

**PART III**

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**WALKER TOWNSHIP  
TOWN HALL MEETING  
REPORT**

# WALKER TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL MEETING REPORT

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**I**ntroduction: In 1999, the Walker Township Planning Commission and Board of Township Supervisors decided to update the 1974 Township Comprehensive Plan (see Appendix 1 for a discussion of comprehensive plans). After discussions with the consultant, it was decided that the new Plan should be based upon listening to citizen goals, priorities, and concerns for the community's future.

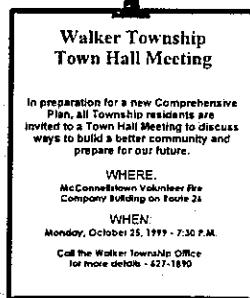
This citizen-based approach is one of the foundations of current planning practices. At one time, comprehensive plans were prepared by professional planners and appointed or elected officials with little public input until the end. This brought one of two results: citizens either ignored the plan or resented being left out.

Much of the ultimate goal of a comprehensive planning program is to educate the community about the range of choices available and to inspire them to positive action. This can only be

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done if the citizens' ideas are incorporated from the very start and they are recruited as believers of the plan.

The Town Hall meeting was held on October 25, 1999 at the McConnellstown Volunteer Fire Company. It was preceded by an advertising campaign which included flyers, a public service classified on the local cable system, news releases to local papers, and a reminder on the McConnellstown Fire Company bulletin board.



The meeting was preceded by a brief introduction of local officials and a discussion about the basics of planning (including the pending adoption of the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan). After some discussion on general aspects of the community as a warm up, the main brainstorming exercise started. The first exercise asked four broad questions of each of the approximately 47 persons in attendance. As persons answered questions, the answers were listed on a large chart. At the conclusion of the brainstorming, each participant was give 10 "votes" which they could place next to ideas they felt were most important. The 10 votes could be placed in any

fashion the participants wished, and most chose to spread their votes among several ideas. Participants were first asked to list strengths of the community or aspects of Walker Township they hope would never change. A total of 32 strengths were added to the list.

### Strengths

#### Votes

11	Rural Atmosphere
9	Primarily Residential
8	Low Taxes
8	Dedicated Firemen
8	Not Taverns on Every Corner
6	Hunting/Fishing
5	Huntingdon/State College
5	Low Crime Rate
5	Natural Beauty
4	Good Neighborhood
4	Well-Kept Properties
4	Trust Between Citizens and Leaders - Accessible
4	Public Sewer and Water
4	Places to Walk and Hike
3	Convenient
3	Good Location
3	Police Protection
3	Single-Family Homes
3	Timber Lands
2	Small School System
2	Agriculture
2	Theater/Bookstore/Park/Mini-Mart
2	Friendly People
1	Know Your Neighbors
1	College Community
1	Appreciating Property Values
	People
	Quiet
	Helpful
	Nittany Lions
	No Traffic Congestion
	Family Here

The next question concerned weaknesses, also described as aspects of the Township citizens would change if they could. By contrast, only 16 were found.

### Weaknesses

#### Votes

14	Quality Jobs
9	No Indoor Recreation for Kids
7	Lack of Jobs
7	No Community Gathering Place
6	Cost of Water and Sewer
6	No Café/Diner
5	Property Taxes Too High
4	Speeding on PA 26
3	Travel 30 Miles for Variety Shopping (Altoona)
2	Development Accelerating
2	No Public Transportation
1	Traffic (Raystown Lake)
1	No Library
1	No Community Festival
1	Run-Down Houses
	Inequality

Next, citizens were asked to imagine ten years into the future, then try to imagine the best future they could. Seventeen citizens had a vision of Walker Township for the best future.

### Best Future

34	New Industry/Full Employment
13	Some Kind of Health Care/Medical Center
8	Scenery/Hills/Valleys
7	Better Roads
7	Soundly Planning Housing and Growth
6	Distinctive Flavor/Growth/Well Integrated
6	Wal-Mart at Rt. 22/26
6	Enough Economic Opportunity to Allow Young to Stay
5	Facilities for the Elderly
4	Part of Best School District in PA
3	No Change - No Growth
2	Growing Churches

- 2 Land Costs Too High
- 1 Wider Road to Lake
- 1 Walker Township - the Place to Live
- 1 Adult Bookstores
- Loss of Sense of Community

Finally, they were asked to imagine the worst future for the Township ten years from now. There were six responses.

