

# Planning Commission OKs New Development

By DAN WRIGHT  
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The Rockingham County Planning Commission has recommended rezoning more than 100 acres of agricultural land west of Harrisonburg to build a housing development.

David Milstead and Tim Lacey, partners in MILA LLC, plan to build more than 200 houses on property north of U.S. 33 between Switchboard Road and Frazier Quarry.

In a 3-1 vote Wednesday, the commission recommended rezoning

## Board To Consider Building 285 Houses On Ag Land

105.9 acres from A-2, general agriculture, to CR-3, residential with conditions. The conditions limit the development to 285 single-family houses, with no duplexes or multi-family dwellings.

The rezoning request goes to the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors on July 28 for consideration.

Planning Commission member Fred Eberly cast the dissenting vote, calling the project inconsistent with

the county's comprehensive plan to avoid building houses on agricultural land.

"Ag is a big portion of our economy, it's important to the area," Eberly said. "Our comprehensive plan says we want to protect our rural environment as a way of life."

The property was a "working farm," although Eberly admitted the land was pasture and poorly tillable.

"My issue is, do we mean what we

say when we say we're going to retain the rural character of Rockingham County?" Eberly added.

Planning Commissioner Dewey Ritchie voted with Chris Runion and Bud Long to recommend rezoning. Steve Sisson was absent from the meeting.

The Milstead-Lacey development met the requirements of the comprehensive plan, according to Ritchie.

"The overriding goal is to maintain residential development on public

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