

TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board Regular Meeting Agenda Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82033558920

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CITIZEN'S INPUT
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 1. January 21, 2021 Reorganizational Meeting Minutes

IV. SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND PRIORITIZATION

Narrative

Provided with the agenda is a copy of a memorandum dated February 10, 2021 from the Township Manager describing a proposed model for categorizing the Action Steps described in the Small Area Plan. It is recommended that the Advisory Board review the memorandum, note any changes, and assign an Advisory Board member as "champion" of each category. It will be the member's responsibility to ensure that the Action Steps under their assigned category remain visible with consideration given to the priorities of the Township and the Advisory Board. A potential and logical next step would be for each "champion" to develop an implementation proposal for their assigned categories and have each reviewed and approved by the Advisory Board.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION

- 1. Sign Ordinance Community Banners and Off-Site Signage Mr. Tomkiel
- 2. 2021 Centre County Tourism Grants Ms. Grove

VI. STAFF REPORTS

- 1. Manager's Report
 - a. Update on the Pine Grove Mills Streetlight Conversion Project
- 2. Planning & Zoning Director Report

VII. ADJOURNMENT

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP

PGM Small Area Plan Advisory Board Reorganizational Meeting Minutes January 21, 2021 4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2020, via Zoom. In attendance were:

Committee:

Matt Heller, Chairman Paul Tomkiel, Vice Chairman Liz Grove Jordan Robb Matt Heller Staff

David Pribulka, Township Manager Jenna Wargo, Planning & Zoning Director

Others in attendance: Laura Dininni

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

No Citizen's Input

IV. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Heller moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Tomkiel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a. Chairperson
 - a. Nomination Matt Heller nominated by Liz Grove
 - i. Vote Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Vice Chairperson
 - a. Nomination Paul Tomkiel nominated by Matt Heller
 - i. Vote Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Secretary
 - a. Nomination Liz Grove nominated by Matt Heller
 - i. Vote Motion carried unanimously.

VI. 2021 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

Mr. Pribulka reviewed the budgeted items that pertain to the Small Area Plan Advisory Board including the LED streetlight conversion project, the Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study, and the signal warrant study at the base of Pine Grove Mountain. The subcommittee assigned to review the Small Area Plan action steps and categorize them based on initiatives of the Board will meet and prepare a report for the meeting in February.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Robb inquired about the process to amend the zoning and land use regulations to correspond to the action steps in the plan. The Board and staff discussed the procedures and a plan to move forward. Ms. Holliday noted that the Planning Commission would be willing to meet jointly with the Advisory Board to discuss matter of significance to both committees.

Mr. Robb asked about the process for facilitating community development initiatives in Pine Grove Mills. The Advisory Board discussed how to facilitate community engagement during the pandemic including any limited opportunities for events.

The Board discussed a social media strategy. Mr. Pribulka noted that the Township has a social media policy that should be considered and that any requests for a social media page for the Advisory Board should be referred to the Assistant Township Manager.

VIII. REPORTS

Mr. Pribulka reported on the status of the Township's consideration of the stormwater management utility fee. Questions were answered from the Advisory Board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to attend to, the January 21, 2021, meeting of the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Liz Grove, Secretary Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board



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Memo

To: Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board

From: David Pribulka, Township Manager

CC: Jenna Wargo, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning

Kristina Aneckstein, Community Planner

Date: February 10, 2021

Re: Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Implementation

The subcommittee of the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board met on Thursday, January 28th with staff. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Action Steps identified in the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan and begin to assign them to overarching themes that can be translated into a work plan for the Advisory Board to implement. The subcommittee suggested dividing the Action Steps into five core themes: Land Use/Regulatory; Community Engagement/Events; History and Heritage; Public Infrastructure/Multimodal Transportation; and Economic Development. Under this model, and Advisory Board member would be assigned as "champion" of a category and would be responsible for ensuring the Advisory Board continues to advance those Action Steps. The following is a breakdown of each category and their associated Action Steps:

Land Use/Regulatory

- Amend sign ordinance to improve signs in Pine Grove Mills.
- Prepare and implement a Pine Grove Mills Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Map, including Safe Routes to School.