**Worst Future**

**Votes**

- 15 Ghost Town - Too Many Rules and Regulations Chased People Out
- 8 Too Built Up
- 6 Too Much Commercialization
- 5 High Concentration Farms (Feed Lots)
- 3 Just An Extension of Huntingdon
- No Progress

As citizens could use their “ten” votes in any manner they wished, the results tend to show areas of consensus (What is the most important to the most people?). Therefore, the top ten (actually 12 due to ties) concerns can be summarized as follows:

**Priority 1** - A future of full employment, and new industry (for the County and Region; not just Walker Township). 34 “votes”

**Priority 2** - Preventing a “ghost town” where too many rules and regulations chase away people and investment. 15 “votes”

**Priority 3** - Concern about a lack of quality jobs. 14 “votes.”

**Priority 4** - A future in which Walker Township has some kind of health care facility or medical center. 13 “votes”

**Priority 5** - The strength of the rural atmosphere in the community, as something people hope never changes. 11 “votes”

**Priority 6/7 (Ties)** - The strength of the community as a place to live (residential nature) and concerns about a lack of indoor recreation for kids. 9 Votes

**Priority 8/9/10/11/12 (Ties) -**

The strengths of:

- low taxes 8 Votes
- dedicated volunteer firemen 8 Votes
- no taverns on every corner 8 Votes

A worst future where:

The Township becomes too built up. 8 Votes

A best future where:

The hills and scenery remain like they are. 8 Votes

Another way to examine these results is to look for reoccurring themes or patterns. The varied list of over 70 responses to the four questions actually fits into seven broad patterns.

**The Residential Atmosphere of the Township:** Concerns, or priority for Walker Township as a place to live (quality of housing, type of housing, sound planning, well-kept properties, etc.).

**The Rural Setting of the Township:** Expressions of affection for and concern about the future of the natural landscape (hills) and working landscapes (agriculture).

**The Local Economy:** Concerns about prosperity, jobs, and businesses.

**Community Facilities:** Issues relative to the presence or lack of public/community property or entities which provide public services (medical centers, parks, water, sewer, etc.).

**Traffic/Transportation:** Concerns about traffic flow, quality of roads, etc.

**Land Cost/Land Taxes/Land Regulations:** Issues about governmental relationships to private property.

**Quality of People:** Social standards of the community (low crime, friendliness, etc.).

These broad themes can be prioritized by combining individual concerns and adding the total "votes."

Area	Votes
Local Economy	75
Community Facilities and Services	48
Rural Atmosphere	47
Residential Community	30
Land Cost/Land Taxes/Land Use Regulations	30
Quality of People	20
Traffic Transportation	16

It can be thus summarized that the greatest priority of the community is for economic development, followed by some improvements to social medical facilities, preservation of rural atmosphere, protection of the residential community, concern about over-regulation/over-taxation of land, positive feelings about the quality of people and concerns about traffic.

The second exercise involved giving each table of participants a blank road map of the Township and two colored markers. Working in groups, participants were asked to color areas of the map where they thought new development was appropriate, and areas where they thought the quality of existing development might be improved through revitalization. Areas of the Township that are regarded as okay as they are now were left blank. The attached map illustrates those areas where consensus occurred (consensus was defined as two or more groups expressing a similar idea).

Some citizens also annotated their map with specific desires. These include:

- Revitalize the Huntingdon Industrial Park
- A recreation center in the Old Nazarene Church
- Revitalize the park with a pool and concession stand
- A bike trail running from Huntingdon to the southern part of the Township
- Revitalize small stores in McConnellstown
- A library near the Township Building
- Revitalize new enterprise



## PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

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The results of town hall meetings must sometimes be tempered by objective reality. Town hall meetings should always be followed by an objective assessment of issues and a realistic approach to what can be done in the future. (Much of this assessment process can be conducted by the Planning Commission and Supervisors, with technical assistance by the consultant.) This caveat simply means that the following recommendations are based only upon public input; and may change as more is learned.

**Local Economy Recommendations:** Rural areas usually lag behind suburban areas in economic performance but, even in much of rural Pennsylvania over the past few years, the economy has not been a great concern. It is obviously a major issue in Walker Township. There are only limited things the Planning Commission and Supervisors can do in this area. However, there is much the entire community can do. It is recommended that the Township hold a workshop on community-based economic development as a part of the Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this workshop would be education about what even rural communities can do to improve their economy through various self-help measures. If there is interest in pursuing such an approach, funding could be sought for implementing the ideas.

**Community Facilities and Services Recommendations:** There is obviously strong interest in establishing some form of social center and bringing a medical center to the Township. The Comprehensive Plan should examine the feasibility of both (finances, possible sites, etc.). This is a very doable project and can help unite the community behind a common purpose.

**Residential Community Land Use/Rural Atmosphere Recommendations:** The numerous statements about residential quality of life indicate the importance residents place in Walker Township as their community of choice. Efforts to assure continued quality through local policy should see continued local support (zoning, etc.). However, this is also contrasted by concern about over-regulation by some, and perhaps the possibility that the bedroom community could regulate other aspects of the community out of existence. There is also a lack of knowledge about the position of the agricultural community in the context of the rural setting. For example, there is a paradox that "rural atmosphere" was favored with 11 votes, while "agriculture" only received 2 votes. Initially, three recommendations are in order: the first would be to use the Comprehensive Plan as an opportunity to review local land use regulations if there are areas of regulation, with an eye toward how well regulations match the vision. Second, some education is needed for the community to understand the role of regulations. There is also a need to discuss the importance of the traditional agricultural community. Activities such as these can easily be integrated into future meetings and to the

Plan text. Finally, it is important that the Plan be used to show how land development relates to local tax base issues.

