

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Plans ... plans ... plans

At their last joint meeting, in February, members of Pottstown Borough Council and the Pottstown School Board heard an update on a Sustainability Plan being developed with the Montgomery County Planning Commission.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

The plan aims to improve Pottstonians' quality of life by making decisions that positively affect the environment.

At present, the plan lists 39 specific actions to improve sustainability, from installing LED streetlights to encouraging composting.

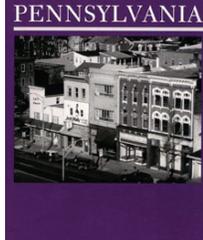
The plan is scheduled to be adopted this fall.

And then... and then?

We love plans in Pottstown. At least 20 of them have been adopted by borough government and non-profits during my 45 years in the borough.

Thirteen of them are posted as pdf documents on our website, [www.pottstowncitizens.org](http://www.pottstowncitizens.org).

The most recent, the Pottstown Comprehensive Plan, adopted by Pottstown Council in 2014, is also the longest: 146 pages.



ULI 1989

I suspect very few people have read this plan, or the many others adopted by government bodies in recent decades. But some of their recommendations eventually become reality. It just takes a long time.

### Change comes slowly

For example, five key recommendations in the 1976 Urban Land Institute plan were carried out, but it took from 10 to 25 years to do so:

(1) Extend the Industrial Highway from Hanover Street west on the old Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way (what is now College Drive) to High Street past the Route 100 overpass. This extension was completed in 1988, opening up the area where the Montgomery County Community

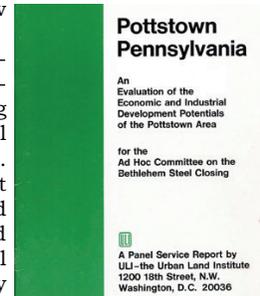
College is now located.

(2) Develop recreational areas along the Schuylkill River. (Riverfront Park opened in 1992, and the Schuylkill Greenway extension to the Berks County line was completed in 2005).

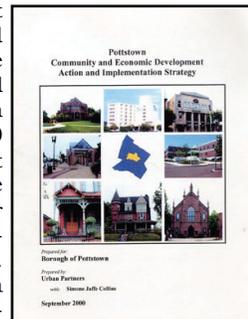
(3) Subdivide the former Bethlehem Steel fabricating plant for reuse as an industrial complex. (The site was sold to Bown Properties in 1984 and now contains numerous industries.)

(4) Reconnect Keim Street through the former Bethlehem Steel site from Industrial Highway to High Street (completed in 1992).

(5) Target vacant land along the Schuylkill River between Route 100 and West Pottsgrove Township for a new business campus. (This area became accessible with the construction of Keystone Boulevard in 2003.)



ULI 1976



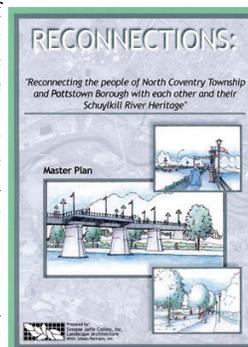
Economic Development Strategy, 2000

### Other plans

At least a few elements of other plans have been adopted, as well.

To provide some perspective, I plan in my advertorials over the next few weeks to highlight some major accomplishments of each decade from the 1970s to the present. Many amenities we take for granted weren't always here.

And then, in that context, we'll discuss the Sustainability Plan.



Reconnections, 2004