

**Bloomsburg as a Place**  
Facilitator - Michelle Brummer

Assets	Issues	Opportunities
<p><b>Asset #1: Walkability</b></p> <p><b>Value</b> – inherent to small towns; an integral part of town life and infrastructure; sidewalks enable beautiful walks throughout neighborhoods and downtown</p> <p><b>Potential Threats</b> – Some problem areas - buckled sidewalks esp. Catherine St., College Hill due to tree roots</p> <p><b>Potential Enhancements</b> to greater use of sidewalks – more neighborhood mixed use would encourage walking to daily/regular destinations for produce, milk, bread and other groceries</p> <p><b>Programs for technical and financial assistance</b> – Safe routes to school program funding for sidewalk repair/replacement and for safe walking programs, i.e. the walking school bus (chaperones walking young students to school)</p>	<p><b>Issue #1: Lack of Flood protection</b></p> <p><b>Location</b> – Along Fishing Creek and Susquehanna River impacting fairgrounds and at least 3 major employers (who contribute to tax base and provide income that is spent in the community) as well as neighborhoods</p> <p><b>Questions</b> – What’s the status of design and construction? What’s the status of funding?</p> <p><b>Other</b> – There has been a mixed desire for floodwall or other structures that will mitigate flooding and impacts (positive) but also reduce view and access to the waterways and change the character of the town (negative)</p> <p><b>Opportunities</b> - Government programs for buy-out of flood prone properties and conversion to open space, but this also results in loss of property tax revenue. How can we retain residents and property value (tax)?</p>	<p><b>Opp #1: Growth thru redevelopment</b></p> <p><b>Challenges</b> – meeting zoning, Historic Architectural Review Board and building codes/standards effectively and affordably; old structures are difficult and costly to rehabilitate to current (safety and parking) standards; these obstacles make it harder to keep residents and businesses in town</p>

## April 17, 2008 Stakeholder Workshop – Session 2 RESULTS

Town of Bloomsburg Comprehensive Plan

<b>Bloomsburg as a Place</b> Facilitator - Michelle Brummer		
Assets	Issues	Opportunities
	<p><b>Issue #2: Empty buildings and lots</b></p> <p><b>Location</b> - there are really few but the Capital Theatre is the focus of many remarks; the owner is restrictive in his approach to re-use of the building</p>	<p><b>Opp #2: Sustainable development</b></p> <p><b>Examples/Specifics</b> - Be open minded about site energy; wind energy</p>

<b>Living in Bloomsburg</b> Facilitator - Matt Sauers		
Assets	Issues	Opportunities
<p><b>Asset #1: Safety</b></p> <p><b>Value</b> - Feeling safe (not threatened or at risk) at home, in town, in public places</p> <p><b>Potential Threats</b> - Loss of funding for police, fire, and emergency services (staff, equipment, facilities, training, etc.)</p> <p><b>Potential Enhancements</b> - A combined police force consisting of BU &amp; town police.</p> <p><b>Other</b> - Police budget is the largest portion of the town budget. Currently the BU police cover only the campus. Legislation is under consideration to provide extra \$ for university towns.</p>	<p><b>Issue #1: Off campus student lifestyles/ resident lifestyles</b> (#1 overall issue for town)</p> <p><b>Specific problems</b> - Sound levels; wood frame houses turned into student housing</p> <p><b>Location</b> - various</p> <p><b>Trend</b> - Number of out-of-town landowners of student housing properties is dropping</p> <p><b>Corrective Actions</b> - Newly constructed student housing units have been developed with a limited lifespan. ("Home Depot mentality") Encourage/require developers use durable construction materials in buildings containing student housing.</p>	

**Working and Doing Business in Bloomsburg**

Facilitator - Josie Boyer

Assets	Issues	Opportunities
<p><b>Asset #1: Bloomsburg Municipal Airport</b></p> <p><b>Value</b> – town owns the airport; it’s used primarily for recreation; it is only airport in the county</p> <p><b>Potential Threats</b> – restrictions from FAA; need to work with Scott Township, who opposes the expansion, to expand runway in order to accommodate larger aircraft</p> <p><b>Potential Enhancements</b> – Hangar expansion; Improved marketing of the airport;</p> <p><b>Other</b> – runway is not long enough to accommodate small corporate jets; needs to be 4200 ft.</p>	<p><b>Issue #1: Flood Protection</b> – <i>not discussed due to lack of time</i></p>	<p><b>Opp #1: Target Industries</b> - <i>not discussed due to lack of time</i></p>
<p><b>Asset #2: Restaurants</b></p> <p><b>Value</b> –</p> <p><b>Potential Threats</b> – downtown restaurants may suffer if university puts more food services on campus</p> <p><b>Potential Enhancements</b> – assure/strengthen quality of food &amp; customer service</p>	<p><b>Issue #2: Family Sustaining Jobs</b> - <i>not discussed due to lack of time</i></p> <p><b>Location</b> –</p> <p><b>Impacts</b> –</p> <p><b>Corrective Actions</b> –</p> <p><b>Other</b> – <b>skilled workers</b></p>	<p><b>Opp #2: Convenient Customer Hours</b></p> <p><b>Examples/Specifics</b> –</p> <p><b>Benefits</b> –</p> <p><b>Making it happen</b> –</p> <p><b>Other</b> – what are people shopping for in Downtown; what can be found; what gaps are there in retail services (goods and</p>

