

Public Involvement and Adoption

The development of the Franklin Township Comprehensive Plan Update began in February of 2019. One of the overarching goals of the Township Supervisors was to ensure that planning process was open, inclusive and transparent. They felt that it is important to gain the support of the community to ensure that the adoption of the plan reflects their vision and input and so that implementation of the priority goals, actions and strategies would be a logical next step in the process.

Various methods were used to engage the public throughout the planning process. They included: project steering committee meetings, public meetings, stakeholder (key person) interviews, a business / industry focus group meeting, presenting at a Greene County Chamber of Commerce Meeting, and interaction with the Township Supervisors and Staff members. The results of the community input which identified issues, challenges and opportunities for Franklin Township were used to provide the foundation for the Plan update.

Project Steering Committee

The guidance and coordination during the planning process was provided by an ad-hoc committee – the Project Steering Committee – appointed by the Franklin Township Supervisors. This Committee was made up of Township Supervisors and Staff, Township Planning Commission members, Township ZHB members, business owners, organizational leaders, and residents. All of the meetings were open to the public and were held at the Municipal Building.

The Project Steering Committee met on a regular basis throughout the process to ensure that the key issues for the Township were identified and addressed. The meetings were also used to provide feedback on proposed recommendations and ensure that the future growth and development goals that were created reflected the community's vision. The Project Steering Committee members – who served as liaisons between the Township and the residents – are identified in the Acknowledgements section of the Plan.

Stakeholders

To supplement the information that was acquired for the Plan Update, Stakeholder (Key Person) interviews were conducted with community members identified by the Project Steering Committee. These individuals were recommended because of their knowledge of the Township and their ability to present valuable insight and information regarding the issues and opportunities in the municipality. Their input provided a different

perspective on the community's values and desires because of their influence and interests in the Township, the County, and the Region.

The stakeholders interviewed during the planning process are listed below and the results of the interviews were incorporated into the Plan.

- Matt Cumberledge – Executive Director: Greene County Historical Society
- Doug Lee – President: Waynesburg University
- Casey Durdines – Government Affairs: EQT
- John Higgins – Business owner and former Township Supervisor / Kent Marisa – Business owner: Potential (residential) developers of property they own
- Sergeant Jay Hundertmark – Station Commander / Corporal Michael Larkin – Criminal Investigation Supervisor: Pennsylvania State Police (Troop B – Waynesburg)
- JoAnne Marshall – Director: Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency
- Dr. Helen McCracken – Superintendent: Central Greene School District
- Ben McMillen – Owner: McMillen Photography
- Pamela Marisa – Owner: Direct Results
- Steve Coss – Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer: Franklin Township
- Mindy Walls – Assistant Professor / Stover Chair of Entrepreneurial Leadership: Waynesburg University
- Terry Wiltrout – President: Washington Health System (WHS) Greene

The stakeholders interviewed felt that although there were issues that Franklin Township was currently facing, they could be addressed through proper planning and the allocation of local and state resources. Each of the stakeholders also felt that the Township has the assets – available land, location, mix of businesses and industries, and leadership – to become a place where new residents would want to locate in Greene County.

Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held throughout the planning process to provide an opportunity for residents, business owners, and other interested individuals to learn about the Comprehensive Plan Update, discuss findings, identify issues, assist with the development of the Township's vision, provide comment on the goals that were created as well as help with their prioritization, and provide feedback on the elements of the draft plan.

The first public meeting took place on April 10, 2019 at the Franklin Township Municipal Building. Attendees were asked to provide input on Franklin Township's: Vision; Assets and Opportunities; Issues; and Goals. Exit surveys were provided to each person who

attended the public meeting to provide additional more specific input into the planning process.

A second public meeting was held by the Franklin Township Supervisors at the Municipal Building on June 24, 2019. Those who attended were provided with an update on the findings and progress of the Plan Update. Attendees were given the opportunity to provide input on the vision that had been created for the Plan, the issues relevant to the Township, and the goals of the Plan that were developed to date. Specific questions / topics included: In the next ten to fifteen years, what areas / locations in Franklin Township do you feel should be developed; What areas should be preserved / protected from future development; and what additional Goals that you would like to include that have not been identified.

