



Land Partnerships Update: Cumberland County Open Space Plan

Committee Meeting #1 Meeting Notes

SC#: 11100.10

Date / Time: 2:00 PM Wednesday April 18th, 2012

Location: 18 North Hanover Street, Carlisle, PA

In Attendance:

Geoff Clymer - Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board
Geoff Creary - Simone Collins (SC)
Shireen Farr - Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau
Bob Fisher - RJ Fisher & Associates
Bill Forrey - Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC)
Larry Hatter - Greater Harrisburg Association of Realtors
Justin Keller - SC
Sherri Pursel - Greater Harrisburg Association of Realtors
Peter Simone - SC
Kirk Stoner - Cumberland County Planning Department (CCPD)
Jeff Williams - Silver Spring Township Parks and Recreation
Kim Williams - Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Stephanie Williams - CCPD
Rebecca Rosser Yearick, Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Anna Yelk - CPC

Meeting Agenda:

1. Introduction / Review Accomplishments of Previous Plan (SW)
2. Review of Recent Open Space Trends and Preservation Tools (SC)
 - Official Maps - a guide for private sector development
 - Urban Growth Boundaries - to inform local zoning decisions
 - Benefits of sustainable agriculture
 - Role of Central PA Conservancy in light of changes to the economy
3. Review Enclosed Citizen Survey (SC/SW)
 - Type: Random sample and user selected. Both surveys will ask the same questions. Results will be tabulated separately to allow for individual evaluation.
 - Random Sample Target: 1,500 postcards (sent by County) (previous response rate was 47%)
 - Questions are similar to the 2006 survey so results can be compared
 - Available May 23rd to September 30th
 - Citizens have the option to complete the survey online or by mail (handwritten)
4. Municipal Interviews (SW)
 - Individual municipal Interviews will be conducted by County staff

- Allows for focused discussion to identify municipal needs and potential planning or implementation projects
5. Public Meeting #1 Format (SC/SW)
 - A brief presentation will be given to summarize previous plan accomplishments / goals / changes
 - Break into smaller groups or “Listening Stations” to facilitate a focused discussion on the goals, objectives and concepts specific to the four main elements of the plan
 - Citizen surveys will be available at the meeting (provided by the County)
 6. Review Enclosed Project Schedule (SC/SW)
 - Next committee meeting 2:00PM June 14, 2012
 - Next public meeting 7:00PM May 23rd 2012
 7. Your Ideas & Comments
 - What are the most critical open space needs for the county?
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Meeting Notes:

1. A member in attendance stated that farming activities disproportionately account for more runoff than new residential or commercial developments, but new developments bear the brunt of the burden to reduce runoff to meet Chesapeake Bay initiatives. This study should explore possible funding sources for farm improvement projects such as riparian buffers to reduce runoff contributing to nutrient loading in the Chesapeake Bay. Similar programs exist in Lancaster County. These programs will be researched for applicability to this program.
2. It was suggested that riparian buffers be required for farms preserved with County funding to reduce impacts to the watershed. Trout Unlimited was suggested as a possible partner.
3. Anna Y. provided an overview of CPC’s acquisitions. CPC does not have conservation easements on agriculture property. Terms of easements are defined on a case by case basis.
4. Those in attendance acknowledged the recent growth of the local food and sustainable agriculture industry, and agreed this plan should provide suggestions to advance and support those agricultural enterprises.
5. The citizen survey definition for greenways should be expanded to list local examples of water trails, pedestrian / bicycle trails and natural corridors.
6. It was suggested that the citizen survey definition for livable communities be revised. Livable communities should emphasize a mixture of land uses and should specify development patterns where people can live, work and shop. Elements of the EPA definition for livable communities should be incorporated into the citizen survey definition.
7. The citizen survey should provide a separate question for livable communities and ask respondents to rank their preference for various elements of livable communities. Some of these categories are found on page #82 of the 2006 Land Partnerships plan. Livable community rankings should be removed from DRAFT citizen survey question #7 and listed in a separate question. Tree lined streets should be removed from question #7 and included in the new question for livable communities.
8. Citizen survey question #7 should be revised to list advantages of protecting mountains. Advantages mentioned were preserving steep slopes and scenic

views.

9. Citizen survey question #7 should be revised to state, “wetlands and floodplains preservation”.
10. Some in attendance pointed out that survey responses could vary greatly depending on whether the residents are property owners and renters.
11. The municipal survey should include a checklist of planning tools so County staff can evaluate the use of these tools by individual municipality. This will help identify need and inform plan recommendations.
12. The format for public meeting #2 was briefly discussed. It was decided that two meetings will be held in each end of the county. These meetings will take place on May 23, at New Kingstown, and May 24, in Shippensburg. These meetings will be streamed live and posted on the project’s website. An open house format will encourage individual participation.
13. A member in attendance stated that this plan should provide recommendations for un-built portions of the Cumberland Valley Rail-to-Trail. The consultants stated that there is a separate study currently underway in the eastern portion of the County.
- 14. The next committee meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM June 14, 2012.**

Enc: Project Schedule



Land Partnerships Plan Update Project Meeting Schedule

Date/Date	Meeting Type	Topic
April 18: 2-4 PM	Committee Meeting #1	Plan Process, Goal & Objectives, Emerging Trends Public Participation Format
May 23: 7-9 PM	Public Meeting #1	Overview of 2006 Plan and Accomplishments, Input for 2012 Plan Update
May 24: 7-9 PM	Public Meeting #2	Overview of 2006 Plan and Accomplishments, Input for 2012 Plan Update
June 14: 2-4 PM	Committee Meeting #2	Public Participation Outcomes, Goals & Objectives, Needs Assessment
July 17: 2-4 PM	Committee Meeting #3	Farmland Preservation & Natural Resource Protection
Aug 16: 2-4 PM	Committee Meeting #4	Parks, Trail & Greenways & Livable Communities
Oct 11: 2-4 PM	Committee Meeting #5	Review Draft Plan
Oct 25: 7-9 PM	Public Meeting #3	Present Draft Plan (East)
Nov 8: 7-9 PM	Public Meeting #4	Present Draft Plan (West)
Dec 4: 2-4 PM	Committee Meeting #6	Revisions to Draft Plan
Jan/Feb 2013	Public Meeting #5	Final Plan Adopted by Commissioners

Committee meetings to be held at Business Central, 18 North Hanover Street-1st floor conference room, Carlisle, PA 17013.
Public meeting locations TBD. Please contact Stephanie Williams, Greenway & Open Space Coordinator, Cumberland County Planning Department, at (717) 240-5383 or sjwilliams@ccpa.net with any questions or concerns.