



Borough of Chambersburg

A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chambersburg Releases Draft Curb & Sidewalk Maps for Master Plan of Borough

Chambersburg – On January 24, 2018, The Borough of Chambersburg unveiled a new addition to its website; a series of maps of every property inside the Borough depicting whether they have or must have curbs or sidewalks in the future. These maps are a draft set, released only for public comment.

According to Phil Wolgemuth, Assistant to the Borough Manager, “once the new plan is adopted, instead of deciding on a case by case (block by block) basis, the Borough will decide where to build sidewalks by a Borough-wide adopted sidewalk plan. The plan would depict each street frontage for each tax parcel (each lot) on an official sidewalk plan map, where either the sidewalk network already exists or is recommended by Council to be extended; based upon when certain events or conditions occur.”

The key change is that sidewalk plan/map could exempt areas where Council feels there is no public interest in compelling citizens to install sidewalks. The current policy, adopted in 2003-2004, does not allow exceptions to the installation of sidewalks. A number of triggers, most commonly the paving of streets, automatically begin the process of compelling the installation or repair of sidewalks.

However, according to Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill, “this new system of deciding where and when sidewalks will be ordered does not diminish the authority of any future Town Council to order the installation of sidewalks; and make the adjacent property owner’s pay the cost, as long as the installation is seen as in the best interest of the entire community. That is state law.”

This is the opportunity for the public to review the draft curb & sidewalk plan, and offer comments prior to adoption.

The Chambersburg Curb and Sidewalk Installation Program identifies where curb and sidewalk networks are necessary Borough-wide and will determine whether existing policies regarding curb and sidewalk installation and financing should be changed.

The Curb & Sidewalk Policy Compliance Committee, a group of volunteers, is seeking public comment through the website.

The program includes a series of draft maps depicting every property in the Borough where curbs and sidewalks are currently located and where they may or may not be required in the future.

Property owners, and the general public, are encouraged to review and comment on the draft maps and policies before any final decisions are made.

Further, citizens can attend a public meeting at Borough Hall on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. or Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will be held in Council Chambers on the second floor of Borough Hall, 100 S. Second St., Chambersburg, PA. At the meetings, citizens can talk with staff about the program and review paper copies of the maps to see how your property may be affected.

Concerned citizens can also call Borough staff or schedule a one-on-one meeting by contacting Phil Wolgemuth, Assistant to the Borough Manager, at 717-261-3232 or pwolgemuth@chambersburgpa.gov.

Finally, Spanish translation will be provided at the public meetings and for those that need assistance navigating the website or interacting with staff.

All comments that are received will be shared with the Curb and Sidewalk Policy Compliance Committee in July or October 2018 so they can consider those comments before making any final recommendations to Town Council about the Curb and Sidewalk Installation Program.

Ultimately, the plan must be adopted by Town Council at the end of the process to become official.

Chambersburg staff works with construction contractors to lower costs, offers low interest loans, and grants for income eligible citizens to comply with curb and sidewalk installation orders.

Go to www.chambersburgpa.gov

Click on Maps

Select *curb and sidewalk installation program*

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania’s only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater.

Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013). www.chambersburgpa.gov