

Dover Borough/Dover Township

Joint Comprehensive Plan

Leadership Committee Meeting

August 8, 2019

The Leadership Committee for the Joint Comprehensive Plan met for the eighth time on August 8th at 6 PM in the Dover Township Municipal Building. Members in attendance were Eric Harlacher, Mike Curley, Chuck Richards, Terry Myers, Anne Walko, Cindy Snyder, Laurel Oswalt, Nathan Stone, and John McLucas.

The group was divided by the two topics for discussion. John McLucas and Nathan Stone led the recreation topic while Anne Walko led the share resources discussion. The facilitators discussed the context and reviewed the draft themes and strategies for recreation and shared resources. Joining the leadership committee was Chalet Harris, Doug Shoemaker, Todd Irwin, Brian Widmayer, Matt Henze. The facilitators spent an hour discussing the context and draft chapters of their theme.

RECREATION

The following points were made in regards to the Context discussion:

1. Have a recreation director in Dover Township should be listed under the positives.
2. Under the negatives, the lack of funding for recreation should be emphasized more.
3. Under opportunities in the future it was recommended the Region should consider the PARx program and the Region should look for ways to work together to reduce costs.

The following points were made in regards to the draft goals and strategies:

1. The fact the Region does not have enough space and the community is still growing is still valid from the December 2018 discussion.
2. Need to emphasize working together and other items could be addressed.
3. In regards to combined recreation facilities/activities:
 - a. Develop the sports/recreation committee
 - b. Conduct joint resource planning
 - c. Make a commitment and Operating Agreement
 - d. Determine whether a 501c.3 structure is necessary for fundraising
 - e. Do not combine the club financials together at this time but possibly in the future.

Why is this a Priority?

1. Huge need and interest from the community.
2. Strengthen childhood development
3. Could lead to giving back to the community (i.e. ex-players coming back to coach)
4. Growing community
5. Community health/development/welfare
6. Quality of life
7. Economic development (visitors into the Region that would spend money after events)

What is the most critical aspect to implement within 5-10 years?

1. Cooperation of ALL ENTITIES identify and develop the benefits for each entity
2. Facilities Planning and Maintenance
3. Indoor Facility
4. Widen our footprint for all age groups- widen our impact to the community

Who is willing to help this effort?

1. Eric Harlacher
2. Todd Irwin
3. Doug Shoemaker youth sports and scouts
4. John McLucas- fundraising
5. Chalet Harris- fundraising and facility planning

SHARED RESOURCES

The following points were made in regards to the Context discussion:

1. The community does not view each other as separate. They have a shared identity- “The Dover Community”
2. Dover is “Stronger Together”
3. Additional strength of the Township fire department is the live-in program (14 participants)
4. Funding is an eternal problem for fire departments, particularly with issues of equipment maintenance and replacement.
5. The Township fire department’s live-in firefighters generally commit 2 years, then move on to other opportunities. The live-in facility is in need of an upgrade.
6. Declining numbers of volunteer fire fighters and restrictions with recruiting at High School
7. Historical Society, Garden Club, Lions Club, etc. all have aging memberships; difficulting engaging younger generations in volunteerism
8. Recreation Board started as a joint effort between Borough, Township, and School District but those dynamics changed; lack of engagement previously by all parties was an issue. Some distrust emerged and needs to be addressed.
9. Remove “Create a regional recreation organization while maintaining individual club autonomy” from topic area as this is covered under Recreation
10. Personal contact is key to recruiting and engaging new volunteers.
11. Joint fundraising for fire departments, ambulance clubs.
12. Summer fire academy to involve new junior firefighters
13. Lots of opportunities for students with programming in the high school

The following points were made in regards to the draft goals and strategies:

1. The group decided that combining the first two bullets to read: *Create a regional collaborative including Dover Borough, Dover Township, and Dover Area School District to meet quarterly to look for ways that the three entities can work together through the services that area offered and joint communication effort.* Specific action items under this would be:
 - a. Community Service Fair to be held at the Dover Area Senior High School annually.
 - b. Joint calendar, “Dover Community Calendar” that would have all activities and events from each entity in one place.
2. Under: Fire Services, Emergency Management and Ambulance should look for ways to fund raise, develop and hire staff, educate the public and forward other common goal initiatives. Goal initiatives to include:
 - a. Safetytown program
 - b. First Aid and CPR program
 - c. Stop the Bleed program
 - d. Junior Firefighter and Ambulance programs working together
3. Under: *Non-Profits could meet to investigate and explore how to work together to eliminate overlaps in services and meet future that needs could develop.*
 - a. Community Service Fair planning could assist in this.
4. Remove: Athletic groups could work on ways to work together to coordinate field and facility space, promote their programs, fundraise and fund improvements that are mutually beneficial.

5. Under *Implement joint-zoning to assist both communities to balance borough and rural needs in appropriate locations and provide consistency in dimensional criteria.*
 - o Add historic overlay & main street overlay in the Borough's village district.*
 - o Utilize historical society to review permits/plans to ensure historic preservation is met.*
 - a. Both the Borough and the Township passed resolutions to apply for a grant to update zoning. Perhaps not a joint zoning ordinance but ordinances that are consistent with each other.
6. Consolidate some public works operations – plowing, street sweeping, etc.
 - a. Previously joint bids were put out for roadwork. Bidding jointly saves time and resources.

Why is this a Priority?

1. Dover is “stronger together.”
2. Will help to save resources/ use limited resources more effectively.
3. Making a conscious effort to move forward together, really need DASD involvement.
4. PUBLIC SAFETY is critical.

What is the most critical aspect to implement within 5-10 years?

1. Regional collaborative meeting between the Borough, the Township, and the School District to work together through services that are offered. JOINT COMMUNICATION STRATEGY, specifically an event calendar

Are you willing to help?

1. Borough, Township and Township Fire Department all agreed

The last 15 minutes of the meeting the two groups combined and both facilitators reported out their findings.