

MEETING NOTES - Steering Committee No. 3 – Oct. 24, 2019, 7 p.m.

Hampton Township Implementable Comprehensive Plan

Welcome and overview

1. Where we are in the process
Identifying and fleshing out the Key Issues will mark the end of Phase 1 – the community input phase. We will then turn to Phase 2, which is solutions-orientation.
2. How this reflects the *Implementable* Planning Process
 - We have been emphasizing community input because basing the plan on what residents “want to see happen” improves the likelihood of implementation. This should continue, please, through engaging citizens in the solutions.
 - It’s important to continue to keep elected and appointed officials and staff members involved, as they will also play critical roles in implementation decisions.
 - What are “Key Issues?” They are matters that are both *important* to the community and *feasible* to address, even if that means doing so in small steps.
 - We have found that creating in-depth, step-by-step plans for a few Key Issues has a much greater likelihood of success than listing hundreds of recommendations regarding a dozen different topics.

Public input take-aways

1. The group added input to a big grid cataloging both public input opportunities and what we heard. That is attached.

Key Issues selection

1. The group discussed what themes they felt were emerging. We then prioritized them to select four Key Issues (at least for now) and added further discussion about each to clarify what the facets or aspects should be included.
2. At the Oct. 30 meeting, we will review a more in-depth view of the Key Issues and “Other Topics,” and refine them.

Connectivity & Trails (13 dots)

- Need sidewalks to/from community assets
- Need to connect North Park – Hampton Twp Park – Hartwood Acres
- “How to get where you want to go without driving”
- Create internal trails within park/school campus
- Need bike-ped infrastructure within housing plans and connecting them outward
- Emphasize walking/biking safety
- Access to green space

COMMUNICATION IDEAS

- Is there a way to involve volunteers, such as Scouts?
- Safety education

Route 8 Appearance/Land Use (11 dots)

- Overlay district currently in place seeks to address some hardships owners or redevelopers experience
- Design consultation to establish how to make it look better
- Flexibility
- Small lots create a challenge for redevelopment
- Stormwater requirements (Allegheny County Conservation District) can make redevelopment difficult or very expensive
- Some facets for possible improvements in appearance are signature plantings, buffers, sign design, façade requirements
- Create a “look” up and down Route 8 via planters, colors, etc?
- Vacant properties
- Commercial mix contributes to appearance people don’t like.

COMMUNICATION IDEAS

- Can twp hold meetings with Rt. 8 business owners – there was a community development or business improvement group that had an employee (shared) for a while
- Is there a way to involve volunteers to create/maintain beautification?

Conservation of Natural Resources (9 dots)

- Preserve existing green space
- Protect steep slopes
- Streambank rehabilitation
- Acquire additional green space
- Protect air and water quality
- Protect tree canopy
- Balance with development, particularly in large plans

COMMUNICATION IDEAS

- Create education/community programs regarding nature appreciation and conservation

Township-Business/Developer Relationship (8 dots)

- Need to uphold standards but also work effectively with business, developers – it's a balance.
- Evaluate existing requirements for inspections, development, code enforcement
- Evaluate existing processes for township-business or township-developer or township-property improvement interactions
- Consider what changes have been instituted, and what other steps could/should be tested
- Evaluate whether development fast-track programs have worked elsewhere

COMMUNICATION IDEAS

- Are there programs or campaigns the Twp could start, such as "H1 Pride" (shop Hampton first) or business-township roundtables?
- Can there be a place on the Twp website where citizens can find updates about visible or contentious projects?

Other Topics

- The issue of "no town center" (6 dots)
- Special events/Programs/Recreation (5 dots)
- Communications (2 dots) NOTE: The group said it would like to embed communications strategies in each Key Issue rather than have it stand alone.
- Pre-school/after-school issue (1 dot)
- Traffic/Congestion/Route 8 (0 dots) Note: The group recognized that much about these issues are outside of Twp control, so maybe communication about the status of what's being done/not done, or what's possible/what's not is the most important thing.