

REZONING

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for 2024-2044 and dis-regards public feedback that helped shape this vision for the future of our community spaces."

Stating that changes would lead to large-scale commercial development, a number of other potential concerns were listed. These included:

- Worsened traffic congestion on Colby Road
- Additional stops and traffic lights
- Increased noise and light pollution
- Reduced property values for surrounding homes
- Stormwater failures impacting residents on the Southeast side of the property
- No potential for future public use

Some citizens wrote letters, including local citizen Lisa Pohl, who started the petition.

"The public only found out AT (sic) the planning and zoning meeting what would happen to the property if the zone change was passed. The public had minutes to comprehend this information and then speak," she wrote. "However, the lawyer for the Greater Clark Foundation had months to plan what he was going to say. Since the meeting, many more residents have learned what the plans are and they are against this change for the reasons listed in the petition."

Other questions, including the historical role of the Greater Clark Foundation and who has the authority to make such decisions, were also brought up as concerns, though some observers wished to remain anonymous.

City attorney Bill Dykeman spoke on why Tuesday's meeting didn't include public comment on the matter, noting that it was already on the agenda.

"The technical reason is that [with] comments...it becomes another kind of meeting. It becomes a public hearing meeting," he said. "As you might imagine, it's pretty well-litigated in planning and zoning issues across the Commonwealth."

At the same meeting, Mayor JoEllen Reed addressed certain allegations, such as the lack of a traffic study.

"There has been an 80-page traffic study done. The conclusion on the traffic study said, 'based upon the volume of traffic generated by the development and the amount of traffic forecasted for the year 2027 and 2037, there will be an impact to the existing highway network, with levels of service remaining within acceptable range. Right-turn lanes will be required at the entrances on the Bypass and the entrance on Colby Road. No other roadway improvements are required.'" she said. "That's what we have based that (decision) on...[we're] trying to be as transparent as we can be."

She also addressed the matter of greenspace.

"Most people are concerned with greenspace...that property is not ever going to be greenspace again. So, if this does not go through tonight, that's still not going to be greenspace. Whomever Greater Clark (Foundation) sells that to, they're going to put what they want there, but it's just not going to be that anymore," she said, with Commissioner Kitty Strode later reiterating the statement. "I have been



WINCHESTER SUN FILE PHOTO

City Hall, site of a recent Winchester Board of Commissioners meeting, where a highly contested zoning ordinance change was approved.

talking to a property owner...over the last three or four weeks, and that property owner is considering donating nearly 16 acres of land close to where the current walking trail is...I want you to know that the City of Winchester, and I speak for all of us sitting here, are committed to green space and finding more green space in this community."

Some still had reservations regarding the project.

City Commissioner Shannon Cox, the lone 'no' vote on the Commission, felt that the studies were flawed.

"I'm sure some of you in this room have tried to come down the Bypass (from) Lexington Avenue on out at four in the afternoon, and it takes ten minutes to go two miles...you add this additional traffic on there, we just may as well abandon the Bypass," he said, regarding the traffic study. "That's not my major opposition. My major opposition is the fact that I was told...that

they're going to do a stormwater survey after it's rezoned."

Robert Jeffries, Planning and Community Development Director, also spoke.

"I don't think there's...a chance in Hades that a development can be built without a stormwater study within a jurisdiction like ours," he said.

Additional staff, including Commissioners Hannah Toole and Joe Chenault, also spoke at the meeting, which can be heard at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyBSR8PEKPc>, accessible through the "City of Winchester, KY Community Information" page.

The Change.org petition and several comments can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/help-stop-the-re-zoning-at-the-winchester-traveling-trail>.

The next scheduled meetings of the Winchester City Commission are Tuesday, February 3, at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

ONGOING

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including one that announced offices would also be closed on Tuesday and that cautioned drivers to be aware of black ice.

Magistrate Robert Blanton, through his own Facebook account, posted videos explaining the road conditions to numerous viewers.

The City of Winchester also announced cancellations on its social media account.

"Because of inclement weather, City Hall will remain closed Tuesday, January 27," they said, having closed the office on Monday as well. "We will provide updates about future hours here."

Due to outdoor conditions, delays were also frequent.

Winchester Municipal Utilities advised that service delays may have occurred.

"Garbage services are suspended for today, and customers will receive credits for this week's services," stated WMU early Wednesday morning.

An update was provided at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

"WMU has been mon-

itoring road conditions and currently intends to resume garbage pick-up on Thursday, January 29, 2026, for the customers who have Thursday pick-up," they said. "Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday routes (January 26, 27, and 28) will receive a \$10 credit to their accounts and will continue normal pick-up next week."

Throughout the week, a number of other locations were closed at one time or another, or had hours delayed.

Among them were the Clark County Public Library, Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation, the Clark County Animal Shelter, Frames on Main, Bluegrass Community Health Center, Winchester-Clark County Chamber of Commerce, Winchester-Clark County Tourism, Clark County Health Department, Winchester-Clark County Industrial Development Authority, High Speed Collectibles, Book Book Nook on Main, Stride, The Mercantile on Main, Maka Mia Pizza, and more.

KENTUCKY

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significant weight in her selection process.

This week's selection, Truth and Treason, offered a poignant departure from pure escapism. Released by Angel Studios in late 2025, the film dramatizes the true story of Helmuth Hübener, a German teenager who led a clandestine resistance against the Nazi regime by distributing anti-propaganda leaflets. Mattern chose the film for its freshness and high audience praise, but for attendees like Don Stanley, the draw is as much about the people in the chairs as the images on the screen. "I like the series for the variety and the camaraderie among us regulars," Stanley said. "It's a lot of fun to see people...just to have a chance to get out of the house. Especially right now." Stanley, who has lived in several communities, considers the Winchester facility to be a rare gem, calling the



JOHN CHANEY

Residents gather at the Clark County Public Library on Wednesday afternoon for a screening of "Truth and Treason." The "Kentucky Picture Show" has become a weekly staple for locals seeking both cinematic escape and a sense of community.

library "top-notch" and a vital resource for the area.

While the films provide the entertainment, the "Picture Show" serves a deeper purpose: combating social isolation, particularly among the community's seniors. Mattern observed that the screenings quietly strengthen community

bonds, as people who come every week eventually make lasting friendships. It gives residents a reason to be social while enjoying a free movie and snacks. As the credits rolled on the story of Hübener's courage, the lights came up on a room full of neighbors—proving that while the movies

change every week, the sense of belonging remains a constant.

The Kentucky Picture Show continues every Wednesday at 2 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Upcoming titles and library event schedules can be found at [clarkbooks.org](http://clarkbooks.org) or by calling (859) 744-5661.

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