



# ORPC Oxford Region Planning Committee

Chair: Al Jezyk, Jr. Vice-Chair: Charles Fleischmann Treasurer: Robert Ketcham

## 2025 Annual Report

January 2026

**DRAFT!**

**To:** ORPC Membership

**From:** Mark Gallant, Chester County Planning Commission

The Oxford Region Planning Committee (ORPC) is an advisory group consisting of representatives from Oxford Borough and East Nottingham, Elk, Lower Oxford, Upper Oxford, and West Nottingham Townships. They meet at 7:00 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month (and the 1st Thursday, as needed) and meetings are held via Zoom and are open to the public. The ORPC met 14 times in 2025 on the following dates: 1/22, 2/6, 2/26, 3/26, 4/3, 4/23, 5/1, 5/28 (Public Open House), 6/25, 7/23, 8/7, 9/24, 10/22 (Met at MEDIC 94 Headquarters).

Al Jezyk, Jr. of Elk Township served as Chair. Charles Fleischmann of Upper Oxford served as Vice-Chair. Robert Ketcham of Oxford Borough served as treasurer. Mark Gallant continued to serve as Secretary/Planner.

### Part 1: Summary of Review and Support Letters

East Nottingham ZO Amendment (I-I District) – review letter to East Nottingham (5/25)  
Herr's Farm Preliminary Plan – review letter to East Nottingham (8/25)

### Part 2: Speakers/Guests and Topics of Discussion

#### Speakers

A priority of the ORPC is providing information on meaningful and timely topics and inviting guest speakers to share their expertise and experience. In 2025 this included:

Speaker	Organization	Topic
Patty Quinn	CCPC	Transportation Improvement Inventory
Paul Mason	Farmer/Landowner	Anaerobic Digester

## Part 3: Work Program - Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan Update

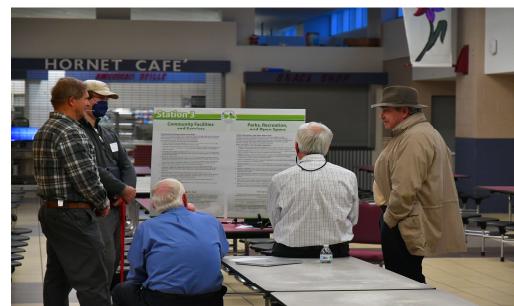
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The ORPC held a Public Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Penns Grove Middle School that was organized in an open house format. The purpose of the meeting was to present the draft Plan Goals and Objectives and discuss the Survey Results with members of the public. The CCPC Team and ORPC volunteers interacted with 40+ members of the public and recorded the feedback that was shared.

In addition to completing the goals and objectives for the Comp Plan update, the CCPC Team completed 1<sup>st</sup> drafts of three existing conditions sections and plan chapters in 2025, including: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Multimodal Transportation; and Community Facilities and Services.



40+ members of the public attended and provided feedback at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Open House



## Part 4: Sub-Committee Activities and Accomplishments in 2025

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### The Regional Volunteer Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

#### Supporting ORPC Stormwater Action Initiative

- ✓ Produced the *Oxford Region Annual 2024/25 MS4 Activities* report for the annual MS4 status reports PaDEP requires permitted municipalities (East Nottingham, Oxford Borough and Upper Oxford in 2025) to submit by September 30.
- ✓ Helped promote Stroud's ongoing riparian buffer program for landowners in the Chesapeake portion of the Region.
- ✓ Encouraged submissions for municipal stormwater control measure funding under the Chesco Chesapeake Communities Action Plan (C3AP).
- ✓ Stormwater Action Initiative Public Tabling Events
  - May 2, 2025 - Oxford First Friday tabling; hosted by Oxford Mainstreet; Elk Creeks Watershed Association and Octoraro Watershed Association partners
  - June 6, 2025 - Oxford First Friday tabling and native plant give-away; hosted by Oxford Mainstreet; Brandywine Conservancy and Octoraro Native Plant Nursery partner
  - June 7, 2025 – Educational tabling at Octoraro Reservoir; hosted by Chester Water Authority; Chester County Conservation District and Octoraro Watershed Association partners.

