Pickens public meeting is tonight

County seeks input on goals for 2030

By Julie Howle
STAFF WRITER
jhowle@greenvillenews.com

An advisory committee for a Pickens County comprehensive plan will hold a public meeting tonight as work to lay out goals for the county by 2030 moves forward.

The meeting for the 2030 Pickens County Comprehensive Plan starts at 6 p.m. and will be in the auditorium of the county administration building in Pickens, according to Nathalie Schmidt, Pickens County planner.

"We've got to have a vision of where we want to go," Chris Brink, director of community development for Pickens County, has said. "We need to know what (residents) think."

The plan will lay out goals for Pickens County by 2030 — how the county will look and what it will include — and offer tools like ordinances or policies that could be used in implementing those goals, according to Brink.

More than 30 people gathered in June for the public kickoff of work on the plan.

Schmidt said discussions will continue on the vision statement for the plan at the meeting tonight and subcommittee groups will be formed for each of the nine elements of the plan.

She said the state requires the county to formulate a comprehensive plan every 10 years and update the plan every five years. It also mandates that nine elements be covered in the plan: economic development, community facilities, cultural resources, natural resources, transportation, housing, population, land use and priority investment.

In addition to advisory committee meetings that are open to the public, the process will include open houses for more public input, Schmidt said.

She said those involved hope to have the plan adopted by the end of summer next year. Pickens County Council must vote on the plan.