1. What is Working Well Now in South Whitehall Township?

Restoration of Riparian Buffers

Leadership in development of Jordan Creek Greenway

Jordan Creek greenway. Parks

Formation of Land Preservation Committee

Covered Bridge Park

Twp jas great existing parks and is adding a new park and extending the Jordan Creek trail to the high school

Strong focus and has been successful on parks, creation, and trailways

Protection of Kohler Ridge includes steep slopes, woodlands and meadows

Working on the 10 year comprehensive plan now

2. What are the Problem Areas?

Need to re-start work on funding sources

Need incentives for protection

Funding source for preservation needs to be established

Hard to reuse many old buildings, esp. barns

Plan for farmland preservation

SWT has zero official Agricultural Preserved land. Land Reservation Committee will make it happen

Not having a budget or collecting funds for land preservation

Need to priorities the different types of places in the Township so preservation priorities can be made

need to prioritize natural resource areas so they can be protected as building occurs

Opportunity for Open Space Place => fund?

Define interests in preservation - leverage official map

2b. What SME Tools/Best Practices are Relevant to Addressing these Problems?

Official Map

Conservation Easements and purchase of development rights

Review and Update the Historic Resource Section in the Zoning Ordinance

Transfer of Development Rights – what would that look like in SWT?

from that place to another place in community where it is better to accommodate other types of development; legal means looking at development rights of properties – use those rights to get development in places that make

Many considerations, including increasing density in certain places and high legal fees

Northampton County – match county money with state money for much more funding for preservation; a township individually has to choose to enact that

After action items related to comprehensive plan

BOC/PC of SWT – education on preservation tools and funding sources; potential workshops for BOC/PC to review tools

LVPC – Lehigh Valley Government Academies, Community Planning class (101 on what can do in PA)

3. What Recommendations based on SME Tools and Best Practices should we carry forward to the Comprehensive Plan Update?

Update Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space plan

Ag easement program – appraisal of property, county does have a cap – for higher value farms – could hinge in part of municipality to provide matching funds

Inventory sensitive areas, add them to Official Map and develop regulations to protect and preserve them

Form a historical society? Collaborate with Lehigh County historical society?

Funding tools within township – increasing EIT (earned income tax), .25%, municipalities use that to raise funds – related to natural resource protection or farmland protection. only requirement is open space plan in place

Confirm if can use for first class townships

education before goes on the ballot is critical

Consider a Transfer of Development Rights program if density receiving areas can be determined

Official map updates

agricultural preservation, match with county money, then county can receive additional state money for preservation - net impact much greater with those matches; have to go through county prioritization system for what is

Municipality preserve properties on own (w/o) going through county program, easements for preservation (Bushkill Twp)

where sidewalk networks connect – good way to talk about and think about parks, rec, open space connections

develop more flexible regulations to allow adaptive re-use and preservation of historic structures

Honor the story/record what has happened – how could that inform the plan?

How do we preserve the story? How does SWT want to preserve their history and their story?

How pull together resources and tell a story (where we were, where at now, and where we are going in the future)?

How do we connect the dots?