

Public Meeting 12/18/07
Youngsville High School Auditorium
7:00PM – 9:00PM
Sponsored by ROY
Attendance of 45 community members

Prior to meeting John Mellencamp's Small town Song was played with a PowerPoint of pictures taken of events in Youngsville sponsored by ROY.

Meeting began at 7PM with Nancy Holmberg, ROY president welcoming those attending and presenting the agenda for the evening.

Dr. Charles MacKenzie presented a check to ROY from the Warren Community Foundation for \$25,000. Nancy Holmberg and Sonia Probst thanked him on behalf of ROY. Dr. MacKenzie acknowledged the hard work of the committee and that there have been many positive comments regarding the work done.

Nancy Holmberg presented a PowerPoint which explained why and how ROY was formed including the philosophy and mission statement. Why is for us, visitors (tourists), and business for a nice environment and economics. The presentation included the organizational structured plan using the guidelines of Pennsylvania Downtown Center,

Four point approach:

1. Design (looks of the town)
2. Organization (communication)
3. Economic restructure (existing business and new business),
4. Promotion (events – pleasant experience in downtown and business support)

How includes identifying the current assets (unique character) that Youngsville possesses. Some of the identified areas A bike/hike path that ties Warren to Youngsville and Buckaloons. A weakness of Youngsville's is the appearance of the town.

Nancy introduced Rich Cleveland, planner and manager, and Sandy Ely, landscape architect from E.G. & G, Inc. design firm hired by ROY to design the streetscape. Rich Cleveland thanked ROY for their hard work to this point.

Rich Cleveland started the presentation noting that they were at the meeting to listen to the community for ideas. In about 4 months there will be another public meeting to present designs that utilized the ideas presented at this meeting. E.G. & G.'s goal is to promote prime real estate location. He presented a PowerPoint of different towns who were engaged in the process of changing streetscape – example Bradford, PA and Warren, PA who were ready for the next step Jan 2008, and Slippery Rock, PA which has completed the first phase and now is in the second phase. Included in the power point was data from the towns that had changed streetscape resulting in more jobs and increase in economic base.

Sandy Ely presented a PowerPoint of pictures of Youngsville from the perspective of entering the town (gateway to the town) from West Main St., East Main St., North Main St. and Railroad St. Youngsville's assets included: architecture, historic building, businesses in town (banks, churches, high school, post office, etc), historic trails, Brokenstraw, Island park. Youngsville's weaknesses/challenges included: overhead wires, asphalt, transformers on poles, side walks needing repair, various signage, drainage issues, lack of 'green space', curves not cut for handicapped access, facades.

The floor was opened for suggestions/ideas from those present. Sandy Ely wrote the suggestions on a large sheet of paper and as each sheet was filled it was taped to a wall for all to view.

Paster Rick Hamrick asked if what was presented as areas that needed improvement in Youngsville "could be fixed?" The answer from Rich Cleveland was yes with creating prime real

estate and businesses. Another question was regarding the 'old factory building' on the other side of Route 6? Rich Cleveland stated that would be looked at next.

Troy McFate suggested the following: remove the stop light, a central park, Brokenstraw viewing area, meter less parking, uniform signage for roads and business, lamp poles, banners, remove overhead wires, need for senior housing unit, Island park floods, there are dilapidate buildings that need removed or fixed, not Victorian design as the town is a blue collar town.

Fr John Neff suggested a left turn signal at the intersection of Rt 6 and West Main street, maybe gas street light, a gazebo

Paster John Fischer suggested that the Buckaloons remain open till the end of October, that Youngsville is a outdoors, blue collar town and the streetscape should reflect that.

Scott Nelson suggested that the bridge over the Brokenstraw be addressed and trees added to the town, speakers on light poles

Ms. Strickland stated the need for something for the youth of the town.

Shawna Fitzgerald stated that TJs is trying to assist the youth.

Barb Hartmann mentioned the need for a community center and the ROY has discussed many possible locations.

Joanne Oviatt stated that ROY has applied to be a Heritage Community on Route 6. The design committee has discussed Youngsville's history including brick, lumber, railroad, Brokenstraw and a possible theme is 'comfortable rustic'.

John Shaughnesy stated that something needs to draw attention to Youngsville as Route 6 bypasses the town. Rich Cleveland responded that signage at Route 6 at the "gateways" was needed.

Youngsville Mayor Farr discussed how the borough is evaluating the replacement of the borough building – including adding a park, fountain. His question was how to get business owners to fix the facades. The answer from Rich Cleveland and Nancy Holmberg related to loans and grants available as soon as the designation and paper work is completed that has been filed with the State.

Doug Peterson stated that with the new borough building the borough officers were looking for suggestions and wanted to work with the design for the town.

A speaker stated that in developing the town, need to look at invasive plants to remove them if possible and to emphasis native plants.

A question was raised regarding blighted property in Youngsville and discussion followed regarding how to handle this situation.

Pastor Rick Hamrick brought the discussion to a close and stated that now is the time for the community to get behind this project. The State is aware but what needs to be shown now is the community support. He stated it is our community/problem/challenge to fix. Youngsville as a community has supported endeavors in the past ie swimming pool, fire hall, library and can do this again. What is lacking now is the people of the community – to give, talk to neighbors, get involved. Pledge cards were passed out to those present.

Sonia Probst and Nancy Holmberg again thanked the major contributors to this point – County Commissioners, Warren Community Foundation, National City Bank, United Refining, Youngsville Borough, and many private contributors.

John Shaughnesy sang the song he wrote for the town's success based on the tune 'I've been working on the railroad'. He credited Joanne Oviatt with the first 2 lines of the song. We've been working on our hometown.

Joanne Oviatt gave a donation in honor of her husband. Others contributed this evening.

Barb Hartmann closed the meeting by thanking all who attended and inviting them for coffee and cookies.

Respectfully submitted

Cheryl Gruber

ROY secretary