

Our Vision for Port Republic...

In 50 years, Port Republic is thriving with much the same community spirit and extraordinary sense of place we enjoy today. Our greatest resource, our residents, value and protect the Port's remarkable heritage – the historic village and adjacent gateway, the North and South Rivers that form the South Fork of the Shenandoah, the Port Republic Civil War battlefield and the surrounding farms and landscape. We provide for our community's needs through enhancements that are compatible with this vision and our rural heritage. We welcome visitors to enjoy history and learn from our efforts to plan for a future that does not erase the past.

Affirmed by Consensus...

The Vision and Action Plan for next steps were developed and refined by citizens and stakeholders during three public workshops held between January and April 2016. The Community Vision and Action Plan were affirmed by consensus on April 7, 2016.

An Action Plan for Port Republic



Priority Next Steps

Action Area 1:

Partner with Rockingham County for Implementation of the Port Republic Vision

- Community representatives to work with and offer comments to County Officials on findings of the community workshops and implementation preferences.

Action Area 2:

Investigate Special Status Designations for Community Assets

- Evaluate potential for Scenic Byway or Virginia Byway status for portions of Route 253 and Scenic River status for area rivers.

Action Area 3:

Support and Advance Voluntary Efforts to Enhance the Community

- Seek opportunities to improve and extend trails in and around the Village, including a crosswalk on Rt. 253 to the Port Republic Museum.

Community Workshops

The Community Vision for Port Republic and the Action Plan for next steps were developed and refined by citizens and stakeholders during three public workshops held between January and April 2016. Those who attended the meetings clearly cherish the unique identity of Port Republic and see opportunities to strengthen connections between the historic village, gateway area and battlefields.

Residents and stakeholders agreed on the importance of protecting the rustic, rural character of the Village and its historic battlefields and rural landscape from incompatible development but were cautious about adopting overly strict design guidelines or regulations that might be difficult to implement. Residents of the area want the community to retain its eclectic, organic character rather than be subject to HOA-like rules.

Participants at the final workshop wanted to maintain the momentum established during the community engagement process and wish to remain involved as the County moves forward to update its Comprehensive Plan, and if any related zoning updates are considered. County staff and partner community groups expressed a willingness and desire to continue to work with stakeholders in the area on implementing the next steps in the coming months.



The History of Port Republic

The small unincorporated Village of Port Republic occupies a unique and historic position in Rockingham County, VA. Settled around the turn of the 18th century at the confluence of the North and South Rivers, the Village was the site of significant Civil War activity during Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Port Republic is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a Virginia Historic Landmark.

What's Next?

Citizens who participated in the Port Republic workshops affirmed a shared sense of pride and a vision of what Port Republic can look like in the future - enhanced but largely unchanged. The process drew local citizens together for a common purpose and helped participants identify a wide range of shared values, desires and ideals for their community. It also resulted in a specific strategy and set of next steps for achieving the vision and identified resources and effective partners to help implement it.

The products and results of the Port Republic Rural Village Planning Project offer valuable community insights that can feed directly into the pending Rockingham County Comprehensive Plan update and help refine the recently adopted Rural Village zoning district. The community engagement process may also serve as a model for more detailed planning in the County's other rural villages. The full Port Republic Rural Village Project Summary Report is available online at www.preserverockingham.org.

For more information and to follow our progress, visit:
www.preserverockingham.org



The Port Republic Rural Village Project is a joint initiative of the Shenandoah Valley Network (SVN), the Rockingham Community Alliance for Preservation (CAP) and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVNF) and is made possible through a grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program.

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Planning for a future that does not erase the past...

THE PORT REPUBLIC RURAL VILLAGE PROJECT

