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Chester County Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Meeting #1 – Public Input

Thursday, October 26, 2017

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Focus Area Stations

There were six stations focused on how we preserve, protect, appreciate, live, work, and connect.

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Focus Area Stations

Public comments at these six stations included:

- Housing affordability
- Inter-municipal communication
- Need to develop within public infrastructure service areas
- Need for public education
- Balance preservation and growth
- Preserve environmental and historic landscapes
- Need for historic preservation funding
- Need to support stewardship
- Need additional investment in Coatesville
- Have higher density in urban areas
- Land costs are high
- Define and differentiate protect, preserve, and appreciate

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Vision Station

The proposed vision statement was displayed for review and comment:

In 2045…

Chester County abounds with restored natural areas, robust farms, cherished historic sites, diverse housing, thriving businesses, quality education, transportation choices, and vibrant communities for all.

Public comments directly on the proposed vision statement were limited to concern over open space not being specifically addressed and the description of natural areas.

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What would your Chester County look like?

At the vision station, attendees could also note what their Chester County would look like in 30 years, and their comments included:

- Clean water and air
- Affordable housing
- Housing options
- Diversity
- Open space
- Farms
- Preserved historic resources and landscapes
- Development in existing towns
- Improved public transportation
- Trails and improved connectivity
- Flexible zoning
- Mixed-use and walkable communities

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Growth Station

At this station attendees could provide input on where and how to accommodate new homes in the future.

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Growth Station

Public comments at this station included:

- Density will be needed to accommodate the projected growth
- Cluster and transfer of development rights would reduce impacts on open space
- Need for more affordable housing
- Traffic congestion is a problem, more options are needed
- High density development needs dedicated parking

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Presentation and Public Comment

There was a formal presentation and then dedicated period for public comment and questions.

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Presentation and Public Comment

Public questions and comments included:

- Need for mixed communities
- County role versus municipal role
- Need connections between homes, shops, and trails
- Need for more sidewalks
- Trails as transportation
- Truck traffic is a problem
- New business attraction
- Need more truck traffic restrictions and enforcement
- Need to address changes to retail sector
- Evolution of agriculture
- Need to preserve historic resources and landscapes
- Where do small farmers fit in
- Capitalize on the country's 250th anniversary in 2026
- Impact of new homes on traffic
- Water supply, wastewater, and stormwater concerns
- Need to involve all communities in the county in this process

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Next Steps

- Steering committee meetings continue through 2018
- Regional public meetings take place spring 2018
- Development of plan recommendations take place in 2018

Follow the Landscapes3 process at:

www.chescoplanning.org

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