The public meeting results were discussed earlier in the Plan and provided valuable information for the Project Steering Committee as the vision, issues and goals were finalized.

Township Supervisors

The Franklin Township Supervisors will ultimately be responsible for allocating municipal resources to implement the Comprehensive Plan Update. They were involved in the planning process through their participation on the Project Steering Committee and were provided updates on the Plan's progress on a regular basis. Their commitment to moving the Township forward was important to the development of goals, strategies and actions that are focused on creating future growth and development in the municipality.

Township Planning Commission

As stated in the PA MPC, the Franklin Township planning commission shall have the responsibility of forwarding a draft comprehensive plan – one that has been recommended for approval – to the Township Supervisors for their consideration of adoption.

The Township Planning Commission was represented on the Project Steering Committee. Through their attendance at the meetings they were able to provide regular updates on the Plan's progress as well as answer questions and address any concerns of the other Planning Commission members.

Township Staff Meetings / Coordination

Regular communication with Township Staff was maintained throughout the planning process. Meetings took place as necessary to ensure that any issues identified during the Comprehensive Plan Update were addressed in a timely manner.

The insight of staff was invaluable because of their knowledge of the Township and the municipality's policies, procedures and ordinances.

Business and Industry Focus Group

One of the strengths of the Township that was identified in the early stages of the Plan update was the business and industry community. Therefore, the Township Supervisors and the Project Steering Committee felt that it would be important to get input from this segment of the economy.

A Business and Industry Focus Group Meeting was held on May 23, 2019 that included various types of businesses, service providers, and industries in the Township. Attendees at the meeting were asked:

- What OBSTACLES or FACTORS are hindering your business, or the business community in general, to grow and become more sustainable?
- What IMPROVEMENTS could Franklin Township officials make that would help your business, or the business community in general, to grow and become more prosperous in the future?
- What ASSETS within Franklin Township are helping your business to grow?
- From your perspective, what are the ISSUES currently impacting Franklin Township that may provide challenges to future growth, development, or preservation efforts?
- In your opinion, what are the most important GOALS that you feel the Township Supervisors should address once the comprehensive plan has been adopted?
- How do you think that the business community can best help Franklin Township (and its officials) in the future?

An exit survey was provided to attendees of the focus group meeting that allowed them to provide additional information that they felt was important to the development of the Comprehensive Plan update.

To acquire additional input from the business community, a presentation was made at the June 26, 2019 Greene County Chamber of Commerce meeting. The same questions

and exit survey were provided to attendees of this meeting that were provided at the Business and Industry Focus Group meeting.

The results of this input were included into the Plan update.

Plan Adoption

As per the PA MPC, once the “final” draft of the Franklin Township Comprehensive Plan Update has been created, the Township shall forward a copy of the draft plan to the Greene County Planning Commission at least 45 days prior to the required public hearing for its review and comments. At the same time, the Township shall also forward copies of the proposed plan to all contiguous municipalities and to the Central Greene (Waynesburg) School District for their review and comments.

In compliance with the PA MPC, the draft Comprehensive Plan Update was forwarded to the Greene County Planning Commission, the contiguous municipalities - Waynesburg Borough and the Townships of Morgan, Jefferson, Whiteley, Wayne, Center, Morris, and Washington, and the Central Greene School District in compliance with the requirements for notification.

Before adopting the Comprehensive Plan Update, the Franklin Township Planning Commission held a public meeting to take public comment on the draft Plan and to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the Plan’s adoption.

The Franklin Township Supervisors held a public hearing pursuant to public notice to consider public comment, comments from the Greene County Planning Commission, the contiguous municipalities, and the Central Greene School District and to consider adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

The adoption of the Franklin Township Comprehensive Plan Update was done by resolution – which can be found at the beginning of this document.