- Develop a zoning overlay district to address the unique needs of Pine Grove Mills.
- Complete a parking inventory and comprehensive parking study in the Village area, including ability to utilize shared parking.
- Amend the zoning ordinance to allow museum spaces in buildings in the Village area to provide historic information.
- Work with Ferguson Township to create zoning ordinances that permit desired uses for existing structures.
- Consider, and subsequently if advised, develop, and implement Township ordinances for the Village Zoning district that align with preservation goals. Examples: an ordinance in the Village District that would limit or delay demolition of structures, or tax incentives to restore sites rather than redevelop.
- Assess opportunities within the Study Area to reduce light pollution.
- Preserve the dark sky and effects on wildlife by incentivizing the use of solar powered downlighting and warm, as opposed to cool, white, or blue LED.

Community Engagement/Events

- Create a Pine Grove Mills Facebook page and Instagram account.
- More aggressively promote and coordinate community events through a variety of social media, postings around the Township and Region, and other forms of communication.
- Obtain funding and establish a signage and branding program for Pine Grove Mills.
- Identify and create an online presence and partnerships between local groups that have laid a foundation for this goal.
- Include Community in Action and other active historic groups in the creation of a Pine Grove Mills Community Association.
- Identify locations to utilize as community gathering spaces.
- Provide specialized educational materials to residents and owners of historic sites when bought, sold, or proposed development occurs.
- Provide a list of resources for private landowners to establish and maintain wildlife habitat.
- Increase awareness of and respectful use of trail resources around Pine Grove Mills by promoting and increasing participation in activities such as PGM Trail Society maintenance events.
- Partner with Shaver's Creek and others to increase awareness of Tussey Ridge and other valuable bird resources near PGM.
- Partner with various organizations to host and increase resident and Township participation in "green" community events.
- Increase watershed awareness through promotion of and participation in related programs and events such as the FT storm drain stenciling program and Clearwater Conservancy's Annual Slab Cabin Cleanup Day.

Inform residents of events through existing and new communication tools: a
Pine Grove Mills website or a Pine Grove Mills page hosted on the Ferguson
Township website, Village newsletter.

History and Heritage

- Prepare a map of distinct neighborhoods in Pine Grove Mills.
- Present history on a Pine Grove Mills website or a Pine Grove Mills page hosted on the Ferguson Township website
- Create educational material that will explain and promote the heritage of Pine Grove Mills.
- Discuss joining historic organizations to promote Pine Grove Mill as an historic place: Centre County Historical Society, National Parks Service.
- Consult with county, state and federal historic preservation groups and Ferguson Township on funding for the creation, maintenance and promotion of the displays or museum spaces.
- Create a "map" tour of places in the Village.
- Create a digital inventory of historic properties and sites.
- Nominate selected sites to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Seek funding to support additional prints of Pine Grove Mills Historic District Book Series, Pine Grove Mills Union Cemetery Book Series and Pine Grove Mills: History of a Hometown 1801-2001.
- Seek funding to establish placement of PGM book series in local libraries.
- Work with Ferguson Township Elementary School to share history of the school with current students, families and staff.
- Work with Pine Grove Mills Farmers Market to identify times for special events with an historical theme.

Public Infrastructure/Multimodal Transportation

- Prepare a Complete Streets Study for State Routes 45 and 26 to facilitate the transition to a complete street.
- Design and install traffic light and intersection improvements at 26/45 "Blinking Light Intersection".
- Assess fire and EMS coverage and access in Study Area.
- Paint parking spot lines on SR 45.
- Bury electrical lines to improve community's small-town character.
- Define best access points for shared trail system (hiking, biking, dog-walking, horse riding, (etc.) that maximize neighborhood connectivity.
- Partner with DCNR to create signage/trail maps for defined access points and trails.
- Encourage DCNR to partner with neighbors on the design and location of access points to Rothrock.
- Determine land use availability.

 Assess opportunities within the Study Area to reduce energy use in lighting, such as utilizing motion sensing lights and doing LED replacements.

Economic Development

- Prepare a study to determine what tax incentives would benefit local business recruitment and retention in the Village area.
- Develop a list of all Pine Grove Mills businesses and contact information.
- Create a small business association for businesses in Pine Grove Mills.
 Include non-profits and for-profit enterprises and encourage local small business development in the Village.
- Consider community based solar energy production in Pine Grove Mills.
- Identify the attractions that would benefit from TODs signage.
- Promote business network events, including "Sale Days"
- Identify funding for TODs signage.

Some Action Steps are not included either due to their already being completed or because they are generally captured in another Action Step. Also, it is not anticipated that the designated "champion" will be solely responsible for the implementation of each category, but it will provide accountability to staff and the Advisory Board as well as establish a clear delineation of responsibility in the coming years. This item will be the focus of the discussion on the February 25th Pine Grove Small Area Plan Advisory Board agenda with the intention of assigning "champions" and refining the document, as well as to discuss next steps.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for your service to the Township and the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board!

