

Bill Rivenbark Questionnaire Responses

1) If elected, what if anything will you change about planning, and the related rezoning process, to correct the current issues noted above? What factors will you consider most important when deciding how you will vote on a rezoning application?

I never make a decision to vote on a project without hearing both sides. Traffic is a major factor in my decisions. Another important factor for me is how a project might affect the surrounding neighbors.

4) What will you do to balance the planning board members and planning staff to include more citizen, sustainability, resiliency and environmental representation?

All citizens regardless of their professional experience are free to apply for the county planning board. I will always be available to talk to anyone interested in applying and help show them a pathway.

5) Do you believe the pace and scale of residential development is in alignment with the wishes of current citizens? If not, what would you do to address this?

A majority of the emails I receive with concerns about development and housing are from folks that have lived here a relatively short time. Soon we will have water and sewer available in the northern part of the county which is less developed and where we expect and more growth will take place going forward. We have a shortage of workforce and affordable housing which is needed for our teachers, firemen and service industry workers. Because our county is such a great place to live, we have people wanting to move here and need to carefully grow our housing stock for them. I believe we must be smart about where and how we grow.

8) In closing, many municipalities are getting it right, bringing balance to how they allow development to look and feel. How would you improve the way growth and development is occurring in New Hanover County?

I will improve the way we grow on a case by case basis. While I am only one vote, I feel my fellow commissioners are on board with this approach and will support smart growth. I have lived here for 71 years and am proud of New Hanover County. I promise I will always protect our home.