

## The more the merrier

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How often have you heard, "The more people involved, the harder it is to get something done!" At Main Street Gettysburg (MSG) we believe the more involved, the merrier.

The Baltimore Street Master Plan (BSMP) mission is to improve the economy, create jobs and enhance the quality of life for all who live and work in the district and town. It is this vision that spurred business owners and property owners on Baltimore Street to raise more than \$50,000 over the past two years. Ultimately it will include the people who live and work on Baltimore Street, as well as those stakeholders who have invested dollars and time to make downtown a special place to live, work and play, that will make this vision a reality.

MSG has recently implemented a new structure to engage people in the BSMP planning process. A newly designated Baltimore Street Executive Committee will oversee the planning process, acquire funding and execute the Master Plan. MSG is the official nonprofit that supports this group and offers the ability to sign contracts, administer and close out grants. To date MSG oversees 3 grants that have important criteria and schedules to be managed. The BSMP Executive Committee directs information gathering and makes decisions necessary to develop content for the plan. Tim Woodward, Lynn Chronister, Jesse Coulter, Wendy Allen, Sara Kipp, Nancie Gudmestad and Nancy Kramer have committed to this responsibility.

MSG contracted with C.S. Davidson to create the Master Plan and will facilitate the new Steering Committee of 15 property owners, including the Gettysburg National Military Park. The Steering Committee acquires a general agreement among property owners and votes on the decisions for what will be in the plan as it relates to property changes and improvements.

The Steering Committee met on Feb. 21 for their orientation and tackled a long list of topics that MSG had collected over the past year from neighborhood community meetings, focus groups, events and individual discussions. Chad Clabaugh, C.S. Davidson, is familiar with this type of project with his experience as borough engineer. With Clabaugh's leadership of the Steering Committee, there are opportunities for both efficiencies and cost savings. The goal is to present a final presentation to borough council in September. The next meeting will entail a walking tour and review of the entire Baltimore Street corridor.

On March 1, the first monthly stakeholders meeting was conducted, facilitated by Deb Adamik. It consisted of Baltimore Street residents, businesses and property owners and partner groups that donated to the project; such as the Adams County Community Foundation, South Mountain Regional Partnership and Destination Gettysburg, among others. This group discussed ideas for attracting residents and new businesses like marketing strategies, new programs/events, or new amenities such as restrooms, benches, bike lanes and services. There are representatives from borough and county planning, farmers markets, and other organizations. The evolving stakeholders group currently has 30 participants.

All three groups, executive, steering and stakeholder, open opportunities for our community to work together as a whole. MSG wants to thank everyone committed to make this grassroots project a success. It takes time, patience and the willingness to be flexible at times. I promise the time everyone invests will be worth it.

Deb Adamik is the president of MSG.