

Anderson Plan Implementation Committee

September 9, 2025

Township Elected Officials Present: Trustee Dee Stone, Fiscal Officer Brian Johnson

Committee Members Present: Dan O'Rourke, Karl Sieber, Cindy Sieber, Phil Kiley, John Halpin, Elizabeth Maier, Zach Peterson, Susan Wheatley, Jim Willis, Bruce Berno, Peg Fenner, Vicki Beck, Brian Gay, Jay Lewis

Others Present: Steve Sievers (Asst. Twp. Administrator for Operations), Stephen Springsteen (Planner I), Eli Davies (Planner I), Logan Vaughn (UC Co-op), Sarah Celenza (Exec. Dir. of Anderson Chamber of Commerce), Mary Ellen Knaebel (WeTHRIVE), Maddie Hart (WeTHRIVE)

Members Absent: Katie Buchmann, Matt Chaffin, Kevin Comerford, Michael Doenges, Duane Donohoo, Stephen Feagins, Andrea Granieri, Nicole Hunter, Anne Miller, Karen Schwamberger, Paul Sheckles, Paul Sian

4:35pm – Committee Meeting Called to Order

Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Davies opened the meeting, noting it would be a regular Implementation Committee meeting, not a Board of Trustees meeting due to only one Trustee being present. He introduced Township staff, WeThrive staff Mary Ellen Knaebel and Maddie Hart, and Sarah Celenza from the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce.

Subgroup Discussion Time

Mr. Davies gave the groups five minutes to reconnect, giving subgroups a few minutes to meet.

Meeting Summary & Report Back

2.3.1 (Maintain, monitor and plan for Township streets and overall road network (including sidewalks, trails and bike lanes))

Mr. Sievers provided an update on the bus partnership and noted a story is planned for the next Anderson Insights newsletter that will be released in November. He also reported that the Sutton sidewalks project will be funded by METRO and acknowledged that the projects were accessible to the groups.

Mr. Davies acknowledged the installation of the HAWK/pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) pedestrian signal near Clough/Endovalley and Juilfs Park.

Mr. Davies also mentioned that METRO will be giving a presentation at the Senior Center on their program on October 28 at 10:30am.

3.2.5 (Promote and support the development of a skilled workforce within the community)

Mr. Halpin had reported limited contact since the last meeting. He expressed the desire to speak directly with Forest Hills School District, Great Oaks, and the business community to better understand how the township can support them. He also mentioned discussing the Hamilton County program, Ohio Means Jobs initiative, with Ms. Celenza as potential resources.

Ms. Maier provided an overview of the Anderson Business Survey, which is currently under review and discussion. The results show noticeable shifts in business concerns, with obstacles identified as traffic, lease costs, sidewalk conditions, and permit complications. The discussion focused on how the township and Chamber of Commerce could simplify processes and how the committee might assist. Mr. Sievers commented on the types of businesses that responded to the survey.

Mr. Sievers reported a follow-up exercise was carried out through the Economic Development Subcommittee to explore ways to reach common ground, reaching out to 15 businesses.

Ms. Celenza, on behalf of the Chamber, reported on two separate engagement sessions with businesses ranging from small to large employers. Three main themes emerged from these sessions: tools and technology, which highlighted the need for support with AI and marketing solutions; people and talent, which focused on workforce retention and team management; and visibility, which emphasized generating new leads and building relationships.

Ms. Celenza talked more about the Ohio Means Jobs as being a statewide network connected to the Job and Family Services system, with availability throughout the county. A recent membership meeting included a Clermont County representative who shared opportunities available to local businesses. Next month, Ohio Means Jobs representatives will be speaking with the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Sievers noted that a PDF document with the survey results is available on the Township website.

Mr. Davies encouraged members to bring forward any questions related to sections 2.3.1 or 3.2.5 as the committee meeting continues moving forward.

8.1.3 (Preserve and protect the natural and environmental resources found throughout the community)

Mrs. Wheatley stated that this year, a new category for native plantings was added to the Beautification Awards program. Many nominations were received, and the program will continue next year. It was noted that more detailed information about nominated properties will be needed to make final selections. Native Roots won the commercial category and served as a sponsor.

Mrs. Wheatley said that the July 19 kick-off event drew 70 attendees, including staff. The Native Plant of the Year, the Black-eyed Susan, was recognized. Special appreciation was extended to Native Roots for their strong contributions to the event. The subcommittee identified Amsonia, commonly known as Bluestars, as the 2026 Native Plant of the Year. Looking ahead, a spring event is planned at the Heritage Center. Coordination with events staff will be necessary to finalize the format, and the subcommittee will meet in October to plan further. In the future, quarterly meetings may take the place of stand-alone events. Mr. Springsteen was commended for his work on the website and the resident guide, and the importance of outreach through social media and other channels was emphasized.

Mr. Halpin raised the idea of incorporating plants alongside township-provided trees during street work projects.

Mr. Springsteen stressed the importance of biodiversity in tree selection, particularly considering losses such as the ash tree. He noted that native species made up most of the recent selections and suggested pairing complimentary trees with the Native Plant of the Year.