### **SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ▶ Hold a workshop on community-based economic development. See if there is interest to pursue activities through local initiative with outside support.
- ▶ Feasibility analysis for a medical center and/or community center.
- ▶ Analyze local land use regulations per their ability to maintain residential quality and preserve rural atmosphere.
- ▶ Analyze the role of agriculture as a contribution to both the economy and rural setting.
- ▶ Analyze tax base implications of local land use policies and trends.

**THE  
CITIZEN SURVEY**

**SUMMARY  
OF FINDINGS**

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS COMMUNITY SURVEY**

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As Walker Township embarked on the preparation of a new Comprehensive Plan, it recognized that citizen participation would be a centerpiece of this endeavor. For Walker Township, the effort to obtain citizen participation has been manifested in two ways. On October 25, 1999, a Town Hall Meeting was held at the McConnellstown Volunteer Fire Company. This was attended by 47 persons, and the results can be found in the Report of November 1999.

A second method of soliciting citizen input was by a survey. In the spring of 2000, in the "Walker Ways" Township newsletter, a questionnaire was sent to all recipients along with a story that explained both its need and importance.

To date, 108 surveys (about 14% of the newsletter's circulation) have been returned. Although the Township is expecting additional responses, there have been sufficient returns to reflect the general opinion of Walker Township citizens on a variety of key issues. This report is from the results tabulated as of September 12, 2000.

As the detailed results are a part of this report, there is little need to cover each item separately. The reader can look at individual numbers. But, certain highlights are of interest.

**Who Responded?:** The average survey respondent was a middle-aged, working resident of Walker Township who has a family, owns a home, and has lived here for more than 20 years. Most people work within 10 miles of their home (76%).

**Land Use:** What are the Township's biggest needs? Medical facilities, shops/stores, industry, new single homes, and business offices were the five top vote getters. Campgrounds, apartments, and farms garnered the fewest priority points.

**Regulations:** Walker has various regulations to protect its citizens and their property. Seven questions were posed in this category. The top three "need more" responses were regulations to clean up properties and prevent junk, protect residential areas, and require new developments to install infrastructure. In each instance, half,

or better, of the respondents to these questions expressed a strong feeling more protection was needed. Only a few citizens believed the Township is now "over regulated."

**Economic Issues:** The first series of questions asked respondents if additional land for various types of economic development was needed in Walker Township and, if so, where? Topics included industrial development, retail, small local businesses, and developing the farm economy. None of the options received a clear "need more" majority response. However, tourism, retail business, and "develop the farm economy" did receive significant support. The single biggest "more needed" response favored the creation of additional land for business and industry in other areas of the County. Business locations along Route 26 near the State Police Barracks and the Route 26/Hartslog Road were favored. However, there were a variety of responses (see the survey form).

**Housing:** Clearly, the Township residents have clear preferences for new housing types. Elderly apartments and assisted living facilities are favored. Mobile home parks are not. To maintain the existing housing stock, a property maintenance code was the clear choice.

**Social Issues:** The sale of alcohol would be supported for private clubs but not at public bars and taverns.

**Community Facilities and Services:** Once more, the need for a medical clinic/doctor's office was expressed by residents.

Some 100 persons responded to the question on use of the Township's park. Some 58% reported using the facility, 42% did not. However, a clear majority would like improvements, notably trails and restrooms.

The balance of the survey involved written responses that are shown on the survey form which follows. It makes for interesting reading.

## WALKER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS – AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2000

Walker Township is preparing a new comprehensive plan to guide our community into the future and become the best municipality we can be. For us to plan, we need your input as residents and property owners. Please fill out the attached survey and return to one of the boxes provided at the Township Building, Fire Hall, or mail to:

Walker Township, P.O. Box 116, McConnellstown, PA 16660

**Total Surveys Sent – 764, Total Responses to Date – 108, Percent Return – 14.1%**

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### ***ABOUT YOU:***

**Do you:** Own – 99 Rent – 6 Other -3

**Number of persons in your household:** Average – 2.5

**Your age:** Average – 48.7

**Are you:** Student – 2      Employed – 55\*      Self-Employed – 15      Retired - 31  
Unemployed – 0      Homemaker – 7\*      Other - 0

\*A few also answered employed and homemaker.