Sincerely,

Township of Ferguson

David Pribulka Township Manager

Sign Regulations

Table 2
TEMPORARY SIGNS ALLOWED BY USE TYPE.

TYPE OF SIGN PERMITTED	NUMBER OF SIGNS PER BUSINESS	STANDARDS
ATTACHED COMMERCIAL USE SIGNS		
Banner	One (1)	§ 19-108.3.A.
Banner Sign across a State Highway		§ 19-108.3.B.
Wall	One (1)*	§ 19-108.3.C.
Window	20% of façade area comprised of windows	§ 19-108.3.D.
* If a property is greater than two acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, one additional wall sign may be permitted so long as there is a minimum spacing of 200 feet between the two wall signs.		
FREESTANDING COMMERCIAL USE SIGNS		
Inflatable and Balloon	N/A	§ 19-108.4.A.
Freestanding	One (1)**	§ 19-108.4.B.
Portable	Two (2)	§ 19-108.4.C.
** If a property is greater than two acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, one additional wall sign may be permitted so long as there is a minimum spacing of 200 feet between the two wall signs.		
TYPE OF SIGN PERMITTED	NUMBER OF SIGNS PER LOT	STANDARDS
ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL USE SIGNS		
Wall	One (1)***	§ 19-108.5.A.
*** One large temporary sign is permitted per residential use so long as the property is greater than two acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area.		
FREESTANDING RESIDENTIAL USE SIGNS		
Portable	Three (3)	§ 19-108.6.A.

- A. Temporary signs are non-illuminated and constructed from materials that do not degrade over the life of the sign.
- B. Temporary signs must be safely and securely fastened, mounted, and/or affixed to the ground to prevent damage to the sign, surrounding structures, and people, especially considering potentially adverse weather conditions.
- C. The placement of temporary signs must not interfere with pedestrian traffic, curb ramps, or access to buildings, driveways, fire escapes, or otherwise restrict access to, any parking spaces necessary to fulfill the requirements of §22-501C. Off-Street Parking and Loading Regulations.
- D. Temporary Construction Signs. All temporary construction signs are permitted at issuance of a Zoning Permit. All temporary construction signs will be removed

Sign Regulations

from the construction site, no more than 30 days after an Occupancy Permit has been issued.

2. Removal

- A. Ferguson Township and/or the property owner may confiscate signs installed in violation of this chapter. Neither Ferguson Township nor the property owner are responsible for notifying sign owners of confiscation of an illegal sign.
- **B.** Permission. The party posting the temporary sign is solely responsible for obtaining the permission of the property owner before posting their temporary sign.
- C. Installation and Maintenance.
 - Temporary signs that are frayed, torn, broken, or that are no long legible will be deemed unmaintained and will be required to be removed by a Township official.
- 3. Standards for Temporary Attached Signs for Commercial Uses

A. Banner Sign

- i. One large temporary banner sign is permitted per business for all commercial uses. If a property is greater than two acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, one additional banner sign may be permitted so long as there is a minimum spacing of 200 feet between the two banner signs.
- ii. The temporary banner sign shall have a maximum area of 32 square feet per face.
- iii. The temporary banner sign shall hang at a height no greater than 20 feet.
- iv. A temporary banner sign shall be displayed no more than four times a year per business, for a period of time not to exceed 30 days.

B. Banner Sign across a State Highway

- i. No banner sign shall be attached to any utility pole.
- ii. No banner sign shall be erected in such a manner as to create an unsafe condition for motor vehicles, bicycles or pedestrian traffic.
- iii. A banner across a State Highway is authorized by Title 67, Chapter 212, Section 212.7 only after obtaining written consent from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The Traffic Engineering Manual (Pub 46) provides banner requirements, process and guidance for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation when considering requests to install banners across State Highways.

C. Wall Sign

- i. One large temporary wall sign is permitted per business for all commercial uses. If a property is greater than two acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, one additional wall sign may be permitted so long as there is a minimum spacing of 200 feet between the two wall signs.
- ii. The temporary wall sign shall have a maximum area of 16 square feet per face.

Sign Regulations

iii. A temporary wall sign shall be displayed no more than once a year per business, for a period of time not to exceed 30 days.