**Working and Doing Business in Bloomsburg**

Facilitator - Josie Boyer

<b>Assets</b> Other - Potential use of student debit cards	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Opportunities</b> services that aren't available but could be)
<p><b>Asset #3: Health System</b>  <b>Value</b> - community hospital beats regional hospital (Geisinger) with outstanding customer service</p> <p><b>Potential Threats</b> - Geisinger continues to grow</p> <p><b>Potential Enhancements</b> - Specialty physicians</p> <p><b>Other</b> -</p>	<p><b>Issue #3: Workforce</b>  <b>Location</b> -</p> <p><b>Impacts</b> -</p> <p><b>Corrective Actions</b> -</p> <p><b>Other</b> - skilled workers are in short supply for some businesses</p>	

**Lifelong Learning in Bloomsburg**

Facilitator - Megan Witwer

Assets	Issues	Opportunities
<p><b>Asset #1: Bloomsburg University</b></p> <p><b>Value</b> - The university is able to draw students from urban areas such as Harrisburg and Philadelphia. The university’s convenient location gives it a competitive advantage.</p>	<p><b>Issue #1: Growth in student population and campus size</b></p> <p><b>Problem areas</b> - Sesame Street was a poorly managed student housing complex. It was demolished. A new student housing building, Honeysuckle, was designed and constructed; it is owned by the Student Government Association.</p> <p><b>Specific problems</b> - Poorly managed and designed student housing facilities have caused issues with safety, noise, and peace in the community.</p> <p><b>Corrective Actions</b> - There is a need for                      1) increased off campus housing opportunities;                      2) improved quality and management of housing residents (e.g. Honeysuckle); and                      3) improved locations to reduce conflicts with neighbors but also avoid complete isolation of student housing from the rest of the community.</p> <p><b>Other</b> - Eliminating or lowering taxes on student housing developers has kept the housing costs down for students and helped ease housing pressures.</p>	<p><b>Opp #1: Better relations between University and downtown</b></p> <p><b>Examples/Specifics</b> - Service learning opportunities, e.g. voluntary participation for credit, within curricula</p> <p><b>Existing Programs</b> -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “SOLVE” Students Organized to Learn through Volunteerism and Employment Volunteer organizations getting students involved</li> <li>2. Continuing education programs are offered to locals and area professionals by the university.</li> <li>3. Bloomsburg Tech Center/University IT Dept. (grad program) works with town employers to provide Geographic Information System (mapping and data analysis) and graphic design services</li> <li>4. Audiology Program/Clinics are offered by the university to help students and community residents with hearing disabilities.</li> </ol>

**Lifelong Learning in Bloomsburg**

Facilitator - Megan Witwer

**Assets**

**Asset #2: Public Library**

**Value** – The library is popular and well used by the community.

**Other** - The library expanded since the town’s last comprehensive plan was completed; it purchased the building next to it to increase the size of the facility. The library is partially funded by a local real estate tax, which generates about \$27,000 a year.

**Asset #3: Children’s Museum**

**Value** – The museum is popular with students and kids. The museum changes its exhibits on a regular basis.

**Planned/Potential Enhancements** - The museum plans to add an outdoor garden.

**Issues**

**Issue #2: Gap in Digital Skills**

**Location** – *Not discussed for lack of time*

**Impacts** – *Not discussed for lack of time*

**Corrective Actions** – *Not discussed for lack of time*

**Other** - *Not discussed for lack of time*

**Opportunities**

**Opp #2: Draw students to downtown**

**Examples/Specifics** – Student Debit Dollar Program for downtown businesses. The program failed in Shippensburg University. There is interest in knowing why before investing in such a program in Bloomsburg.

**Benefits** – Potential for increased revenue for downtown businesses; potential new business opportunities to meet student needs

**Making it happen** – We need examples and techniques of successful programs; support from Chamber, Downtown Bloomsburg Inc., and University.

**Relaxing in and Visiting Bloomsburg**

Facilitator - Dick Koch

Assets	Issues	Opportunities
<p><b>Asset #1: Bloomsburg Municipal Airport</b></p> <p><b>Value</b> – asset for hobby flyers, university parents, local businesses (for executives, and guests, hospitals (Bloomsburg and Geisinger emergency service and supplies)</p> <p><b>Special Events</b> - Annual Fly-In (June for the Antique Car Show)</p> <p><b>Potential Threats</b> - Flooding</p> <p><b>Limiting Conditions</b> - length of runway 3600'; limited hanging space</p> <p><b>Potential Enhancements</b> – Extend runway to 4200'; build additional hangers; provide for additional maintenance activity</p> <p><b>Other</b> - Experimental Aircraft being built at airport</p>		<p><b>Opp #1: Better coordination between event organization</b></p> <p><b>Examples/Specifics</b> –</p> <p>1) No master calendar maintained for all activities/events/fundraisers/competitions; Visitors Bureau is current best list</p> <p>2) Utilize more cultural events at University; use of University library, pool, dining and other facilities</p> <p><b>Benefits</b> – Reduce schedule conflicts, e.g. more than one event per day</p> <p><b>Making it happen</b> – Master calendar – get a group to host/maintain</p> <p>Other - University marketing program to let residents know about events and facilities that are available</p>
<p><b>Asset #2: Bloomsburg Town Park</b></p> <p><b>Value</b> – park is self-sustaining in terms of use by residents; recent improvements have been made to the community pool and skateboard park</p> <p><b>Potential Threats</b> – Flooding; location of</p>		<p><b>Opp #2: Fairgrounds</b></p> <p><b>Making it happen</b> – update fairground website; rebuilding stage; publicize availability to groups and organizations</p>

**Relaxing in and Visiting Bloomsburg**

Facilitator - Dick Koch

**Assets**

Veterans Memorial has been controversial

**Potential Enhancements** – Master Plan/new improvements should be implemented:  
relocation of tennis courts; relocation of rest rooms; installation of bocce ball courts

**Issues**

**Opportunities**