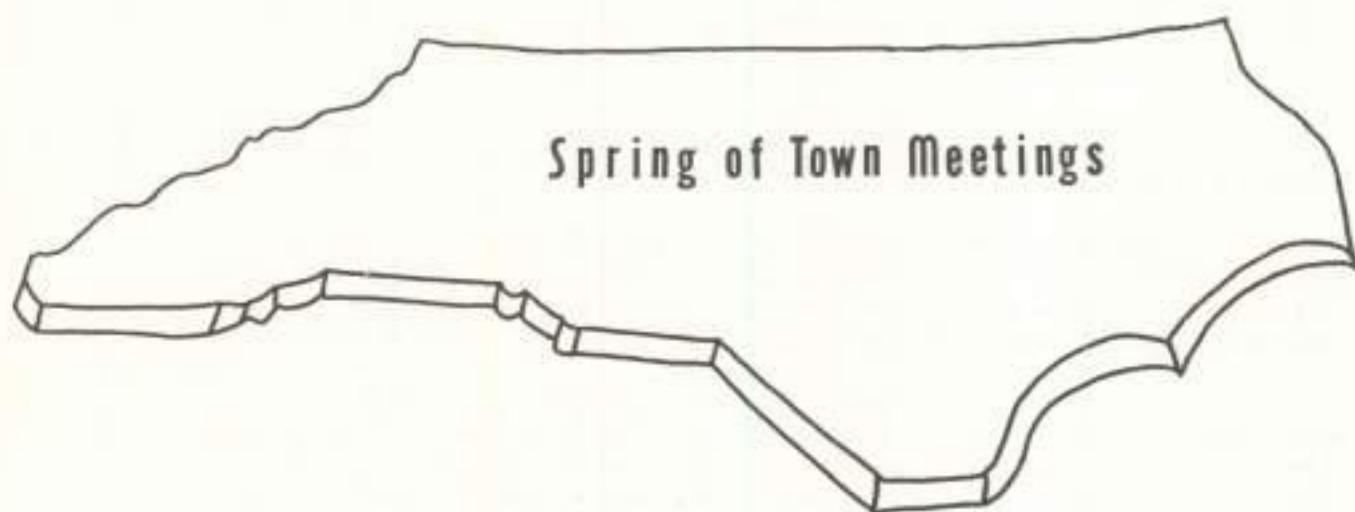


REPORT TO THE STATE



THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
AND
THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE
FOR
TOWN MEETING

SPRING, 1977



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RALEIGH 27611

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.
GOVERNOR

Dear Fellow Citizens:

It is my understanding that in the coming months a program of local "Town Meetings" will be offered in North Carolina. These meetings provide an opportunity for citizens to discuss challenges and to create proposals for their town.

I have long been an advocate of such efforts since citizen participation is one of the foundation stones of our democracy. I heartily endorse the concept of citizen involvement which the program represents, and I encourage communities to give serious consideration to participating.

My warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. B. Hunt". The signature is written over the word "Sincerely,".

What is "Spring of Town Meetings"?

"SPRING OF TOWN MEETINGS" was an opportunity for towns in the Foothills, Piedmont and Sandhills areas of North Carolina to hold a one-day Town Meeting. The project was created by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a private non-profit group and sponsored in North Carolina by the North Carolina Committee for Town Meeting.

From mid-April to mid-May mayors and leading citizens in over 100 towns of all sizes were visited by four teams of town meeting volunteers. Town Meeting dates were scheduled and local planning committees were formed.

Citizens knew they were joining locally in a four-year project of 5,000 Town Meetings in the United States, over 1300 of which have already been held under the Horizons Program of the Bicentennial or under various state campaigns (Oklahoma, New Jersey, Mississippi).

But, more importantly, local citizens knew they were planning for a unique experience in grassroots democracy - a day of celebration and concrete planning for everyone in the community.

Their aims? To launch new projects, increase local involvement, and give new vitality to volunteer efforts already underway in the towns.

Their accomplishments? One outstanding event after another from Maxton to Tryon. Clear statements of local challenges. Practical, do-able proposals for action built on grassroots wisdom with local energy committed to their implementation. This, combined with new town songs, stories and symbols and the remembrance of fellowship shared in covered dish meals, chats with visiting legislators, and a new feeling of community pride - this was the "SPRING OF TOWN MEETINGS!"



