



Department of Planning,
Housing, and Zoning
400 High Street, Suite 130
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-7475 (voice/relay)
wmackey@kentgov.org

**Public Forum for the Comprehensive Rezoning and Update (CRU) 2020-2021
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6 P.M.**

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 6 P.M. the Commissioners of Kent County held a public forum. The purpose of this public forum was to receive input from the public on the public process itself for the Comprehensive Rezoning and Update. William Mackey, Director of the Department of Planning, Housing, and Zoning provided an update on the initiative. The update is posted on the CRU webpage.

There were twelve citizens who participated in the forum.

The first speaker spoke about the importance of the comprehensive rezoning process and the need for public input. The speaker noted that the current situation of virtual meetings isn't conducive to sharing ideas and that input will be stymied by inadequate internet access/phone connections. The speaker also suggested that the process be delayed until it can be done right.

The second speaker reiterated the need for better technology to allow for simultaneous video/audio. The speaker opined that there isn't an urgent need to proceed and that waiting would allow more participation.

The third speaker questioned the public's role and felt that the public has already been left out of the process because the consultant has been hired and decisions on the task force have already been made. The speaker also questioned the urgency to proceed and suggested that delaying would not result in an adverse impact and may allow for a better product.

Other speakers continued to express the same opinions that while rezoning is important, current technology is inadequate and there is no real urgency to proceed. There were also suggestions that additional public notice and outreach is necessary. The final speaker noted the difficulty for young parents to participate and that public participation is about more than meetings. The speaker also noted that outreach to underserved communities should be included. Finally, the speaker noted that all direct communication has gone to property owners and more should be done to connect with other populations.

The Commissioners acknowledged the difficulty with the online format being used for the forum and also expressed that the process should not be delayed.

