

Alignment Meeting Summary Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Ferguson Township Municipal Building Wednesday, September 5, 2018

On Wednesday, September 5, 2018 the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan committee met at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building to engage in an alignment meeting. The main points of focus of the alignment meeting were to discuss the results of the Small Area Plan survey distributed throughout the area, begin to formulate a Vision Statement for the Small Area Plan, and to begin noting areas of concentration that will assist in the further development of area.

Attending the meeting were Ferguson Township representatives Raymond Stolinas and Lindsay Schoch, CRPA representatives Jim May and Michael Patroski, twenty-two members of the public, and meeting facilitator Jennifer McCauley.

At 6:30 pm CRPA representative Jim May began the meeting by introducing members of staff and the meeting facilitator Jennifer McCauley. Ms. McCauley followed by providing a brief introduction to the night's agenda, highlighting the importance of framework this meeting provides to the community, the benefits of being involved, and how the alignment meeting should progress. Ms. McCauley then requested a brief introduction of each person attending the meeting.



After everyone had taken the time to properly introduce themselves, CRPA representative Jim May gave a history presentation on Pine Grove Mills, highlighting the history of the township and information depicting where Pine Grove Mills is today. Next, CRPA representative Michael Patroski discussed the results of the Small Area Plan survey that had been distributed to the community the month prior. This information displayed the results of 205 surveys including age, gender, relationship to Pine Grove Mills, Employment Status, what do you value most about Pine Grove Mills, what changes would benefit Pine Grove Mills, and how long have you lived at your current location.

At 7:00pm Jennifer McCauley separated the members of the community into four groups. Ms. McCauley asked everyone to close their eyes and imagine ten years into the future; what would people have to say about Pine Grove Mills? The four groups were asked to use “stick notes” to call out main area’s of focus and concern. Some of the key factors mentioned included:

- Continued Use of Farmers Market
- Connectivity (Little and Big)
- People know each other “connected”
- Street scape/ Physical Environment
- Small Business Opportunities
- Living Heritage



The next goal in the meeting was to have participants develop a draft vision statement for the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan. This statement is intended to be refined by the Steering Committee at the October 5, 2018 meeting. The purpose of the vision statement is to capture the values expressed in the results of the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Survey. The four draft vision statements created by participants included:

1. Pine Grove Mills resides in close proximity to major destinations (PSU, State College Rothrock), while maintaining a small town character, rooted in a rich history all future development should respect that small town...
2. Pine Grove Mills is a historic gateway village connecting the forest of Rothrock, the agricultural fields & farmlands, and State College Borough. We aim to preserve the integrity and scale of the community by...
3. Pine Grove Mills is an historic village that through this small area plan strives to balance preservation and vibrant appropriately-scaled development, and whose culture values connection to each other and the land.
4. The Historic Village of Pine Grove Mills SAP seeks to preserve the local heritage and the values of the residents in order to support appropriate development and improvements that strengthen connectivity, sense of community, safety, physical environment, commerce, and recreation.

After the four groups had developed their draft mission statements, the groups came together again to discuss the results, find similarities, and note specific characteristics to be focused on in further development the Small Area Plan. Just before the meeting ended, CRPA representative Jim May provided the next steps in the process and what will be the focus of the October 5, 2018 Steering Committee meeting. These include:

- Create a Final Vision Statement for Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan
- Begin to formulate areas of focus, that will be subgroups in the Small Area Plan
- Depict what information to be presented at the Town Hall Meeting in November
- Create an exit survey for the November Town Hall meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.