



Roanoke County 200 Plan: 2021 Community Meeting Summary

Glenvar

Meeting: Fort Lewis Elementary - Monday, November 8, 2021

Attendee Count: 56

Staff present:

Planning	Long Range	Transportation	Zoning	Economic Dev.
Philip Thompson Cecelia Monnin	Bailey Howard-DuBois Alex Jones Cecile Newcomb	Megan Cronise Will Crawford	Becky James Alyssa Dunbar	Wade Taylor

Land Use

Meeting Exercise: Place post-it note comments on the map.

1. Where are current issues with land uses?
2. Where are there zoning enforcement issues?
3. What types of development are desired?
4. Where should new development go?
5. Where should redevelopment happen?

Meeting Exercise Comments:

- Would like this community to stay how it is.
- There are jobs everywhere; we do not need any more.
- Would like to see restaurants near the I-81 Dixie Caverns exit on Route 460 near the hotel/motel.
- Water/sewer along West River Road.
- Public/private development partnerships and incentives are needed.
- The County should allow commercial vehicles in residential areas.
- Consider allowing a nice truck stop a Dixie Caverns that is managed well.
- Have design standards for new development along Route 460.

Community Facilities

Meeting Exercise: Tell us about the facilities that you use.

Leave a suggestion or comment about issues or needs for community facilities.

Meeting Exercise Comments:

- A venue space/festival space is desired at Green Hill Park (comment received at Masons Cove/Catawba meeting).
- More paved walking trails at Green Hill Park to alleviate traffic on the Roanoke River Greenway in the park.
- More dirt walking/hiking trails at Green Hill Park. Unique to the park and close to many suburbs unlike most surrounding hiking trails.



- More recreation programming at Green Hill Park and Camp Roanoke. Would like to see more newer programs and infrastructure at both facilities, similar to Explore Park.
- Keep Green Hill Park natural in character. It does not need to be converted into a sports-only complex. Keep wooded areas, greenspaces, and walking trails. More historical education along the walking paths and Roanoke River Greenway would be beneficial to school field trips to the park.
- There needs to be more recycling drop-off locations in the Glenvar area. Recommended locations included Fort Lewis Elementary School, Green Hill Park, or a large business. The existing recycling drop-off locations in the County need to be marketed better and have better instructions/signage at each facility.
- A small Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism/Virginia's Blue Ridge visitor center and museum would be great at Green Hill Park. The visitors center could be Interstate 81's version of the Blue Ridge Parkway-Explore Park visitor center. The visitor center could have a museum designated to local history, including Native Americans, and a small private event rental space for the community since there is no indoor recreation center near Glenvar.
- Skate park at a safe, well lit and secure area in Glenvar or anywhere in Roanoke County.
- More rural broadband options and connections; particularly around Blue Ridge Beverage and on Barley.
- Allow more public recreation at the Spring Hollow Reserve property. Market tours better. Could non-swimming recreation be allowed in parts of the reserve? Frustrated that Carvins Cove is open to the public, but Spring Hollow is not.
- Love the Glenvar Library. Hope programming continues to be supported at the facility. The library needs pedestrian connections to the Route 460/11 sidewalks and more outdoor walking trails and places to gather, read books, or host classes.
- Green Hill Park needs more trash receptacles and for them to be emptied more often throughout the park.

General Comments:

- Continue to expand Roanoke County parks, greenways, and blueways to attract younger populations and economic development projects to Roanoke County and the region.
- There needs to be an emphasis on Career and Technical Education and the Burton Center for Arts and Technology. More funding, marketing, and support from Economic Development, the RCPS School Board, and the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors. The Burton Center is one of the biggest economic drivers in the county to keep high school graduates in the region.

Transportation

Meeting Exercise: What are the transportation needs in this area?

Leave a comment about: Road safety issues, Pedestrian, bicycle and/or transit needs.



Meeting Exercise Comments:

Interstate 81

- Sound barriers needed along Interstate 81 from Dixie Caverns to Salem Line.
- Need pedestrian lights at Exit 132.
- Exit 137 ramp has many accidents. The ramp is too short.