**How long have you lived in Walker Township?** Average Years – 21.1

***LAND USE:*** What is your opinion of the amount of each kind of development in Walker Township?

	<u>Too Few</u>	<u>Enough</u>	<u>Too Much</u>
Single-Family Homes	45	57	2
Apartments	35	58	10
Campgrounds	17	67	9
Shops/Stores	67	35	2
Business Offices	41	59	2
Medical Facilities	73	25	0

**Comments:** Could use professional offices, not centers. \* Farms (need development) \*

Parks and Playgrounds	30	66	3
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**Comments:** Continue to develop the park we have now. \*

Farms	19	77	2
Industry	44	47	9
Forest Land	27	67	3
Condominiums	24	45	13

**Comments:** Could use a campground; could use few more (coffee shop would be great. Try to use/renovate current properties).

The Township can adopt various regulations to protect health and safety. Below is a listing of issues. **Are current regulations adequate?**

	<u>Need More</u>	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Protect residential areas from incompatible development.	50	6	42	3
Clean up properties and prevent junk.	65	5	33	3
Provide adequate space between buildings.	19	1	69	12
Protect farmland and open space.	44	2	50	7
Provide space for business development.	43	6	45	9
Protect property from flooding and storm-water runoff.	50	2	43	9
Require new developments to install streets/ water lines/storm drains/etc. to local standards.	47	0	49	10

**Comments:** This is essential. Unaware if current regulations are inadequate. \* Need street lighting \*

**ECONOMIC ISSUES:** Many Township residents believe economic development should be a local priority. Please check the following priorities you feel are important.

	<u>Need More</u>	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Provide land in Walker Township for industrial development.	21	15	56	11

**If important, where?** New enterprise land, Fairgrounds \* Use old buildings on Fairgrounds Road. \* No more in residential – Route 26 – Not on Route 26 between Smithfield and McTown \* New Enterprise and Hartslog Valley \* Fairgrounds Road \* Along Route 26 \* Anywhere \* McConnellstown area or a new motel \* Flat—sewer – water—access \* industrial park, Smithfield Township \* Fairgrounds Road \* Along Route 26 \* Nowhere \* Industrial development should not be



our emphasis, unless at Fairgrounds Road, only if restricted. \* Fairgrounds Road \* New enterprise land \* Hesston area \* Along Routes 22 and 26 \*

	<u>Need More</u>	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Provide land in Walker Township for retail businesses.	39	10	56	11

**If important, where?** Appropriate places \* Use and renovate current properties. \* Not on Route 26 – professional offices in residential homes okay (accountants, therapists, beauticians). \* Fairgrounds, Route 26, intersection to Municipal Gardens \* Around Mactown \* Along Route 26 \* In town \* Route 26 \* Anywhere \* On Route 26 \* On Route 26 \* McConnellstown area \* Along Route 26 – only place available along a well-traveled road. \* Village area \* North Route 26, edge of town, near school area – very selective for type of business \* Help Smithfield Township develop business (motel) (example – Lowes, Wal-Mart), no more gas stations, no more pizza shops \* Along Route 26 \* Nowhere \* Hartslog Road, old New Enterprise location \* Present zoning covers these \* If developed, retail area in brick-face building in a circular grouping – small shops, not a mall concept, but restricted areas. Possibly develop small business in form of farmer’s market. Would attract locals as well as transients – something nicely housed. \* McConnellstown \* Route 26 \* Not to far from school \* In existing structures \* Route 26 south \* McConnellstown \* Anywhere \* Along Routes 22 and 26 \* Along Route 26

	<u>Need More</u>	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Help local people start their own small business.	34	4	35	25

**Comments:** If not destroying residential areas. \* Only if upscale \* Small businesses can be helped through HCB&I \*

Develop the farm economy.	37	1	46	11
Support existing businesses.	54	0	42	5

**Comments:** Keep open dialog with current owners and help where needed and appropriate. Use non-rural parts – revitalize downtown! \* (Small) business – B&B okay – keep property value up. \* Encourage better marketing new facades, need small eatery \*

Encourage the provision of land for business and industry in other parts of Huntingdon County.	56	7	28	16
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**Comments:** Not on prison land, with no Wal-Mart! \* Smithfield Township Industrial Park \* There are adequate places to expand industry in this County without doing so in a residential community. \*

Encourage tourism-related development around Raystown Lake.	46	17	34	10
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**Comments:** Too many already – place is saturated \* In good taste – services and limited retail could be introduced. \*

**Do you feel more business development is appropriate in the area now occupied by the State Police barracks/U.S. Municipal Supply, and USDA on Route 26?**

Yes - 67

No - 35

No Opinion – 6

**Comments:** This area is primarily residential! Maybe a medical center, park area \*

**Do you feel more business development is appropriate at the intersection of Route 26 and Hartslog Road?** Yes - 58 No - 35 No Opinion – 13

**Comments:** Unless PennDOT puts a 4-lane through Hartslog \*

**Do you feel more business development is appropriate on the part of Route 26 between the mini-storage facility and the cemetery?** Yes – 46 No – 54 No Opinion - 5