Team discussion at Kernersville
Town Meeting Day

"The fate of liberty and democracy are finally entrusted into the hands of the American people."

-Jonathan Elmer, 1776

"It's amazing what people can do when they put their heads together."

-Dobbins Heights citizen

Towns Celebrate

LOCAL CITIZENS
Create A
STORY, SONG AND SYMBOL
For Their Community



BALLAD OF BOILING SPRINGS

Tune: On Top of Old Smokey

Let us tell you the story
Of our little town
Our achievements are many
With spirit we're bound.

We're proud of our people
And the work that's been done
We look to the future
And the good of each one.

Join in and grow with us
There's much growth in view
If you're civic minded
Boiling Springs sure needs you.

-Boiling Springs Town Meeting



Their Creativity

GIVE ME THAT OLD MAXTON SPIRIT

Tune: Give Me That Old Time Religion

Chorus: Give me that old Maxton spirit
Give me that old Maxton spirit
Give me that old Maxton spirit
It's good enough for me.

Maxton has a clock that has stood for many years.
It has helped us tell the time and eliminate our fears.

Maxton has many opportunities which plainly can be seen.
Look around and you will find one that will fit into your scheme.

Maxton's many churches with their willingness to give
Have led us to believe it's a good place to live.

Chorus: Give me that old Maxton spirit
Give me that old Maxton spirit
Give me that old Maxton spirit
It's good enough for me.

-Maxton Town Meeting



JOYFUL, TRYON

Tune: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

When they named the peak for Tryon
Friendship was the healing need
Neighbors worked and strove together
For a culture, rich, indeed.

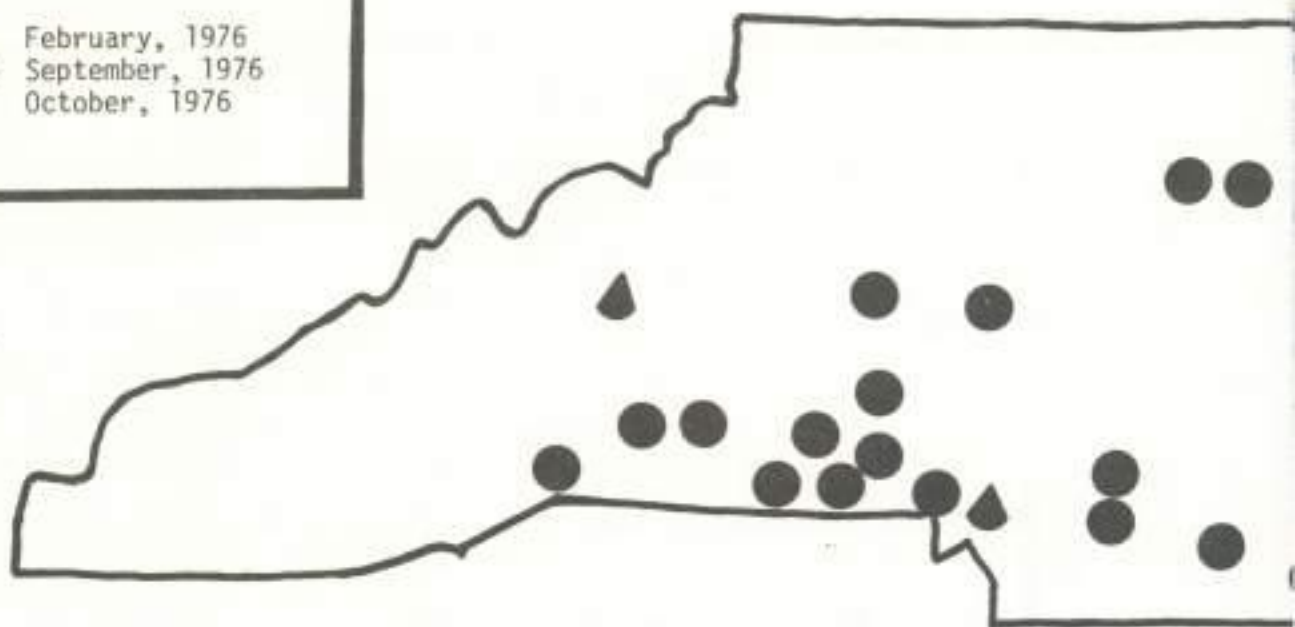
Joyful in our daily living
Joyful in our love of man
Tryon has a way of giving
This, her charm, into our hand

"Rich man," "poor man", don't divide us
Let us share this dream divine
Old and Young alike provide us
With fulfillment in our time.

