

Meeting Summary
Royersford Comprehensive Plan
Steering Committee
May 3, 2016

URDC provided a summary of the key person interviews that have been completed at this time. For instance, realtors reported that there is a strong interest in commercial and residential markets in the Borough. One reason that was reported to explain why some Downtown buildings in Royersford have not found new uses is because of high asking prices. These prices can be particularly difficult to obtain for certain buildings that need substantial improvements.

URDC summarized a memo dated 4/26/2016 (that had been previously distributed) that included the highlights of previous Borough and County plans. These plans included the Borough's existing Comprehensive Plan and Revitalization Plan and the County Comprehensive Plan.

The Committee discussed a memo dated 4/27/2016 (that had been previously distributed) of background information and maps. The packet addressed Regional Influences, Historic Overview, Existing Land Uses, Natural Features, Population and Housing, and Adjacent Zoning.

A comment was received that the number of persons employed within Royersford seemed high. It was also noted that the Borough is actively working to have its Rental Housing Inspection Program fully in effect.

There was discussion about the need to involve the public, such as through one or two existing Facebook pages and the Borough's website. The Facebook pages could have links to information on the Borough's website.

There was discussion about completing an online citizen survey. It was suggested that the survey place an emphasis on downtown businesses. Also, the survey should ask people to choose among various choices (such as "choose your top two concerns"). A service such as surveymonkey.com could be used. URDC said they would prepare a draft for the Committee's review.

The Committee was very interested in the concept of having a Downtown Main Street Manager. Because funding is unlikely to be available for a full-time staff-person, this could possibly involve sharing a staff-person with nearby communities. If a shared staff-person would be used, it may be eligible for 50 percent funding under the State "Shared Services" grant program. The intent is that the staff-person would be needed for at least two years, but it would not necessarily be a permanent paid position.

There was discussion about completing the Riverfront trail system, which eventually could use the old railroad trestle bridge to create a looped trail. The Borough has been obtaining land, easements and grants to extend the trail. However, it is expected that involvement by the counties would be needed to eventually upgrade and open the bridge.