D. Window Sign

- i. Each story of a building may have one window sign, not exceeding 20 percent of the total window area for the story the sign is being installed on.
- ii. A window sign shall not be illuminated by any source other than a source external to the sign.
- 4. Standards for Temporary Freestanding Signs for Commercial Uses
 - A. Inflatable and Balloon Signs.
 - i. Not project above the roof line or top of the building structure;
 - ii. Not to be designed to generate animation or movement;
 - iii. The placement must not interfere with pedestrian traffic, curb ramps, or access to buildings, driveways, or fire escapes; and
 - iv. Be displayed no more than four times a year per lot, for a period of time not to exceed seven days.

B. Freestanding Sign

- i. One large temporary freestanding sign is permitted per business for all commercial uses. If a property is greater than two acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, one additional freestanding sign may be permitted so long as there is a minimum spacing of 200 feet between the two freestanding signs.
- ii. The temporary freestanding sign shall have a maximum area of 16 square feet per face.
- iii. Large temporary signs that are freestanding shall have a maximum height of eight feet.

C. Portable Sign

- i. Two signs are permitted per establishment/business.
- ii. Sign area shall not exceed 9 square feet per face.
- iii. The placement of the sign must not interfere with pedestrian traffic, curb ramps, or access to buildings, driveways, or fire escapes.
- iv. The sign shall not be affixed, chained, anchored, or otherwise secured to any pole, tree, tree grate, fire hydrant, railing, or other structure.
- v. The sign shall be permitted to be displayed during business hours and removed at close of business daily.
- 5. Standards for Temporary Attached Signs for Residential Uses

A. Wall Sign

- i. One large temporary wall sign is permitted per residential use so long as the property is greater than two acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area.
- ii. The temporary wall sign shall have a maximum area of 32 square feet per face.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
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Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, Centre County Commissioners announce 2020-21 Tourism Grant recipients

STATE COLLEGE, PA, June 25, 2020 – The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau (HVAB) and Centre County Commissioners this afternoon announced the first round of 2020-21 Tourism Grant recipients at a news conference at the Centre County Visitor Center.

This year, the HVAB received 61 requests from 56 organizations totaling more than \$1.4 million.

HVAB President and CEO Fritz Smith said that due to the impact of COVID-19 on lodging tax receipts, the HVAB, Commissioners and the Tourism Grant Committee made the decision to award grants in two phases. The first allocation totals \$387,300. Most applicants seeking funding for 2021 events will have their requests considered and announced later this fall.

"It goes without saying that this has been an across-the-board challenging year for the HVAB and its members," Smith acknowledged. "The shutdown, combined with the cancelation of major events and the still uncertain future of others has significantly impacted our lodging industry and with it, vital tourism promotion revenue streams.

"The Tourism Grant Committee faced a difficult task in light of historic funding requests. I applaud members for the thoughtful discussion that went into determining how funds would best be allocated this year, and for a strong commitment to keeping our establishments, events and attractions strong for local residents, and prepared for the eventual return of visitors to Happy Valley."

Centre County Commissioners also acknowledged the challenges confronting this year's grant program.

"The Centre County Board of Commissioners thank the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau for their dedication to our community during this challenging and difficult time," said Chairman Michael Pipe on behalf of himself and Commissioners Mark Higgins and Steve Dershem. "These grants will go to great use to help organizations continue to build partnerships and relationships even as we continue to social distance. We applaud all the groups that were awarded grants and wish them much success in the future."

HVAB Board of Directors Chairman Edward Tubbs, Chief Operating Officer for Hospitality Asset Management Company, said recipients – which include 16 new or returning applicants after a year or more's absence – represent projects of all sizes and scopes from all areas of the county.

"This year's recipients include an interesting array of initiatives and events that collectively speak to the broad appeal of Happy Valley's assets and attractions," he said. "I want to thank all grant recipients for their ongoing contributions to a quality of life that resonates with residents and visitors alike."

Several grant recipients, including two first-time awardees, were highlighted at the news conference. Those organizations included State College Borough/MLK Jr. Plaza; Centre County Farmland Trust; Moshannon Valley Veteran's Memorial; and The Crooked House.

State College Borough received \$1,000 on behalf of the Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza to establish and market the plaza as a place for multi-cultural and other events, starting with a virtual tour in light of the ongoing pandemic.

"Since the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza opened in 2017 in downtown State College, it has been the host to many community events that have inspired and educated our community on diversity, equity and inclusion," said State College Borough Assistant to the Manager Douglas Shontz. "The plaza has truly lived up to its mission in keeping Dr. King's legacy alive in State College. The State College Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Plaza is excited to receive this grant to help spread the word about the plaza and become an educational space online."