-Tryon Town Meeting

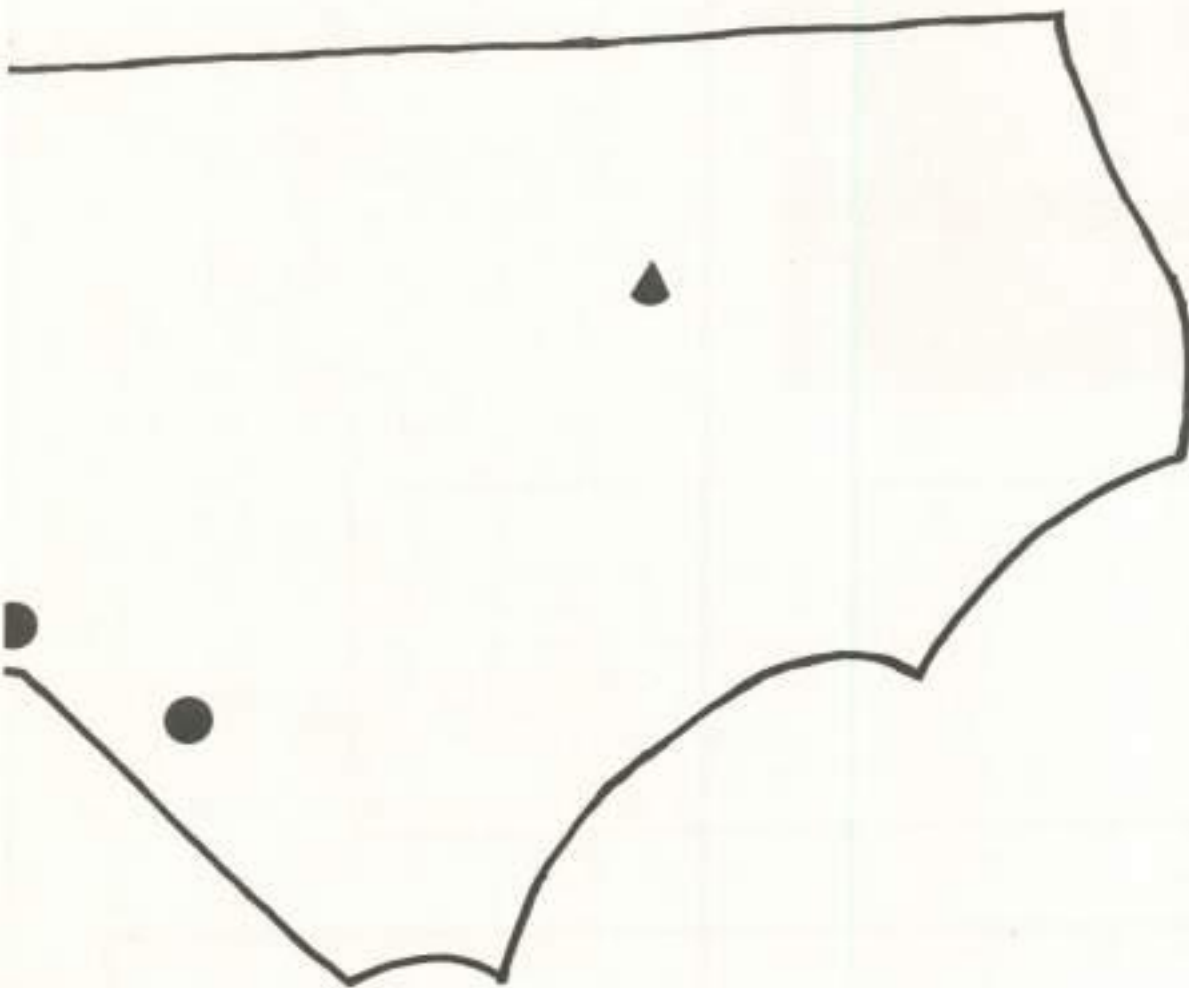
Everyone Takes Part

Charlotte	February, 1976
Greenville	September, 1976
Old Fort	October, 1976



Shelby	April 16, 1977
Kernersville	April 16, 1977
Claremont	May 21, 1977
Cherryville	May 28, 1977
Boiling Springs	June 4, 1977
Maxton	June 4, 1977
Polkton	June 4, 1977
Ellenboro	June 5, 1977
Grover	June 5, 1977
Rutherfordton	June 11, 1977
Kings Mountain	June 18, 1977
Dobbin's Hts. (Hamlet)	June 18, 1977
Troutman	June 18, 1977
Tryon	June 25, 1977
Lowell	June 26, 1977
Stanfield	June 26, 1977
Winston-Salem	July 9, 1977
Locust	July 17, 1977

t In Local Planning



Future Projection

Of the towns visited, over 30 indicated a desire to hold a Town Meeting day in the Fall of 1977. An additional 40 towns in the Foothills, Sandhills and Piedmont are also likely to hold Fall Town Meetings. Towns in the Mountain and Coastal Plain areas of the state were not visited during the "Spring of Town Meetings" project, though mayors and leading citizens in those areas have indicated a strong interest in the program.

Citizens Take A Look



THE FIRST WORKSHOP
identifies the
PRESENT CHALLENGES

"Land Acquisition"

In the arena of industrial and business development, the fact that there has been no major industry move into Lowell in 50 years, there is little diversity in industry to provide diversity of employment opportunities, 70-80% of the people are employed outside the Lowell area, and there is little land available for immediate development, indicates that the major block is most of the available land is held by a few families that are not interested in selling or developing their land.

-Lowell Town Meeting

"Actions Speak Louder Than Words"

In the arena of cultural commonality, the fact that youth are bored, there is a lack of meeting places, and there is a need for organizers and leaders indicates that the underlying contradiction is that the citizens are not interested in carrying out ideas. This contradiction is illustrated by the window of the local post office broken out during the night by youth and youth parked behind the post office because they don't have anything else to do.

-Ellenboro Town Meeting

"Positive Progress"

In the arena of economic commonality, the fact that there has been no school board decision on the high school issue, sewage facilities are unimproved and communication problems exist with the rest of Gaston County indicates that the underlying contradiction is fear of future progress corrupting or changing the traditional values. This is illustrated by the outdated sewage system which affects industry and employment opportunities and indirectly educational facilities.

