

# Northwest Regional Elected Officials Meeting

April 12, 2023 – 6:30pm | Masonic Patton Conference Center

## Attendance

John Yoder, Manager, West Donegal Township

Officials from the four municipalities (~18)

Members of the public (~5)

Kip Van Blarcom, Director of Implementation & Outreach, LCPD

Alex Rohrbaugh, Senior Planner, LCPD

## Northwestern Lancaster County Regional Plan Overview

Kip and Alex gave an overview of *places2040* and showed an example of another *places2040*-based regional plan happening in the Cocalico region. They also went over some preliminary findings, public survey data, and recommendations for the Northwestern Lancaster County Regional Plan.

## Comments from Elected Officials and the Public

### Transportation

- Concern about traffic in general, bad at certain times of day
- Concern about truck traffic
- There appears to be a relationship between transportation and shipping. If we improve the transportation network, it will help bring down shipping costs.

### Housing

- We should allow houses to build up and not out. This would take up less land, and more and more people don't want to maintain large yards
- Are there zoning best practices to address tiny houses?

### Parks / Open Space

- Lack of athletic fields in the region
- Were there any public survey comments about adding more parks?
  - There were some survey comments about adding parks in southern Mt Joy Twp. and adding a dog park in Conoy Twp.

### Agriculture

- Farm prices are very high, which makes it hard for farmers to make it on agriculture alone. This also makes it difficult to acquire new farms unless it's inherited from family
- To keep farming viable, farmers need additional income sources through on-farm businesses

### Industrial Land

- Warehouses take up a lot of space, are there zoning best practices to get to go vertical to reduce footprint

Energy / Technology

- Are there zoning best practices to guide municipalities on allowing solar generation?
- Does the plan address electric, gas, and the power grid? As energy consumption grows and we use less fossil fuels, the likelihood of brownouts grow
  - We should take advantage of FEMA's infrastructure funding to build smart city energy technology

Community Character

- With all the growth, how can the region retain small town character?