- June 21, 2025 – Educational tabling at Oxford community yard sale; hosted by Oxford Friends Meeting; Elk Creeks Watershed Association partners.
- June 28, 2025 - Oxford Public Library Fishing Tournament tabling; hosted by Glenroy Preserve; Oxford Public Library, Octoraro Watershed Association, and Stroud Water Research Center partners
- October 3, 2025 – Oxford First Friday tabling and native plant give-away; hosted by Oxford Mainstreet; Alliance for Chesapeake Bay partner
- ✓ Facilitated Opportunities for direct participation in improving water quality
  - February 19, 2025 – Invasive plant removal work day at Little Elk Preserve; Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and Elk Creeks Watershed Association
  - Hosted the biennial water quality stakeholders meeting, “Partnering to Improve Water Quality in the Oxford Region, March 31, 2025; hosted at Oxford Borough Hall and via televideo; included 25 partner presentations;
  - Assisted the Heritage Valley Homeowners Association in riparian buffer restoration planning through site visit on February 19, 2025 organized by the Elk Creeks Watershed Association;
  - Helped promote the May 19, 2025 dedication of the Submerged Gravel Wetland; Community of Love Lutheran Church; hosted by Oxford Borough;
  - June 5, 2025 -- Tree planting maintenance work day at Big Elk Creek State Park; Elk Creeks Watershed Association
  - October 4, 2025 – Tree planting maintenance work day at Big Elk Creek State Park; Elk Creeks Watershed Association
  - November 1, 2025 – Invasive plant removal work day at Big Elk Creek State Park; Elk Creeks Watershed Association
  - December 6, 2025 -- Invasive plant removal work day at Big Elk Creek State Park; Elk Creeks Watershed Association

#### **Other initiatives**

- ✓ Supported ORPC outreach concerning the Comp Plan revision
- ✓ Monitoring and on-going discussions about the DCNR Master Plan for the Big Elk Creek parcel
- ✓ Monitoring and on-going discussions about the environmental implications of the Herr Farm warehouse development.
- ✓ Encouraged public comments on the PL-566 Draft Mushroom Composting Water Quality Plan (September 2025)
- ✓ Participated in strategic planning exercise for the Elk Creeks Watershed Association.

## The Regional Historic Preservation Sub-committee

The ORPC HP sub-committee met with Oxford Area Historical Association members and Chester County Planning Commission staff six times during 2025. Most of the meetings were held during the first half of the year leading up to the design and installation of four of five Heritage Interpretive Signs at the following locations; Glenroy Preserve, Lincoln Village, Elk Township at the Mason Dixon Line, and Old Stone Cider, an agricultural business with variations of historical significance. The fifth sign will soon be installed after OAHA settles on the Union School building at 119 S 5th St in Oxford. The recent grant award of \$700K will ensure the acquisition of this property, which will serve as a county-wide Gateway to the Oxford Region's Agricultural Heritage Interpretive Network.

In 2026, the ORPC HP will be raising funds for the restoration of the antique grain separator to be on display at the Glenroy Preserve to symbolize the Agricultural Heritage of the Oxford Region. At some point in the future, the sub-committee would like to assist the Glenroy Preserve with the restoration of the Glove Tavern, which is situated at the preserve's entrance and was a former station on the Underground Rail Road. The sub-committee has reached out to those who might appreciate the significance of the Hosanna Church and Cemetery in the former settlement of Hinsonville, as well as the history of Lincoln Village. (The shared parcel of the Hosanna Church with the Amos House continues to be an unsettled factor, even though public water and sewer were extended to this property in 2013.)

Upper Oxford is currently the only municipality in the Oxford Region with an active historical commission. This year's focus will be to secure documentation for the regionally historic significance of the villages of Homeville and Russellville.

**ORPC HP Mission Statement:** *Advance the work of the region's historical commissions, past and present, with the goal of preserving the region's historic resources as outlined in the Oxford Region Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan in order to provide continuity with the region's heritage and compatibility with the region's land use.*

### Priorities:

1. Ensure that existence of historic resources is checked on subdivision plans
2. Develop a regional Agricultural Heritage Center
3. Fully staff historical commissions
4. Develop basic historic resource protection standards

**ORPC Regional Goal:** *Identify and preserve the historic resources that contribute to the Region's heritage and protect these features and the surrounding historic landscapes from encroachment of incompatible development.*

**Objectives:**

- A. Formulate protection strategies
- B. Monitor protection programs
- C. Encourage integrity of historic resources
- D. Continue tracking significant historic resources
- E. Work in cooperation with other regional entities

**Part 4: Upcoming Activities for 2026**

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The ORPC will continue their speaker series as topics are identified and continue to support efforts of the Regional Volunteer EAC and Historic Preservation Subcommittee.

**Work Program:** Oxford Region Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan update

- Complete Existing Conditions, all Plan Chapters, and other Plan components.
- Guide the ORPC through Act 247 Review, public outreach, and Plan adoption.
- Regularly update ORPC website.

**2025 ORPC Membership**

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<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Supervisors/Council Members</b>	<b>Planning Commissioners</b>
Oxford	Amanda Birdwell Pauline Garcia-Allen <b>Alternate</b>	Kathryn Cloyd
East Nottingham	Sam Goodley, Jr.	Joe Marra
Elk Township	Albert Jezyk, Jr.	Melanie Ryan
Lower Oxford	Robert McMahon	Joel Brown
Upper Oxford	Charles Fleischmann Scot Rugen <b>Alternate</b>	Colin Kaukunas
West Nottingham	Andrew Marker	David Ross