 CLARKE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the 2013 Clarke County Comprehensive Plan was adopted on March 18, 2014, and

WHEREAS, Code of Virginia §15.2-2230 requires that at least once every five years, a locality’s planning commission shall review the comprehensive plan “to determine whether it is advisable to amend the plan,”

AND WHEREAS, March 18, 2019 will mark the five-year anniversary of the Plan’s adoption date.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clarke County Planning Commission has determined that it is necessary to conduct a review of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan, including but not limited to the following issues:

1. Evaluate the current Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for relevance and consistency with recent Implementing Component Plan updates. Consider adding or revising language to address any new County priorities such as broadband internet access for residents and businesses.
2. Update demographics and statistical information that have changed since 2013 and for which new data is currently available.
3. Determine whether to incorporate data or other information from the Cost of Community Services Study.
4. Update Implementing Component Plan descriptions in Chapter III to reflect recent updates of these Plans.
5. Evaluate whether to conduct a comprehensive review and update of the Mountain Land Plan and, if so, develop objectives and strategies that will inform the update process.
6. Determine whether to retain reference to the Capital Improvement Plan as an Implementing Component Plan and make changes to the applicable objectives and strategies as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission intends to commence this review in 2019 as permitted by its work program and delegates the responsibility for the review to the Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Department Staff.

Adopted this 4th day of January, 2019.

George L. Ohrstrom, II, Chair