



Land Partnerships Update: Cumberland County Open Space Plan

Committee Meeting #4 Notes

SC#: 11100.10

Date / Time: 2:00 PM Thursday August 16th, 2012

Location: 18 North Hanover Street, Carlisle, PA

In Attendance:

Shireen Farr - Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau
Larry Hatter - Greater Harrisburg Association of Realtors
Justin Keller - Simone Collins (SC)
Peter Simone - SC
Kirk Stoner - Cumberland County Planning Department (CCPD)
Jeff Williams - Silver Spring Township Parks and Recreation
Kim Williams - Appalachian Trail Conservancy/South Mountain Partnership
Stephanie Williams - CCPD
Anna Yelk - Central PA Conservancy

Meeting Agenda:

1. Review and compare survey results - mostly unchanged since July.
 2. Review DRAFT Implementation Strategies:
 - A. Trails, Parks and Greenways - Chapter 7
 - B. Livable Communities - Chapter 8
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Meeting Notes:

General Comments:

1. To encourage a higher survey return rate, SC will extend the final date for the user selected and random sample surveys to November 30, 2012. Townships are encouraged to advertise the LP survey and meetings on their websites and in their newsletters. It was suggested that the County send reminders to random sample recipients to encourage higher participation. **Steph W. to check if reminders can be sent via post cards.**
2. It was stated that random sample response rate was much lower than the 2006 plan. However, the results of the random sample are mostly in line with the self-selected survey and survey methodology between 2006 and 2012 are vastly different.
3. Kim W. suggested that a new implementation matrix column be created to outline specific actions/outcomes to help guide accomplishments of the plan.

Parks Greenways and Trails Comments (PGT):

4. It was suggested that a portion of the next public meeting be dedicated to identifying

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specific projects of particular need. Kirk S. stated that details on specific projects are not often flushed out until a municipality applies for a grant through the program.

It was suggested that the County send a letter to all municipalities asking them to identify priority projects over the next 5 years.

5. Improved access to trails and water trails with formalized parking areas and way-finding signage should be added to the implementation matrix.
6. PGT strategy #6 should seek to garner volunteers. The Master Gardeners and National Land Partnerships Day were mentioned as possible volunteer partnerships.
7. After PGT#6, a recommended strategy for the Mount Holly Marsh Preserve is to develop a landscape management plan that enhances native habitats, removes invasives and implements a forestry management plan. A Bio-blitz was suggested for this property- where teams of environmental specialists volunteer their time for a day (Kings Gap example).
8. It was suggested that a strategy be added for the establishment and maintenance of no-access greenways.
9. PGT strategy #12 or #13 should specify community outreach by the County every 1-2 years.
10. PGT strategy #12 should specify landowner outreach for trail easements.
11. It was suggested that recommendations after PGT strategy #13 be moved into PTG #12 as specific action items.
12. Kim W. suggested that PGT #12 should include specific recommendations for improving the Appalachian Trail access. **Kim W. to send specific recommendations for AT access improvements.**

Livable Communities (LC) Comments:

13. It was suggested that implementation strategy LC#1 should refer to DCNR green principals for parks.
14. Pete S. advocated for some funding of critical park operations such as lifeguards at pools. The enabling legislation should be checked.
15. Pedestrian lighting, bus shelters and bike racks should be added to LC#4.
16. In addition to planning tools currently listed in LC#5, funding and assistance for the preparation of official maps should also be included.
17. Justin K. mentioned that a bike-sharing program was an idea discussed in previous meetings, and could be implemented in partnership with colleges, universities and the health and wellness non-profits. A pilot project should be recommended at strategic locations along the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail.
18. Implementation strategies after LC#10 should be moved to the Natural Resource Protection category.
19. New LC implementation strategies for green infrastructure should list specific green infrastructure items for rural and urban areas and seek pilot demonstration projects. Reduction of stormwater runoff and improving water quality through the implementation of permeable pavers, rain barrels and rain gardens should be an emphasis in urban areas.
20. Shireen F. asked how the plan addresses large vacant commercial structures. One possible adaptive reuse of these structures is indoor recreation facilities. It is reported that these facilities are currently lacking in the County. Pete S. stated that a plan should be developed (separate from this study) to survey existing indoor recreation facilities in the area to determine need for these facilities. It was noted that tax abatements are usually needed to make these uses viable, and that there are not many opportunities for tax abatements outside of Harrisburg.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM October 11, 2012. Topic: DRAFT plan review. The draft report will be forwarded to the committee for review by September 20, 2012.