

Lewisburg Public Meeting Focus Group Notes

Group 1: Community Life

1: What do you like best about living in Lewisburg? (What are you most proud of?)

- Campus Theatre, parenting community, walkable, historical, cultural (music, food, arts, festivals)

2: What places/businesses/social events/amenities or other community assets make a community pleasurable and memorable to you?

- Arts festivals, carnivals, farmers market, recreation center, ethnic food

3: What are your feelings about the celebrations/events currently held in Lewisburg? If you don't attend are there reasons you'd like to share or ideas for improvement? ... Ideas for new events?

- 4th of July parade, planes?, Blues Brews and BBQs, Music Festival (not sure if an idea or if the current music venue – music in the park - is not considered a "festival")
- Ideas: Pot luck, chili cook-off/festival, historic tours, kayaking, rentals for kayaks bikes etc.
- Traffic off of N. Water Street is seen as barrier/area for improvement
- Needs: river launch, pavilion, access, views (all related to River); need to have younger kids involved

4: What types of community events are needed to bring residents together here in Lewisburg?

- Block parties – neighborhoods can host
- River companies can host an event

5: In our regional marketing to bring people here what would you promote as the attraction? How?

- Lights, museums, charming, shops, Kidsburg, Wed. and Fri. markets

6: Citizen involvement is important for creating a vital community. What percentage of your community do you think is actively involved in making Lewisburg a great place? How would you engage more people?

- 10% is very involved
- Need to develop more activities and gatherings to get people out
- More gets more involvement
- Trail could bring people to places

7: Are you aware of any groups or individuals that would be interested in actively participating in the revitalization efforts for Lewisburg?

- Bucknell staff, senior staff, athletic community

8: What are your top 2 priorities for our River Town?

- **Connect trail through to river with river access**
- **Community initiated gatherings**

Group 2: Downtown Lewisburg

1A: What type of businesses do you regularly support in your downtown?

- CVS Pharmacy, State Store, Barnes and Noble, Campus Theatre, Post Office, Restaurants, Parks, Coffee Shops, Galleries, Coles Hardware, Catherman's Bakery, Salons

1B: What type of businesses would you regularly support if they were in your downtown?

- Giant Grocery Store with market and deli

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- Clothing Store for all generations – high quality clothing
- Non-franchise household goods store
- Fitness center with pool
- More businesses on the east end relative to Soldier's Park
- More outdoor eatery space

2: In a town of the size, type, and location of Lewisburg, what mix of public spaces and social activities would you consider to be ideal and realistic?

- Parks – concert series, monthly scheduled activities, farmers market
- Soldier's Park or Wolfe Field – river access, boat launch, fishing, concessions
- River trail with pedestrian and bike paths along river

3: What challenges stand in the way of attracting businesses and related social activity to Lewisburg?

- Pedestrian safety and accessibility (and parking)
- Small market for businesses – limited clientele, limited seasons (Bucknell Schedule)
- High taxes and rent
- Downtown does not connect to the river
- River flooding
- Borough not as encouraging as they should be for some activities (biking)

4: What do you think is the trend for residential living in Lewisburg, and what is shaping the trend?

- More and more people want to live downtown
- Walkability shapes trend – downtown amenities shape trend
- As students leave, more housing available to move into
- More houses being renovated

5: Describe the relationship between you downtown and residential neighborhoods

- Route 15 is a barrier
- East side of Rt. 15 is great – but not connected to river
- No safe pedestrian crossing between Front and 2nd Street

6: Are there downtown destinations that encourage people to walk between home and downtown? What are they? What else should there be? Are there things preventing people from doing this?

- Campus theatre and parks encourage walkability
- Rt. 15 is a barrier
- RR Bridge at St. George Street seen as barrier but can be an asset
- Walking is a social event

7: Is Lewisburg bicycle and pedestrian friendly? What suggestions do you have to improve this?

- Yes and no – some barriers exist, town needs to be more pedestrian friendly, and no bike lanes
- Suggestion: 3rd Street could be bike path ("share the road" type path)

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8: Are you aware of any groups or individuals that would be interested in actively participating in the revitalization efforts for Lewisburg?

- Bike groups, concerned neighborhood groups, borough traffic committee, groups organically created out of identified needs

9: What are your top 2 priorities for our River Town?

- **Pedestrian and Biking Infrastructure to increase safety and accessibility**
- **Work to remove Rt. 15 barrier/dividing line with safe crossings, ped/bike access, and trail crossing**

Group 3: Built Environment

1: What words (adjectives) would you use to describe the experience of traveling to or through Lewisburg? Do these words also accurately describe what it is like to live and work in Lewisburg?

- Historic, cosmopolitan center, pool of able people, safe, friendly, family oriented, college town, severed, adorable, river town, unified theme

2: As a River Town, what image/identity do you want Lewisburg to present to visitors and prospective new residents? What prevents that image from taking shape?

- No answer

3: What is Lewisburg's heritage... your unique story to be told?

How could this be used to invite people to visit your town?

- Industrial past including logging, railroad, canal
- Need to celebrate and tell story

4: How has your heritage impacted the pattern of development that exists today?

What benefit or hindrance does this present?

- No answer

5: What are Lewisburg's most prized buildings? What words would you use to describe the borough's architectural character?

- No answer

6: How does your built environment relate to being a River Town?

- No answer

7: If you want to attract more visitors to the river in Lewisburg, what would you do to make them feel more welcome and want to return?

- No answer

8: Are you aware of any groups or individuals that would be interested in actively participating in the revitalization efforts for Lewisburg?

- No answer

9: What are your top 2 priorities for our River Town?

- **Soldier's Park Enhancement including river access, seating, river overlook, amphitheater, picnic tables, pavilion, railroad bridge, interpretive signage, Packwood House**

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- **Rail Trail connection into town and to riverfront – additional connections to Milton and Norry**

Group 4: Natural Environment

1: What are Lewisburg's greatest environmental assets?

- Rail trail, St. George Street ramp/trail, Soldier's Park, bridge, Mariah's Garden, Bull Run, Buffalo Creek, Hufnagle Park, Red Rock, Montandon Marsh

2: What are Lewisburg's biggest environmental challenges?

- Snow dumping, flooding, litter, loss of connection, invasive plants

3: What are your most valued public spaces? Parks, recreation areas, scenic vistas...

Where do you like to take out of town guests, when you go for a walk? Is your destination natural or built or both?

- All parks, Slifer House, along River Road, Bucknell Arboretum

4: Is it important for Lewisburg to have direct access to the Susquehanna River?

Why or why not?

- No answer

5: How could a stronger connection with and to the River bring benefits to Lewisburg? ...to the region?

- No answer

6: What additional uses would you like to see for the Borough's river frontage?

- Walking trail, nature study, picnicking, XC skiing, contemplative/meditative space

7: Are there any groups which it might help us to coordinate with to identify/address environmental needs?

- Bucknell, BCSE, BCWA, Linn Conservancy, Native American community, Susquehanna Greenway, Playworld, Master Gardeners, Evan Hospital, Vargo Outdoors, Downtown Partnership

8: Are you aware of any groups or individuals that would be interested in actively participating in the revitalization efforts for Lewisburg?

- No Answer

9: What are your top 2 priorities for our River Town?

- **Connecting trail for all river green spaces and Wolfe Field/Buffalo Creek frontage**
- **Bridges – (1) Ped bridge on old RR bridge with launch area; (2) Bridge connections on both sides of Wolfe Field to make area more pedestrian friendly**