Route 460/West Main Street

- Stoplight needed at Route 460/Dow Hollow Road.
- Add rest area on West Main Street heading south at intersection of Exit 132.
- Consider a commercial truck stop to help alleviate truck issues at Atlas and at other businesses.

Greenways/Blueways

- Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan Map Number 36 perimeter trail showing connection to west of Havens Wildlife Management Area needs to be shown in a different location and not on David Shelor's property (Fort Lewis Mountain Company LLC).
- More greenways, bike lanes, blueways, boat launch shelters, restaurants and pedestrian walkway improvements at Wayside Park.
- Challenges with trespassing and theft on private property from the Roanoke River by floaters (Barley Drive vicinity).

Little Bear Road

- There is a culvert on Little Bear Road that overflows during heavy rains, and the water makes gullies down both sides of the road.

Pedestrian Accommodations

- Increase safety for pedestrians and bikers on new projects, particularly in scenic areas.
- Put sidewalks on Daugherty Road.
- Sidewalk needed connecting to Glenvar High School.
- Need sidewalk connections from Glenvar schools to the library.
- Need a pedestrian connection from the sidewalk along West Main Street to the library.

West River Road/West Riverside Road

- Low water bridges on West River Road need higher sides and railings.
- Need improvements on West Riverside Road near low water bridge.

Protection and Preservation

Meeting Exercise: Leave a comment about natural and cultural resources on the map.

Tell us what this map is missing? What's valuable to you and why? What is impacted or needs improvement?



Meeting Exercise Comments:

- Protect water assets (Roanoke River, Spring Hollow Reservoir) from the Mountain Valley Pipeline.
- Fort Lewis Baptist Church is pre-civil war and has a lot of history.
- There is a littering problem along E Main Street.
- Like the area as it is.
- Would like to see the forests preserved.
- The map is missing a cemetery off of Sawmill Branch toward Havens Wildlife Management Area. Anyone off of Wildwood has burial rights at this cemetery.
- Concerned about water runoff into local creeks from the new drainage pipes at Glenvar High School causing yard and road flooding nearby.
- Protect viewsheds/preserve views from Green Hill Park.
- Preserve wooded areas north of Interstate 81 and limit further residential development of large neighborhoods.
- Fix the western boundary of the Havens Wildlife Management Area on the map.
- Value the rural character of Glenvar (north of Interstate 81). It is a quiet and peaceful community.
- There should be a museum about the Native Americans in Glenvar. It would be historically fascinating to know about them.
- The mercury content in the Roanoke River is bad. You cannot eat the fish if you catch them.
- Value the Roanoke River as a recreational/tourism asset. Need to emphasize communication of information such as water level, put-ins and trash receptacles.
- Value the Poor Mountain Preserve and Green Hill Park as natural assets accessible to the public.

Staff Observations

Land Use

- There was not a consistent, common theme among the land use comments received from Glenvar residents. Some wanted the area to remain exactly as it is, while others want to see modest commercial additions, improvements and opportunities. Many people came to the meeting to learn, but did not comment right away (they may do so in the survey).

Community Facilities

- Overall, citizens are pleased with community facilities in the Glenvar area, but would like more funding to go towards their existing facilities. Green Hill Park is viewed as a tourism destination and economic development driver for the area due to its size and proximity to Interstate 81, so citizens would like some new amenities at the park similar to Explore Park. Citizens want to see more recycling options and Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism programming courses in Glenvar.
- Residents of Glenvar see it as a leader for the region due to high quality schools and the parks within easy driving distance of Roanoke and the New River Valley



for families who work in both areas. They want to see rural broadband efforts expanded upon to make more of the community a realistic choice to live for younger families.

Transportation

- There was a lot of positive interest in all of the projects we had on display. I had several great comments about the West Main Street sidewalk project under construction. Attendees were also excited about the West Roanoke River Greenway being constructed in the near future. There was also interest in the Diuguids Lane Bridge closure coming up, the Wayside Park improvements, the Dry Hollow Road project and all of the widening projects funded on Interstate 81, which attendees said were desperately needed. I again spoke with many people about the CORTAN program and most had not heard of it before. Three CORTAN surveys were completed at the meeting.

Miscellaneous

- Most of the people were positive about this meeting; however, there were a few who thought that this meeting was designed for no public input.

Summary Approved: PGT