September 5th, 2024

Workshop 2A: Choices and Visioning

Workshop 2A and 2B – Choices and Visioning – These workshops will have facilitated discussions on each topic presented below (3 per workshop). The meetings will begin with an overview of Workshop 1 and survey results. The attendees will then proceed with a discussion and activities that are intended to advance issue development and help set a vision for the future.

Workshop 2A Topic Summaries

Sewer

Riegelsville Borough is served by public water and individual on-lot sewage disposal systems. Public water is received from two wells located nearby in Williams Township, Northampton County and a well located along the Delaware River near the borough's municipal park. Sewage disposal systems are septic systems. Many of the systems are old and may need repair or upgrading. To maintain the effectiveness of the systems, the borough has enacted an On-Lot Sewage Disposal Management Program. One of the major limitations to new commercial development is the inability of smaller lots in the downtown area to handle increased sewage flows.

What we heard…

At the workshop, development of a community septic system/public sewer system was seen as important to the future of Riegelsville (7 responses at Workshop 1). The related issue of revitalization of the downtown was also cited as important to the future at the workshop. The importance of revitalizing the downtown commercial district was rated 4.2 out 5.0 in the community survey. However, the importance of building a community sewage system for the commercial district was only rated 2.7.

What do we still need to learn…

- How has the lack of public sewer affected you?
  - As a resident
  - As a business owner
- Is there community support for a large-scale project?
- What are the options and costs for wastewater management?
- Is there funding available for wastewater projects?
- What are the benefits of a community system?
- What do other small communities do?
- What if we do nothing?

Downtown

The borough's downtown area consists of a 13.5-acre commercial zoning district, on the east side of the borough, west of the Delaware River. The downtown area currently consists of a variety of commercial services including a few restaurants,

auto repair services, a salon, and the Riegelsville Inn. In 2002, the Borough completed the *Riegelsville Commercial District Plan* which focused on economic development and revitalization efforts within the downtown area.

What we heard…

Revitalizing the downtown commercial district was ranked as the most important issue that was discussed in the survey. At the first community workshop, revitalizing downtown, attracting economic development and allowing for businesses to succeed were all things that were deemed important for the future of Riegelsville by residents. When asked about things that could be improved in Riegelsville, revitalizing the downtown commercial shops was the most common response.

What do we still need to learn…

- What would an ideal downtown look like to you?
- What businesses are lacking in the borough, or in the area, that could benefit Riegelsville?
- What type of development is desired in the downtown? (i.e. small shops, mixed use with residential, apartments, etc.)
- What would be an ideal balance between tourism and practicality? (i.e. boutique shops compared to stores geared towards residents and daily use)

Utilities (Electricity/Stormwater)

Borough residents have experienced frequent electric service interruptions from the Met-Ed distribution system. Reliable service is important to the residents and businesses of the borough. While the borough's residents enjoy the scenic and recreational resources of the Delaware River and Canal, stormwater and flooding issues have affected the borough.

What we heard…

Survey respondents rated improving the reliability of electric service in the borough as the third highest response of the survey (4.1 out of 5.0). Providing more community awareness about flooding also rated highly at 3.1. At the workshop, flooding and electric service reliability was noted as important to the future of Riegelsville.

What we still need to learn…

- What is causing the electrical service interruptions?
- What can the borough do about service interruptions? What can individual residents do?
- Where are the stormwater problems?
- What can be done about flooding from the Delaware River and the Canal?
- Are the properties that are repetitively flooded? What can be done to protect these properties?
- Are funding sources available to address these issues?

What's next?

Workshop 2B (September 12th)

Topics

- Route 611
- Walkability/Bikeability
- Natural Resources/Parks and Recreation