Shontz said the borough plans to utilize the funds to create a 360 interactive digital tour to highlight all the unique features of the plaza and allow those, especially now, a chance to visit it from the comfort of their home.

"On behalf of the MLK, Jr., Plaza, we extend our appreciation and gratitude for the awarding of the HVAB Tourism grant. The Borough's vision in creating the MLK, Jr. Plaza has provided a place and space for the community to remember, reflect, renew and reach out, while offering opportunities for healing and growth among our diverse population," said Barbara W. Farmer, Chairperson, Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza Committee. "Thanks to the generosity of your grant, the Plaza committee will be able to enhance its outreach into the local and surrounding communities through various mediums and increase a wider community footprint and availability of the plaza's space."

The Centre County Farmland Trust will use its grant to help create mini-tours to showcase Happy Valley's farms and agritourism-related sites.

"The Centre County Farmland Trust is excited to be partnering with the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau to put a new spin on our annual Centre County Farm Tour, where folks can get to know the hands and lands that feed us," said Jennifer Shuey, President of the CCFT Board of Directors. "We will be highlighting several self-guided and drivable farm routes around the county to showcase just some of our beautiful and productive farms, delicious farm-to-table eateries, bountiful farmers markets, and more."

Funding for the Moshannon Valley Veteran's Memorial will be used to help purchase five highway signs from the PA Tourism Signing Trust to raise awareness about the memorial to visitors and those traveling through Phillipsburg.

HVAB grant funding will help The Crooked House in Milesburg complete and market a public sculpture that will create a new focal point for visitors to Homecoming Park in the center of the historic community.

"We are very grateful for this recognition and assistance from the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau," said Crooked House Creative Director Benjamin Fehl. "The Crooked House is one of many culturally valuable local arts organizations that constitute an important part of life in Centre County. This grant award acknowledges the importance of the arts in drawing many visitors to our region."

The following organizations received phase 1 funding:

Bellefonte Art Museum -- \$20,000 State Theatre -- \$25,000 Moshannon Valley Veteran's Memorial - \$1,000 Centre County Farmland Trust -- \$5,000 Centre Bike -- \$7,000 PA Chamber Orchestra -- \$3,000 Clearwater Conservancy -- \$10,000 PSU – Centre Stage -- \$7,500 PSU – Centre for the Performing Arts -- \$4,000 The Crooked House -- \$5,000 State College Borough (MLK Plaza) - \$1,000 Howard Volunteer Fire Department - \$2,000 Bellefonte Inter-Valley Chamber -- \$1,000 Friends of the PA Military Museum -- \$6,500 People's Choice Festival -- \$3,500 Nittany Lion Aquatic Club -- \$12,000 Bryce Jordan Center -- \$7,500 Bryce Jordan Center -- \$7,500

Rowland Theatre – \$10,000

Nittany Mountain Biking Association (Harvest Fields Trail) - \$15,000

Centre Region Parks & Recreation -- \$5,000

Nittany Valley Symphony -- \$7,000

PA Parks & Forest (Friends of Rothrock) -- \$12,000

Aaronsburg Civic Club (Dutch Fall Festival) -- \$3,000

First Night State College -- \$5,500

Pine Grove Farmers Market -- \$1,800

PSU – Arboretum -- \$10,000

Centre County Library & Historical Museum -- \$12,000

Lemont Village Association -- \$2,500

Discovery Space -- \$10,000

PSU – Palmer Museum of Art -- \$10,000

Central PA Festival of the Arts -- \$5,000

Grange Encampment & Fair -- \$20,000

Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. -- \$6,000

Mountaintop Swimming Pool -- \$5,000

Gold Basket -- \$1,500

Centre County Historical Society -- \$7,000

Centre County Historical Society -- \$6,000

Central PA 4th Fest -- \$25,000

Downtown State College Improvement District -- \$25,000

The Rivet at Discovery Space -- \$2,500

Rhoneymeade -- \$5,000

PSU - Centre Film Festival -- \$7,000

Historic Bellefonte, Inc. -- \$40,000

An additional 10 Tourism Grant applications will be considered for funding in November.

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About the Tourism Grant program

Grant recipients are selected by the Tourism Grant Review Committee based on an application process, and are required to use the funding to support projects and advertising designed to attract more visitors to Centre County and enhance the tourism experience. The Tourism Grant program was initiated in 2002, and to date, has provided more than \$5.5 million to nonprofit groups and private sector entities. The funding for the grant program is generated by the Centre County Lodging Tax.