

THE COATESVILLE RECORD

(A Politically-Independent Newspaper)

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THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1956

The One-Minute Pulpit

If a man think himself to be something when he is nothing he deceiveth himself. Galatians 6:3.

Paul gave himself small credit, he said it is no longer I that live but Christ that dwelleth in me. The civilized is better than being deflated by public opinion.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION

It is difficult to write about the Chester County Planning Commission for the reason that the writer is too close to it to recognize any of the "terrible things" pointed out in a petition to the County Commissioners to oust the planning group.

We do not believe that any of the things which the petition mentions as "possible" has been done by the Planning Commission. It has been the experience that some of those who originally opposed the Commission have become its best friends. In many instances, individuals who were far from friendly admitted, after their plans had been acted upon by the Commission, that they had been benefitted by suggestions made to them. From where we sit, the Planning Commission appears to be important and we are convinced that it has done good work. Whether it should be continued remains for others to say, although it does seem peculiar that so many counties have established Planning Commissions without the opposition developed in Chester County.

It may be that the Chester County Commission has made mistakes, even though their attention has not been called to them. It is possible, too, due to the fact that the Commission is made up of mere human beings, not miracle workers, that mistakes may be made.

But this one thing we wish to mention, and it is only a personal opinion: We think it unfortunate that Chester County did not have a Planning Commission twenty or more years ago. If there had been such a group, with authority to act, the county would not now find itself with so many health hazards due to land development permitted on land unsuitable for septic tanks or cesspools, and which later became menaces to health. It would have been impossible to sell houses on plots where road improvements were promised but never materialized. There would now be fewer houses on lots containing less than 10,000 square feet but containing water wells and cesspools. And some of the developments would not have roads with hills so steep that traffic over them in bad weather becomes quite a problem.

The only instances in which the Commission has interfered with the use of property, so far as we recall, were those in which the developers attempted to do things which even the developers must have known were wrong.

And finally, the Commission has always insisted, when approval was given any development, that the requirements of the Township supervisors and the State Health department must be met.

It would be interesting to have the complainants point out what has been done that, in their opinion, was wrong.