-Cherryville Town Meeting

Into The Future

THE SECOND WORKSHOP
creates the
PRACTICAL PROPOSALS.



"Community Recreation Center"

We the citizens of Grover, in order to create effective community participation for all age groups, propose the development of a community recreation center through creating interest to get land, determine availability of school owned land by checking with school board, check with property owners around school for additional land and fund raising through state revenue sharing for recreational facilities, solicit local contributions and bond issue.

-Grover Town Meeting

"Emphasis on Human Potential"

We the citizens of Shelby, in order to supply jobs for those in need (youth 14-18 and the inexperienced) propose to create jobs for these groups through partial government supplement to business who hire and train these groups, active solicitation of jobs from area businesses and the development of a central bank of appropriate jobs.

-Shelby Town Meeting

"Creative Youth Involvement"

We the citizens of Claremont, in order to discourage use of drugs and prevent juvenile delinquency, propose to keep youth busy and active, get children involved in city and civic activities, through organized teen parties, dances, part-time employment in city and local business and providing a supervised meeting place for youth.

-Claremont Town Meeting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mid-afternoon session at the Kings Mountain Town Meeting

• THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE FOR TOWN MEETING •

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Old Fort Dispatch

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Winston-Salem

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TOWN MEETING



communities on the move

TOWN MEETING: NORTH CAROLINA is part of a national program created for local communities by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a not-for-profit research, demonstration and training group concerned with the human factor in world development. The ICA staff and consultants in 47 American cities work with local sponsoring groups to coordinate program development and provide resources, training and follow-up services upon request. For further information, contact



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