**Please list other areas you feel may be appropriate for business development.**

Fairgrounds Road area \* None, they already have an industrial park on Fairgrounds Road that is not being used enough! \* I don't – Route 26 cannot provide appropriate means to handle the increased traffic volume that would accompany business development. There is no room for expansion or widening of Route 26 without infringing on current residents' property and homes. \* Fairgrounds Road – use vacant buildings. Note: Just use care so we don't end up looking like Route 22 by McDonald's in Huntingdon!! \* Zone against business development in the Route 26 area, which has always been quality residential area (from Smithfield to McConnellstown) except home offices and B&Bs. \* Anywhere it can be developed \* Fairgrounds Road \* I don't feel we need a lot of development. We should support small local businesses. Most people I know like living here because it is not very developed and still very natural. I think we are just fine without any more big stores. If I need that, I can go to town. \* Any place that doesn't take farmland or ruin a view. \* Area around Oswald Engineering \* In town \* Fairgrounds Road \* I feel anywhere there is adequate space, we should develop business. \* Need to improve Route 26 – widen and straighten \* For any business, location – location – location! Route 26 is the only location with a road with a significant traffic count area adjacent to Oswald. \* This Township is already adjacent to a "bare" industrial park with plenty of empty buildings and space. \* I prefer business development in Huntingdon or along Route 22, or develop the immediate Lake area, but leave Route 26 alone. \* Not aware of appropriate spaces in Township. \* Industrial Park – Smithfield Township. Keep Walker as rural as possible and development as is. \* Walker Township does not have an appropriate area for business development. You must develop – a communication base first! \* Business in Walker Township is unnecessary. The town has been small for many generations, and should not change. \* Somewhere other than Walker Township – downtown Huntingdon perhaps. \* Huntingdon Borough \* Smithfield Township prison ground \* I feel the County has designated industrial development areas. I am not clear on what is meant by "business" development. \* Walker has not planned in the past. This is why now, in many instances, they are attempting to squeeze development in residential area. The Hartslog intersection would be accessible and possibly improve that area. \* Fairgrounds Road and McConnellstown area \*

Need industrial development, otherwise shops and businesses in existing structures; preserve the rural/small-town atmosphere \* Route 26 south, if possible \* Hesston area, back road from Mctown to Hesston \* Prison land \*

**HOUSING:** Would more of any of the following housing types be beneficial to Walker Township (please check all that apply)?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
High-quality family apartments	47	61

**Comments:** In-house, not multi-family dwellings. \* Only if designed well with environment \*

Elderly Apartments	63	45
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**Comments:** If attractively designed and managed. \* 1-story, high-quality with park facilities, etc. \*

A high-quality mobile home park	19	88
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**Comments:** This will depreciate property. \*

Assisted living for elderly persons	69	39
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**Comments:** This could be useful along Route 26 in residential area. \* Possibly a good idea. There is a need. \* High quality only \*

**Existing Housing:** In order to maintain the quality of Township housing, do you think the following programs are warranted (check all that apply):

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Housing rehab	45	61
Property Maintenance Code	58	49
Demolition (voluntary)	46	61

**Comments:** Zoning is needed, but not too much in restrictive code for existing property, as many older persons would lose their homes in the McConnellstown area. \* Yes to all, but, within reason – do not go overboard. \* Keep government out. \* Everyone has to take pride for his own home/property. You cannot legislate for someone to fix his property unless he has self pride in his ideals and his home! \*

**SOCIAL ISSUES:**

**Walker Township currently has no provision for the sale of alcohol –**

**Should alcohol sales be permitted by private clubs? Yes – 56 No - 50**

**Should taverns or other regulated liquor sales be allowed in the Township?**

Yes – 25 No - 79

**Comments:** This is something that should have been taken care of years ago. A nice family restaurant that could serve alcohol is needed. \*

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES:**

**Does Walker Township need (please check all that apply)**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b>A community center?</b>	38	69

**Comments:** The fire company has served this purpose. \* Not necessarily “need,” but would be nice to have \* Use the fire building \*

<b>A medical center, medical clinic, or doctor’s office?</b>	60	48
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**Comments:** Something small would be nice. \* Definitely. Talk with Mr. D’Albula as they recruit new doctors. \* Would be nice, but hesitate to use the word need. \* Small-scale center \*

<b>A public library or county library branch?</b>	30	78
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**Comments:** No, have in Huntingdon \* No, Huntingdon has one \* Public library is adequate. \*

