

I've met with some groups and individuals at their request and list their general ideas and concerns below.

Ideas/Concerns

- Need more business and commerce—so farms not having to carry the tax burden. Does the county help businesses that want to expand or come.
- Many (older) people will need to downsize soon. We need patio homes, but a developer told this participant that public water and sewer is essential, but not available.
- There are lots and lots of homes for sale right now, at least on the northeast end of the County. More than usual? Related to the economy? The harsh winter?
- Blue Ridge Parkway is buying up every farm that comes on the market near the Parkway. Ironic since they have no maintenance money. Also hurts the County's tax revenue.
- Fees related to renewable energy should be kept affordable for residential scale, but considerably more for larger installations which will require specialized training for our staff.
- Successful tourism promotion could well ruin our community for residents. The community needs additional jobs where people can earn a good living.
- There needs to be more guidance on land development. It's developed quickly in the last few years. Need to figure out viable options to keep working lands. Younger/newer farmers may be more open to new farming opportunities.
- Floyd County could benefit from public art and there are matching funds available from the state. The art could be on public or private land. Could be used to inspire, entertain, catch attention, etc. Seems especially appropriate since we are a resourceful, creative, independent community.
- Two acre road front lots are destroying the county and rendering other land less value. Propose at least a 10-minimum, even for family. ("If don't think enough of a family member to give them 10 acres, then don't think much of them!") Need long term thinking. Water is a key thing that might bring people together—all farmers remember having to carry water back in 1999 or so.
- Would like to see option for cluster or open-space development for responsible people willing to address water, wastewater and access is good and sustainable way.
- Frustrating that if you want to take 2 10-acre tracts off a 100 acre parcels, you would then lose the right to take two more off for five years, YET, you can take 4 10-acre tracts off and still have the right to take 4 more off without a waiting period.