



January
2013

ELVERSON'S COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Merle Stoltzfus

2013 has arrived and Elverson will be updating our Comprehensive Plan last updated almost 20 years ago. Planning is an important duty of good government. The December Newsletter described the significance of our Comprehensive Plan.

It may come as a surprise that, along with all the Boroughs, Chester County has designated Elverson as "an urban center". With the infrastructure of public facilities like water and sewer, the County provides special financial assistance such as revitalization grants to encourage growth where facilities already exist. Elverson has benefited from this assistance over the past decade. Our Comprehensive Plan process is one more expense financed largely through a County Grant.

One significant philosophical question to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan relates to our desire to continue to develop as an urban center. NIMBY (not in my back yard) is a regular attitude in today's culture especially when development brings people. Existing residents of a community know of the problems (sins) people bring just by life's experiences. Why would any community want more people?

Recently we heard on the news that Russia outlawed the adoption of Russian children to the U. S. This was politicized by both

countries. Russia's basic argument is that these adoptions are permanently taking a potential valuable resource from their country to ours. Yes, in many ways, human beings (people) are the most valuable resource a country has. When planned and managed to increase in a sustainable way, more people is the best thing for a country and community.

Places with growing populations have varying reviews about the benefits. However, places with decreasing population ALL have varying degrees of decline. Yes, in developed countries where population is declining governments are paying significant money to couples who will have more children. The answer is growth; managed growth because a decrease in population over time is always problematic to a community.

Elverson is fortunate to be in the United States and in the growing part of Pennsylvania. We have infrastructure in our utilities and commerce. We have worked hard to build a sustainable community of positively interacting people. And we have Churches where people can consistently deal with the ongoing issues of our hearts in order to work toward loving our neighbors, living by the golden rule, learning to apply forgiveness and, yes sometimes loving our enemies. It is the ability to build healthy relationships that ultimately sustains a vibrant community. With all these assets, Elverson's Comprehensive Plan will be re-written to help keep our status as "the Greatest Square Mile".



NASHVILLE TOUR
APRIL 28—MAY 3, 2013

Join Charlie Horning for another great trip next spring. Some tour inclusions and highlights include five nights lodging, nine meals, Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show, guided tours of Nashville, Ryman Auditorium, Belle Meade Plantation, backstage at the Grand Ole Opry, Barbara Mandrell's former home and the Country Music Hall of fame.

For more information and pricing call **Charlie or Sally** at 610-913-6712.



To OUT OF ELVERSON BOROUGH RESIDENTS:

The Elverson Borough Newsletter is mailed free of charge to all Borough residents. We have been mailing it to OUT of Borough residents, upon request, at no cost for some time.

Beginning with the February 2013 issue, we are asking all recipients who are NOT residents of the Borough to pay \$12 each year in order to continue receiving this each month in the mail. Write your check to the Borough of Elverson, 101 South Chestnut Street, Elverson, PA 19520 by January 15. Include your name and your address please.

If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter *free of charge*, pick one up at the Borough office during open hours (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm) or log onto www.elversonboro.org and click on newsletters.

If you have questions about this, feel free to contact our Borough secretary, Lorrie Stolz at 610.286.6420 or lorrie@elversonboro.org.



Please note that our Elverson website has been changed to www.elversonboro.org. Our office email is lorrie@elversonboro.org.

YOUR BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mayor: Arleigh Hegarty

Secretary/Treasurer: Lorrie Stolz

Council:

Merle Stoltzfus, President
Robert Broderick
Shirley Crehan
Timothy McEwen
Jonathan Pershall
Esther Prosser
Jack Stewart

MEETING SCHEDULES

Borough Council

First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM

Municipal Authority

Last Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM

Planning Commission

Third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM (when scheduled)

Historical Commission

Third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM

Shade Tree Commission

Meet when scheduled

CONSUMPTION BILLING UPDATE

Charles Gallagher

The MABE has decided that consumption billing is not feasible at this time. Although we strongly disagree with their decision, we respect their right to that decision.

That being said, the EWDC would like to thank the citizens of Elverson for their patience and consideration in this matter.

The EWDC learned a lot about MABE operations since we proposed consumption billing back in 2005, thanks to the Right-to-Know Law enacted in Harrisburg.

We recommend that the citizens get more involved in the borough operations, including Borough Council. This law is available to everyone. You can get information on the budget, aging reports, meeting minutes and just about anything that pertains to the borough government. All you have to do is go on the computer and type in PA Right to Know Law and you will get all the particulars of the law; you can also retrieve the Right to Know request forms that you need to fill out to submit to the borough for information. The only information you can't obtain from the borough are names, addresses and telephone numbers.

The best part of this law is that they can't question you on why you're requesting the information. In fact, they don't have the right to ask you. When you submit your request, the borough has five working days to respond; if they fail to do so, you can appeal to the state's "Right to Know" board and they will follow up.

The EWDC intends to continue to be the liaison between the borough and the citizens of Elverson. However, you should consider getting more involved, if for no other reason than to insure transparency.

The MABE and the Borough Council meetings are open to the public. You can attend these meetings and voice your concern in person, if you so desire.

The MABE meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7PM at the Borough Hall.

The Borough Council meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7PM at the Borough Hall.

In closing, the committee would like to say thank you again for your support and please get involved.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY NEWS

Consumption Billing Follow-up - You may recall that MABE was collecting data and evaluating the possibility/feasibility of Consumption Billing for wastewater treatment in the Borough. With the help of data from the Elverson Water Company, we have concluded our study. Based on the growth potential in the Borough, standard and typical practices in other municipalities and the cost of implementation, MABE has decided not to pursue Consumption Billing for Elverson Borough operations. Those connected to the sewer system will continue to be billed on a Flat Rate basis.

New Email for MABE – Please note that effective immediately, the Municipal Authority has a new email address. We can now be reached at: mabe@elversonboro.org

Meeting Minutes - Beginning with the January 2013 meeting, the MABE monthly meeting minutes will be available to view on the Borough website.

Submission Deadline is January 15th
for the February issue to brenda@stoltzfus.com, 26 East Main Street
or 610-286-5115.
Remember to check out the newsletter *in full color* online at
www.elversonboro.org.

**Elverson Borough
PO Box 206
Elverson PA 19520**

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REFLECTIONS ~ Jody Phillips

I love reflections in water - almost but not quite real - often mirror images of the world around me. As I gaze into them, my mind tends to wander and I wonder how a calm body of water, when struck by the sun at the right angle, can create such a perfect copy of the area it borders.

Is it a fourth dimension? When I disturb the water by tossing a small stone into it, the image becomes distorted. Can I, with such a small action, cause it to become imperfect? This thought is disturbing and frequently I stay watching the pond until the image is once again whole. Then I feel relieved and at peace with my surroundings. And I say to myself, "Maybe the little things we do and say matter more than we think they do."

I took these photos on Thanksgiving Day at the small pond behind Dr Eck's office on Main Street in Elverson. As I walked home, I thought about how important it was to me to make sure the reflections in the pond returned to their perfect state. And how easy it was for me, with one careless movement, to destroy the perfection and harmony I valued. I was thankful that the reflections were so forgiving. And

Thanksgiving Day was more meaningful for me this year.

And now, as Christmas Day approaches and I look again at my photos, I think again about the nature of reflections, their resiliency, forgiveness and honesty and the way they mirror life. Look for reflections as you go about your daily activities and think about the mirror images they create. It may just add a new dimension and special meaning to your days.

