

River Town public forum set in Renovo

09 Jan 2015 — *The Express*

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RENOVO - The public is invited to an open house and public forum in Renovo next Thursday night that will focus on new ideas to help revitalize communities in the Greater Renovo area.

The session is being spearheaded by local officials, volunteers, the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and SEDA-COG Economic Redevelopment.

Both the open house and meeting will be held Jan. 15 in the Renovo Fire Hall at 230 11th St. in the borough.

The open house will be held from 6:30 to 7 p.m.; the forum is slated from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

"Learn more about the place you call home and help direct its future as part of the Susquehanna Greenway River Town program," Zach Pyle, the Greenway Partnership's River Towns Program coordinator, said last night in announcing the meeting.

"The public meeting will be a great opportunity for neighbors, friends, and the community to get together and discuss potential projects and improvements to the greater Renovo area," explained Alice Trowbridge, Greenway coordinator. "We are excited to be working with western Clinton County, as there is already a lot of momentum for revitalization."

During the open house, participants can review area maps and provide feedback on aspects of Renovo that are valued and other places that could be improved.

Ongoing plans for parks, trails, and recreational developments will also be on display for public comment, Pyle said.

A few short presentations will open the public meeting, including remarks from local representatives and the Greenway Partnership.

A focus group will follow in which all meeting participants will be divided into several groups.

Each group will be asked various questions about the community and report back to the larger group, Trowbridge said.

Community officials and volunteers from Renovo and South Renovo Boroughs, Noyes, Leidy and Chapman townships have been meeting in past months to find ways to build momentum toward next week's public forum, and work on possible goals and projects beyond that.

One idea is to create a River Town Region encompassing all of the municipalities working together, Pyle said, though details need to be worked out. Each municipality would be asked to formally approve a River Town designation.

The effort is similar to what took place in Lock Haven last March following Downtown Lock Haven Inc. and the City of Lock Haven's designation as a River Town.

That effort continues with a River Town Committee investigating various improvement projects to boost tourism, recreational opportunities and economic development.

The Susquehanna Greenway links natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources along the 500-mile corridor of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania.

It is Pennsylvania's largest greenway.

The River Towns Program offers recognition and assistance to Greenway communities that value the river as an asset for economic development and healthy living.

Questions can be directed to Pyle, SGP River Towns Program Coordinator, at 570-522-7339 or zpyle@susquehannagreenway.org.

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