

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carroll County Commissioners Support Planning Process

Westminster - Wednesday, July 19, 2017 – On the eve of receiving the Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan “Freedom Plan”, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners examines the process for the development of the plan and addresses some misconceptions.

The Carroll County Planning Commission discussed the Freedom Plan at 40 regularly scheduled and advertised public meetings between September 2015 and March 2017, completed two joint work sessions with the Board of County Commissioners on [April 6, 2016](#) and [November 2, 2016](#), and held one joint meeting with the Town of Sykesville Planning Commission on [November 4, 2015](#). Opportunities to speak were provided at all meetings.

There were five community outreach meetings held at various locations, times and days of the week in the Freedom area between April, 2016 and May, 2017. These include:

- Wednesday, April 27, 2016 in the evening at the South Carroll Senior and Community Center
- Wednesday, July 13, 2016 in the evening at Liberty High School
- Saturday, September 24, 2016 at Oklahoma Road Middle School during the day
- Monday, December 5, 2016 in the evening at South Carroll Senior and Community Center
- Thursday, May 25, 2017 during the day and in the evening at the South Carroll Senior and Community Center

The Planning Commission also held two Public Hearings on the Accepted Plan on [June 8](#) and [June 20](#), 2017.

In addition, all information regarding the Freedom Plan is posted on the county website, freedomareaplan.org, and all events and updates are posted on the [county's Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#). Press releases were published throughout the process, and a paid advertisement was placed in the Carroll County Times. The Public Hearings were duly advertised in the Carroll County Times in accordance with state and local laws. Updated elements of the plan, maps, and public outreach meeting notices were available at the Eldersburg Library and the South Carroll Senior and Community Center

CARROLL COUNTY

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throughout the process, and notices of meetings were distributed through the public schools' email notification system. Over 700 interested citizens took advantage of a free subscription service and received notification of all meetings, events and the progress of the Plan through the county's email delivery system.

Furthermore, the Maryland Department of Planning, in their official comments on the Accepted Plan, noted in its checklist of requirements for local plans, that the public participation state vision was complied with. Commissioner Richard Rothschild said, "I intend to address some additional nuances of the planning process that will improve the quality of future planning activities."

Growth is one of the great challenges for any area and an open planning process with public input is vital to ensure a successful vibrant and viable community. The Board of County Commissioners is confident the Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan exceeded the public input requirements and commends the Carroll County Planning Commission, the Carroll County Department of Planning and the citizens who participated in the process for their time and efforts.

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