

# Coalition Update

Issue #21

www.citizenscoalition.freesevers.com

August, 2006

## Connie Holland to address annual meeting; focus on Land Use Plan revision process

With so much controversy surrounding on what many characterize as runaway development in Sussex County, Citizens Coalition will be honored to have the Director of the Office of State Planning Coordination Constance C. Holland as its keynote speaker at its 12th annual meeting Sunday, September 17 at the Virden Center in Lewes.

Holland, who addressed a Coalition annual meeting some years ago is wearing a slightly different hat this year. In addition to her position as director, she is also interim circuit rider for development in Sussex County in place of Ann Marie Townshend who left the office for a city planning position in Dover.

The Coalition board unanimously chose Holland to speak in view of the imminent changes and revisions that must be made to the Sussex County Comprehensive Land Use Plan by October 2007. Also, the Office of Planning Coordination has made numerous recommendations and comments on applications involving large-scale developments in the State's Level 4 development zones. Traditionally, such areas are not served by transportation infrastructure, are not near population centers and are reserved to support agriculture. The current Land Use Plan appears to be an open door for development on a scale that is unfit for large housing sites, yet the County continues to grant approvals.

According to Holland she will speak on the planning process and the public's involvement. She said, "I want to focus on the Comprehensive Plan process and the importance of public input. Also I will speak on the pending House Bill 280. Further, I hope to explain how TDR'S (transfer of development rights) can benefit Sussex County if used properly." She said that she will also speak about another critical concern: master planning for large areas.

A Delaware native, she has been a Dover resident for more than forty years. Her more than thirty-years career includes positions of planning technician, planner, planning services coordinator, and supervising planner. She was unanimously confirmed as planning director by the Dover Levy Court in December 1993. She was nationally recognized in July 2000 with the distinguished title of AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners). She is a member of the National and Delaware Chapters of the American Planning Association and the Delaware Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and cash bar followed by a buffet dinner of roast beef au jus baked flounder with spinach and cheese stuffing vegetarian bow tie pasta, garden salad, vegetable side dishes assorted desserts, coffee, tea, and iced tea

Cost for dinner per person is \$40 and \$10 of the cost is tax deductible. The meeting is open to all members as well as anyone interested in the future of Sussex County and the planning process. Make checks payable to Citizens Coalition and note on check "Annual Meeting."

Checks must be received no later than September 11. Mail to Citizens Coalition, PO Box 56, Nassau, DE 19969. Your check will

serve as your reservation. Seating is limited so get your reservation in early



Constance C. Holland

## Nominations being sought for Coalition Board of Directors

Citizens Coalition Board of Directors members are seeking area residents to fill a few vacancies for one-year terms on the Coalition's Board.

Directors have nominated three individuals so far and the Coalition could increase its Board by as many as five. Nominations will be presented at the annual meeting on September 17 for a vote by the membership. If you are interested in getting involved in your community—Sussex County—please contact Mable Granke, 227-6637; Gerrit van Burk, 227-6731 or Gale White, 644-0777.

**Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 17**

Citizens Coalition, Inc.  
PO Box 56  
Nassau, DE 19969

**Please post the enclosed flyer at a local store, community center, supermarket or wherever it can be seen by folks in your community. (Make copies too) THANK YOU!**

## **New York Community Trust awards grant to Coalition**

The New York Community Trust recently contacted the Coalition offering an opportunity to assist with the nonprofit organization's ongoing efforts to bring community awareness to residents of Coastal Sussex regarding development and changes that affect quality of life and sense of place in Sussex County.

The Trust awarded the Coalition \$250 made at the suggestion of Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Worth and was authorized by the governing board.

*Renew your membership today! Show your support for responsible land use, sustainable development and managed growth in Coastal Sussex County.*

## **Coalition Happenings:**

Coalition Board Vice President Gerrit van Burk is looking for home owner association leaders. If you know your organization's current president or chairman, please call Gerrit at 227-6731 or [gvanburk@aol.com](mailto:gvanburk@aol.com)

Membership Chairman Gale White reports that a number of new households have joined the Coalition. If you haven't renewed for 2007, the time is now! Please fill out the membership form below or contact Gale at 644-0777 or [GaleGWhite@erols.com](mailto:GaleGWhite@erols.com)

Work is ongoing to upgrade the Coalition's web site [www.citizenscoaliton.freesevers.com](http://www.citizenscoaliton.freesevers.com). The Coalition needs a computer or web savvy person to initiate updating or renovating the site. If you can help, please call Mike Tyler, 645--7572 or e-mail at [ah3000@surfbest.net](mailto:ah3000@surfbest.net)

## **Mission Statement**

Citizens Coalition promotes the quality of place and community in Sussex County and surrounding areas through educating and informing citizens and communities about development and its cumulative impact. The Coalition advocates responsible land use, sustainable development and managed growth through civic involvement.

## **Join Citizens Coalition for responsible land use in Sussex County**

Annual membership only \$20 per household. Income we receive is used for mailings and to support our watchdog efforts, studies and appeals. Your contribution is a way for you to support responsible land use, sustainable development and managed growth in Coastal =.

Please accept my dues for 2007 of \$20 per household.  Please accept my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please accept my contribution to Citizens Coalition Action Foundation for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (not tax deductible)

(Please make checks payable to Citizens Coalition or Citizens Coalition Action Foundation)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Community \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

*I want to help with the efforts of Citizens Coalition. Please call me*

**PLEASE MAIL TO CITIZENS COALITION, PO BOX 56, NASSAU, DE 19969**