<b>A bike trail?</b>	44	65
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**Where?** Park \* A study could be made as to future trail, or where would be best to put or have one. \* Designate bike path along back road to Hesston. \* Hartslog Valley Road/Route 26 to Lake \* Through existing trail path at foot of ridge on BRB property (proposed Beverly Heights area) \* Smithfield to Raystown area \* Or hiking trail, anywhere; old railroad beds, old strip mines, etc. \* Railroad line to Hesston \* A nature center or trail? \* H\*BT Railroad \* Old railroad line \* Possibly along the back roads \* Between school and park \* Back road to Hesston, wider berms \* Somewhere that would bypass the larger residential population to encourage usage. \* Toward Marklesburg \* Park, Fairgrounds Road \* Route 26 – it’s very dangerous right now for bikers/walkers \* Hartslog Road \* Back road to Hesston \* Road from Fairgrounds Road to Hesston \* Along bottom Piney Ridge and back to old Woodcock School \* Between Old Hall Manor

**Do you or your household use the Township Park?**

Frequently – 28 Rarely – 30 Never - 42

**Are there any facilities you feel should be added to the park?** Yes - 38 No - 23

**If so, please list.**

Updated baseball/softball fields/volleyball court \* Restrooms, water fountains, more play equipment, plus more maintenance on track where people walk, and weeds and banks are full of weeds, etc. \* Swimming pool and restrooms added to the new park. \* Benches along the trail and pond \* Paved walking trail (for bikes, roller blades, walking, etc.); pavilion area similar to Smithfield Park, which the Township could rent, etc. \* Basketball court; possibly tennis court; possibly small food concession stand; picnic table or benches near pond; also, more trees/shade along walking path and generally scattered. \* Pool, basketball, volleyball \* Restrooms \* Bathrooms \* Bathrooms \* Bath-toilet, football, soccer field, covered pavilions \* Swimming, roller blading and walking track, adequate facility for family reunion picnics \* Benches, restrooms, vending machines \* Swimming for children and families \* Bathroom facilities and drinking fountains \* Volleyball nets/court \* Pool \* Possibly a community pool \* Pool, basketball, tennis, picnic areas, including BBQ grills, cleanup maintenance, community activities \* Anything that would provide something beneficial. A good swimming pool is badly needed for children. \* basketball court, picnic pavilion, horseshoe pitch \* Community pool \* Picnic tables \* Pavilion, more play equipment, basketball courts \* Really, what Huntingdon County really needs is a skate park, and the Township park is the perfect place. Skaters are everywhere, and all are tired of having nowhere to skate. \* Motor home camping \* Swimming pool, ball field, better track area, soccer and practice fields \* By new park area \* People and location \* Swimming pool, ice skating on pond in winter \* Bathroom \* Basketball courts, tennis courts (lighted), walking trail \* Eventually a community swimming pool \* nature observation area, wildlife area \* Restroom \* More playground equipment for children (swings, larger sliding board, etc.) \* Swings, pool, basketball and tennis courts, horseshoe pits \* Soccer goals, smaller size for elementary kids to practice \* Gym type \* Swimming pool, swing sets, benches - would be nice to have activity time in the summer for kids. \* Volleyball net with sand, basketball court \*

**What do you like best about living in Walker Township?**

Rural, non-industrial atmosphere \* Smaller town; area, but only 30 miles to Altoona, Lewistown, and State College to shop in without having large shopping stores in our back yards! \* Rural atmosphere; close to shopping \* Quiet, no city lights \* Proximity of town (Huntingdon) without living there. It is more rural here. \* Rural setting and a nice place to live. \* A nice quiet place to live. \* Convenience of being near town, "country" living, but near Huntingdon. \* Rural/small-town atmosphere and proximity to Huntingdon \* Nice community \* The Township has been a beautiful and clean, well cared for area. Industrial development is beginning to take a toll on the Route 26 nice residential area. The lack of "taverns" and "beer joints" is a great asset. \* Quiet, peaceful, fairly safe \* Close to Huntingdon. People are friendly. \* Rural beauty of a small town \* Friendly and helpful, caring neighbors \* Country setting \* Rural environment \* Rural atmosphere \* Rural atmosphere, nice residential community \* It's a nice place to raise kids. They keep roads plowed in winter. The small town atmosphere \* It is quiet, friendly, and rural. \* Quality of living, good residential area with blend of farm and forest \* Quiet, rural, green, beautiful, easy access to highway - open spaces as well as wood areas \* Good neighbors, quietness, near to town \* It's home \* Rural setting but still close to town \* My home \* Rural setting, small-town atmosphere, scenery \* Rural setting \* Semi-rural environment \* I like that