Mrs. Wheatley recommended reducing redundancy in the plant list while increasing the overall diversity of native species.

Mrs. Stone thanked Mrs. Wheatley and the committee for their strong efforts at Native Roots and for their work on the event.

Mr. Sievers announced that Suzanne Clingman, the Township's first and only Greenspace Inspector since the program began in the 1990s, retired last Friday, after 24 years of service, and mentioned Todd Chadwell had been hired to work as a Greenspace Inspector within the Planning and Zoning Department. Todd will continue conducting greenspace property checks and addressing encroachments while shifting focus to long-term planning and management. Mrs. Wheatley expressed interest in coordinating with Mr. Chadwell on greenspace management and plans to meet with him soon.

8.3.1 (Encourage recycling and the safe use of appropriate disposal of solid waste and hazardous materials by all generators in the Township)

The subcommittee reported on their August 6 visit to the Rumpke Recycling center and shared insights on how materials are processed and where they go. Discussion followed on the future of the drop-off center, and whether it will be relocated or closed. Mr. Sievers confirmed that there were currently no plans to relocate the drop off center as they've

been working to increase recycling through other avenues close to homes. A survey was sent to large housing communities asking if they would consider on-site recycling as an alternative to drop-off use. Results showed strong, positive responses, and the committee discussed sending follow-up letters. An article was also proposed to highlight recycling options, including the HUB, curbside pickup, and the recycling center.

The subcommittee also mentioned Cindy Voss, who is a resident volunteer liaison with the Hamilton County ReUse Hub. Plans are underway to work with her on limited drop-off opportunities, such as barrels or easier-to-transport materials, though these are still in early stages. John asked who had visited the HUB and commented on its quality.

Mrs. Stone stressed the opportunity to expand collaboration with Cindy, including a Mt. Washington event with a van for electronics collection. Members suggested planning such events well in advance. It was also noted that past efforts with Great Parks included an electronics event.

Mr. Sievers announced a Great Parks event at Woodland Mound in October and a Household Hazardous Waste Day next Saturday at Nagel, led by Hamilton County and the Township, with another location in Norwood. When asked if the hazardous waste event occurs annually, Mr. Sievers said the Clean Harbors contract with Hamilton County should allow it to continue each year if successful.

A question was raised about signage for recycling events. Mr. Sievers said information is posted on the township website. He added that the Great Parks event does not require pre-registration and will focus on e-waste such as computers, cellphones, and small appliances.

Mr. Berno asked for an update on the operations center. Mr. Sievers said plans are still in progress, but the goal remains to expand recycling options and improve access to residences due to the potential for recycling drop-off being phased out. Outreach to multi-family complexes was coordinated, but more work is needed to make progress with those communities.

Mr. Berno asked if contact information was available, Mr. Sievers confirmed and added that next steps need to be reconsidered. He noted that the recent recycling tour offered useful insights for Anderson's planning.

Mr. Davies mentioned the prior discussion with Rumpke about mailing residents on recycling. Mr. Sievers reported that the committee moved forward, with Rumpke covering mailing costs. The initiative achieved an 8% response rate, higher than Rumpke's usual 3–5%.

Next Steps – Staff

Mr. Davies asked if there were any additional questions for the committees discussed and mentioned

Mr. Gay asked about the ribbon cutting for the park and ride. Mr. Sievers reported that a joint ribbon cutting is planned for mid-November; however, METRO service will not begin until early December due to quarterly route changes. He also noted that Anderson Center Drive requires ADA pads and additional work, and METRO will return Thursday to review next steps. The pedestrian signal at Clough and Endovalley will be opening soon, though no ribbon cutting is planned. In addition, the trail connection with Elstun and Beechmont is expected to be completed by mid-October.

Mr. Halpin referenced Mr. Sievers presentation at the Senior Center about Anderson Township and its services. He suggested that Mr. Sievers may want to present again at the year-end meeting and noted that the presentation is accessible on the Township's website.

Mr. Davies discussed the need for volunteers for next year, with commitments expected by the end of the month. Mr. Sievers reported that the comprehensive plan update will begin soon. He also responded to a question about Skytop's ownership.

Mr. Davies reminded the committee that the last meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, November 12, due to Veterans Day that Tuesday. Mr. Sievers emphasized that appointments need to be finalized by December for recruitment.

Mrs. Wheatley suggested using Facebook and Instagram to connect with organizations such as gardening groups and Moms of Anderson for recruitment. Mr. Sievers advised using the Township's original posts but directing people back to the Township website. Recruitment efforts are expected to begin in early October.

Ms. Beck raised concern about the lack of younger participants, noting that the 4:30 p.m. meeting time is difficult for working individuals. Mr. Sievers explained that 7:00 p.m. can also be too late, but he agreed to reassess scheduling options. The committee also discussed the possibility of advertising subgroups so that subcommittees could continue meeting at alternate times. Mr. Davies also noted that this question was considered by staff but agreed it could be discussed further.

Mr. Davies opened the floor for free discussion before adjourning the structured portion of the meeting.

The work session began at 5:45pm.