

Clendenin Town Council,

I apologize that I could not provide my facts and opinions in person. I have a disease that leaves me exhausted by 7:00 pm. I live in the 25045 zip code, attend church in Clendenin, and conduct business regularly in town.

I am in full support of converting the school building into a YMCA, including a swimming pool. Our area is in dire need of fitness facilities, and drowning occurs all too often without access to swim lessons. Our many disabled neighbors will benefit greatly from having a place for physical therapy and impact-free exercise. I spend 2 to 4 hours daily in physical therapy, hoping to preserve my present abilities. I would love to have a nearby place to swim.

As a biologist with a Master's degree, I COMPLETELY understand the need for green space. This need could be best served by encouraging the community to maintain riparian borders. Riparian borders are unmown strips along rivers and streams that help prevent flooding and erosion and provide habitat for wildlife. Small mown areas for river access for boating and fishing would still allow for recreation.

A wonderful answer to the need for greenspace would be encouraging the proposed rail trail. The combination of riparian borders, a YMCA, and the rail trail would attract the kind of tourists that the Community needs to become healthier and more vibrant. These visitors could arrive by car, boat, or bike. They could stay overnight and use the YMCA and eat at our restaurants.

Biologists understand all too well the feral cat problem in many towns. I would like for the council to encourage any and all parties that are reducing these numbers by catching, sterilizing and re-homing these animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen McClure".

Karen McClure