

## **Countywide Advisory Team Meeting #2 Summary**

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The second meeting of the Countywide Advisory Team for *Cultivating Community: A Plan for Union County's Future* was held on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Mifflinburg High School Large Group Instruction (LGI) Room. A summary of the meeting follows.

### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Shawn McLaughlin of the Union County Planning Commission at 7:00 PM. Mr. McLaughlin then welcomed everyone and introductions of county staff, the consultant team, and attendees followed. Attached is a list of those in attendance.

### **II. Existing Conditions Update**

Mr. Kerns from WRT provided the Advisory Team with an update on progress with data collection, analysis, and evaluation of existing conditions in the county and the multi-municipal planning areas. He indicated that WRT and the subconsultants are working on a draft "existing conditions report" and McMahon Transportation is reviewing traffic data and information and will be identifying key intersections, corridors, and other transportation issues for further analysis.

### **III. Research on Exceptional Plans**

Mr. Rouse said the project team has identified a number of plans from around the nation that have been recognized as recent examples of exceptional planning and implementation. Mr. Rouse proceeded to quickly review the examples that were selected based on consultation with the Urban Land Institute (ULI), American Farmland Trust, and Tom Daniels of the University of Pennsylvania. Those selected included plans from Farmersville, CA; Chesterfield Township, NJ; New Kent County, VA; South Livermore Valley, CA; Manheim Central in Lancaster County, PA; and Lancaster County, PA. Information about these plans is on the project website at [www.cultivatingcommunity.net](http://www.cultivatingcommunity.net). Mr. Rouse indicated that many of these plans have won national or state awards. He encouraged committee members to review these examples to generate ideas about innovative planning techniques and to look at how the different plans are structured. Ms. Moyer asked if the methods used in other states would be applicable here since the planning statutes are different from one state to the next. Mr. Rouse stated that a good number of the planning tools would be applicable to Pennsylvania but probably not all of them.

### **IV. Report on Community Outreach Efforts**

Mr. Kerns updated the committee on the progress of the survey, focus group interviews, the website and upcoming public meetings. He reported that 3,000 surveys were distributed by the ETC Institute and 550 had been returned thus far. There have also been 2,500 visits to the project website. Mr. Kerns said focus group interviews continue and that eight were completed in October and several more are scheduled for November and December. The intent is to also have a separate meeting with municipal officials in January. Mr. Fetterman asked if the survey could be put on the website for people to complete. Mr. Kerns and Mr. Rouse were concerned about the integrity and statistical validity of the survey since it was designed to be administered to a random sampling of households. Mr. Fetterman said he understood that issue but perhaps it could still be put on the website and residents could fill it out and submit it with the results kept

separate from the mailed survey. Mr. Kerns and Mr. Rouse indicated they would investigate the possibility of putting the survey on the website. Mr. Kerns then reminded the committee members of the three upcoming public meetings – Nov 14<sup>th</sup> in Laurelton at 7:00 PM, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> in Lewisburg at 8:30 AM and at New Berlin at 7:00 PM.

## **V. Planning Issues and Aspirations**

At this point the PAT was divided into two groups for the purposes of conducting the same exercise that would be used at the public meetings. The intent was to get input from the PAT and to provide practice for volunteer facilitators and recorders. Each of the groups was asked a series of questions that included the following:

*What are the strengths of Union County?*

*What are the weaknesses of Union County?*

*What ideas do you have for the future of Union County?*

A facilitator assisted each group with the discussion and all comments and ideas were recorded. At the conclusion of the discussion each participant was asked to prioritize and vote on what they felt were the most important in each of the categories (strengths, weaknesses, and ideas for the future). This input, and that from the public meetings, will be used in combination with the other forms of participation, such as the survey, website and meeting with municipal officials to shape the vision for the plan which will guide land use alternatives and plan development.

## **VI. Existing Land Use**

Mr. Kerns announced that draft maps of existing land use had been prepared by the County GIS staff and were available for PAT members. The maps were developed for each participant based on their home municipality. Mr. Kerns asked that everyone take their map with them and review it for accuracy and to report any discrepancies to the Planning office staff. He noted that this is one of the many maps that will be produced for the project. Mr. McLaughlin stated the maps are available in PDF if members were interested in seeing a larger area, such as an entire multi-municipal planning area or the county as a whole. Mr. Kerns noted the countywide land use map is on the project website as well.

## **VII. Future PAT Schedule**

Mr. Kerns presented a recommended meeting scheduled for the PAT that would include meetings in January, February, March, May, July, September, October, and November 2008 and January 2009. The proposed schedule and purpose of the meetings is attached. Mr. Kerns and Mr. Rouse also suggested the PAT select a standard meeting date, time, and place so that members can schedule in advance for the meetings. The PAT agreed that Thursdays are a good meeting night since it avoids other municipal meetings; however, several members did have conflicts with the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday.. It was decided that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month will be the meeting date and the time will remain at 7:00 PM. Mr. McLaughlin asked whether the PAT wanted to continue meeting in Mifflinburg or if the meetings should be rotated to different locations throughout the three planning areas. The PAT preferred Mifflinburg because it was centrally located. The Mifflinburg High School LGI room seemed to work well and the Planning office staff would attempt to schedule it for upcoming meetings.

### **VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the PAT will be held on *Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in Mifflinburg*. Staff will attempt to reserve the Mifflinburg High School Large Group Instruction (LGI) Room for the meeting. The final location will be sent with the meeting announcement and agenda.