the Township is not "built up" excessively. There is room for growth, but if it is not controlled, the Township will lose its rural quality. \* I feel Walker Township is a fairly clean town and I think the new developments have really increased the area's value. \* Semi-rural living, close to town and bigger cities, close to work \* Quiet living, not business/industry incentives, lots of farms, open land, woodland/forests, close to Huntingdon area for shopping \* Rural atmosphere \* Rural, quiet, clean \* No Wal-Mart or other industrial buildings \* Country living, but close to needed services. \* Nice neighbors and neighborhoods \* Somewhat quiet living (but this is changing). Close to retail stores, easy to access, no real estate taxes. \* Rural lifestyle \* Quiet, no businesses, rural \* Quiet living, near to Huntingdon and Route 22 \* Small town living with space between our homes \* Rural, but close to town. It's nice not to have all the businesses here – they're only 5 miles away. \* Country living, close to town \* Mountains and scenery, the people of the area, being near the lake, peace and quiet \* The fact that it's small, and everybody knows everybody. \* Up until recently, we like the rural atmosphere. We used to enjoy the quiet, small town way of living – now it's getting to be a mess. \* Quiet, friendly atmosphere \* It's quiet and rural, but close to Huntingdon \* Quiet, clean, friendly \* I like the idea that the Township is more a family housing-type area. The other types of housing that I support would add to that. \* The beautiful natural resources that surround us; the fact that we are semi-removed from the business district. \* Small community – nice, friendly neighbors \* Quiet, woodsy, clean \* Not over-governed \* Quiet and friendly \* Rural, but close to Huntingdon, development areas, people \* Sparseness of industry and the beautiful scenery. Please, no more development, housing or business. \* Single-dwelling residential environment \* Everything is close by \* Good class of people \* Rural quality of lifestyle \* Quiet country \* The single-family dwelling neighborhoods \* Proximity to Huntingdon and no homes directly beside me – nice yards. We have a nice new school and two new housing developments. \* Clean town in a semi-rural area; good place to raise kids \* Quiet little town \* Quiet area, State Police location in Township, nice people, good school, fire company, no Wal-Mart or major business to tie up traffic \* Rural atmosphere, surrounding farmland and wooded areas \* Area residents \* Near town country atmosphere \* It is a clean township \* Quiet residential area, good township services, e.g., snow plowing \* Location to stores \* The people, the current size, access to Raystown Lake \* It's quiet \* Small town, community events \* Quiet atmosphere \* Friendly people, good neighbors \*

### **What would you change about Walker Township?**

Speed limits on Route 26 \* Enforce (35 mph) speed through town! It makes it dangerous to pull out onto Route 26 anywhere, especially in tourist season. \* Walking track should be wider at the new park. \* Restrict multi-family growth; restrict industrial growth; insure farmland; restrict "factory animal" business (i.e., hog farms). \* Bike trails, add small convenience shop, a "block" party to discuss these issues. \* The water/sewage bill is too high. There are too many rundown properties in the actual town of McConnellstown. It decreases everyone's property value. \* We need to maintain an adequate road system. Keep weeds trimmed along roads and in the developments. \* Clean up the "eyesore" properties, junk cars, etc. \* Public apathy; the vacant building situation along Fairgrounds Road; the haphazard development of land. We need to implement the "growing green" philosophy. \* We need a recycling center. \* I would like to see Route 26 zoned for residence and small professional offices. No trailer parks, no industry to be added. An elderly development would be nice if highly regulated. \* Add more businesses. \* No more single housing developments \* Implementation of laws regarding people not observing and respecting private properties \* Nothing \* Traffic speeds on Route 28 (reduce) \* A 35-mph speed limit \* Complications of the subdivision rules or laws need to be made more simple for the

