



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Hornik & Community Vision Plan Committee

FROM: Heather M. Zieziula, P.P, AICP, Senior Planner

RE: Farmland, Historic & Open Space Preservation Committee Meeting
7/24/08

Date: July 31, 2008

Our firm attended the Township's Farmland, Historic & Open Space Preservation Committee's ("Committee") Meeting on Thursday July 24, 2008. The Vision Plan process and status of the project was presented. The Plan is in the Community Assessment/Profile Phase, where we obtain information from the community and Township on existing conditions, its strengths, weaknesses regarding various topics (land use, circulation, zoning, public services, facility assessment, parks/recreation...etc.) to understand where the community is now.

The following was discussed:

- The group was comprised of three Committees: Open Space, Farmland Preservation, and Historic Preservation. A representative for Historic Preservation was not present. The Farmland Preservation Committee pursues grants in conjunction with the County, since funding is lacking from the State. Raising money is a constant issue with all Committees.
- The Committees struggle with the balance of preserving farmland vs. open space. Criteria are set in place to preserve farmland vs. open space.
- *LOCATION* becomes a big issue for the Committees. If a parcel is not very accessible, it is better left as farmland. Overall, the decision of farmland vs. open space comes down to money, which use is more profitable?
- Various ethnic groups within the community have changed types of farming (i.e. more goats than cows).
- Committee has preserved larger amounts of land as a farm (25 acres) and then sold it to the Township. Smaller parcels are used for open space (5-10 acres for a park or recreational use). A critical selection of these areas is required.
- Plans for Farmland Preservation, Historic Preservation, and Open Space Preservation have all been in place and adopted in the Township.

Issues/Solutions:

- Committees agreed the Township does NOT need more housing!
- Link land of proposed development, like a Town Center, through waterways. Use these natural resources as part of planning for proposed development. Plants that are being destroyed or removed because of development takes away breathable oxygen.
- Preserve streams and buffers on properties. Flooding issues occurred from wetland disturbance and leveling of land for development. In addition, water is being lost, as it is being diverted out of Township.
- There is a need to better maintain, use, and plan existing open space.
- Township in desperate need of wildlife management! None exists. Very large deer population that is becoming problematic.
- Open parcel on Tennant Road would be a good place to preserve for Senior Citizens to enjoy (stream located on parcel that could be an amenity).
- Boy Scout camping programs on open space helps promote appropriate uses for these areas.
- Provide more opportunities for children/teenagers to volunteer and places for them to interact (as opposed to a mall...etc.).
 - Suggestions: Skateboard Park, using firehouses for dances and events.