landowner. \* Not much \* Add community center program for youth – after school and summer. Enhance outdoor activities with bike trail, hiking, and cross-country skiing. \* Continue to enforce housing and building and property codes. Carefully monitor development. Water and sewer costs too expensive. Grants for upgrading deteriorated properties. I hate the shooting. Need a good small grocery store. \* Would like not to have to go to Altoona and State College for everything. Need more work in this area. \* Renovate rundown properties \* Put it back to 50 years ago. \* Develop more comprehensive master plan, encourage via tax incentives occupancy of current vacant facilities \* Residential properties that look like junkyards need to be cleaned up. \* The Supervisors. I believe we need to change the Supervisors more often to bring new ideas on a continuous basis to create continued growth and development. \* Monthly water and sewer rates too high, as compared to surrounding areas. Remodel or remove un-lived-in houses and buildings. \* Not much if left alone as is. Protect private homes from commercial development. Homes along Route 26 at State Police Barracks area were not treated right when area okayed for business development. \* Oswald Engineering area needs cleaned up. Sheffield storage area not pleasant to the eye. \* Speed reduced to 45 mph and enforced on Route 26 from McConnellstown to Smithfield. \* Alcohol sales, Route 26 improvement, more housing \* We need more services. \* Nothing \* Nothing. The more government provides in “services,” the more money it needs; hence, taxes!! \* Not much \* The elementary school should have been bigger with all the new houses going up. \* The “outrageous” water bills. \* I think the attitude of the people that have lived here all their lives need updated. We need Township rules to protect everyone – not just to tell them what to do. \* The taxes paid to Huntingdon School District are too high!! \* Cree Manor, and the surrounding big developments are unnecessary. \* I’d quit pushing development before the beautiful place that we have is ruined by greed and nearsightedness. \* Start looking for a way to improve Route 26 through McConnellstown. \* Put in an ordinance against loud fireworks (and rockets) and an ordinance against 4-wheelers running on other people’s property. \* We need more enforcing of present ordinances (example, behind the Oswald Building). \* Track or trails to walk and bike safely. A farmer’s market, a small medical center, possibly a grouping of small brick shops for retail with a restaurant incorporated. No mall scenarios, specialty shops. \* Water prices are much too high. \* Add a Township improvement committee from schools, churches, businesses, and clubs to assist the Planning Commission. \* Have people keep their dogs under control. \* Water/sewer rates are too high; clean up junk, trash, cans around houses. \* Shooting at Shenecoy would be banned. \* Expand the wetlands as much as possible. \* More strict enforcement of zoning restrictions, i.e., State Police Barracks and agricultural building \* Nothing \* Get rid of new enterprise quarry – develop \* Lower the water/sewer bill. The speed limit must be more properly enforced on Route 26 through Mctown. \* Zoning laws, traffic flow \* Prove local recycling for some materials, add one additional clean-up day in the fall \* too much development, lower water/sewer rates \* Have zoning of boats and old cars on properties prohibited \* The high cost of the water and sewage. \* High taxes \* Nothing \* Increase water/sewer/gas service to more residential areas \* Speed limit on Route 26 from Smithfield to Mactown should be lowered – with the new school and the large number of driveways, 55 is too fast. \* Maintaining of country roads (potholes, resurfacing), Hartslog Road \* Homeowners should have more rights on their property. \* Taxpayers have more say in issues. \* Let homeowner have control of property. \* Give owners of property more rights. \* More rights for property owners. \* Less restrictions for property owners. \* Give property owners more rights. \*

Do you commute to work?

Yes - 64

No - 38

How far (one way)?

(0-4 Miles - 4)

5-10 Miles - 44

11-20 Miles - 4

21-35 Miles - 4

Over 36 Miles - 7

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**Thank you for taking the time to help your community. Please attach any other comments you feel are important to Walker Township's future.**

The town also needs stormwater systems all over the Township, especially along Route 26 where the water runs off hard when there is a heavy downpour. Let's do something about this as soon as possible. It should have been put in before water and sewage. \* I don't understand how the water bill is so high when we have had so many new homes going up in the Township. Shouldn't the cost decrease with increased population to absorb some of the cost we pay to Huntingdon for sewage fee??? Spread out more among the increasing population? \* Thank you for doing this (and for hiring the consultant). Hopefully, we can work together to wisely integrate development while preserving the quality (and to some extent, the quantity) of our environment. \* The property values must be maintained in this time of economic growth. No more industry along the lovely stretch of Route 26 to Mctown. Also, regulations on maintenance would help. My family is returning to this area from out of town because of the well-kept area along Route 26. We have always valued the beauty of this Township's rural areas. \* Please, a closer recycling drop off. Walker Township being a "gateway" to the lake could develop with tourism in mind. We have in our past repeatedly vacationed at several lakes. They all provided areas that had a variety of restaurants beyond fast food and a center for family recreation like games, bowling, skating, miniature golf, movies, and things to do on rainy days. There were always some upscale shopping (an outlet for artists to sell their wares), an upscale small grocery for "vacation-type foods." A Sunday flea market was always fun. Mctown could become a classy little center for getting lake visitors to part with their money. However, it must be attractively done. Since we're adjacent to prison land, try to keep that from becoming a destructive eyesore by voicing opinions strongly. \* Would like enough decent work in the area that children don't have to move away when they grow up to get a job. \* Could someone from the Township clarify the issue of the alleyways in McConnellstown? Some are paved and some are gravel. These roads are very dangerous and could use some support from the Walker Township road crew. Is there anything that can be done to pave these alleys and possibly have signs posted along Route 26 with a warning or something that there is a road. Thank you so much. \* Keep our Township for single-family homes. Need a motel near Route 22. \* Note: Routes 22 and 26 are main roads in the area. To be a better place and have more business and services, these areas will have to be utilized. Not other way will work. \* Let growth happen naturally and gracefully, instead of pushing it so much. Once the land is gone, there won't be any more. \* The land by the State Police would be ideal for bike trails, a track for walking, tennis courts - whatever. There are homes surrounding this area to use such facilities. \* Install a street light at intersection of Route 26 and Fairgrounds Road. \* I think less time should be spent on reprimanding community members who don't live or keep their yards up to standard, while more time could be spent encouraging development of a more friendly, prosperous and satisfying community environment for all of its members. \* Water and sewer rates should be lower. \* The rate for water/sewer is ridiculous. \* The store (mini-mart) needs to clean up its parking lot and banks of all debris and weeds. Coming into McTown, it is an eyesore, plus encourages rodents.\*