

CHECKLIST & TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: Town of Snow Hill

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Town of Snow Hill

Please review the checklist of attachments and furnish all of the attachments that are applicable. Contents of the notebook should be tabbed and organized as follows:

- TAB #1 Sustainable Community Applicant Information**
- TAB #2 Sustainable Community Baseline Information and Map: In addition to the baseline narrative, include a hard copy of the proposed Sustainable Communities map in Tab 2.**
- TAB #3 Local Capacity to Implement Plans & Projects and Workgroup Roster: Attach Sustainable Communities Workgroup roster noted in Section III**
- TAB #4 Sustainable Community Plan**
- TAB #5 Progress Measures**
- TAB #6 Local Support Resolution and Letters of Support: In addition to the local support resolution, please include any letters of support that demonstrate partner commitments to the implementation and/or oversight of the Sustainable Community Plan.**
- TAB #7 Signed Sustainable Community Application Disclosure Authorization and Certification**
- TAB #8 CD-ROM: The CD-ROM should include the following contents:**
 - Map in pdf format of the proposed Sustainable Communities area**
 - GIS shapefile of the proposed Sustainable Community boundaries and other GIS related data, eg, spreadsheet of detailed listing of parcels that form the project boundary. If you have additional comments or questions about the GIS mapping requirements, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, wolters@mdhousing.org**
 - Pictures (jpeg format) of your Sustainable Community as it relates to your application**

**All documents on this checklist are mandatory.
Failure to provide the requested document will automatically deny your application.**

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community: Town of Snow Hill**Legal Name of Applicant:** Town of Snow Hill**Federal Identification Number:** 52-6000807**Street Address:** 103 Bank Street**City:** Snow Hill **County:** Worcester **State:** MD **Zip Code:** 21863**Phone No:** 410-632-2080 **Fax:** 4106322858 **Web Address:** www.snowhillmd.com**Sustainable Community Contact For Application Status:****Name:** Kelly Brewington **Title:** Town Manager**Address:** 103 Bank Street **City:** Snow Hill **State:** MD **Zip Code:** 21863**Phone No:** 4106322080 **Fax:** **E-Mail:** brewington@snowhillmd.com**Person to be contacted for Award notification:****Name:** Ann Gibb **Title:** Grants Administrator**Address:** 103 Bank Street **City:** Snow Hill **State:** MD **Zip Code:** 21863**Phone No:** 4106322080 **Fax:** 4106322858 **E-mail:** agibb1@verizon.net

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Through this section, applicants will demonstrate that trends and conditions in homeownership, property values, employment, commercial and residential vacancy, community facilities and infrastructure, nature, natural resources, the local business and residential districts show a need for new or continued revitalization reinvestment. Demographic data and trends provided by Applicants should support the choice of the proposed Sustainable Community Area boundary and help form a basis for needs and opportunities to be addressed through the initiatives and projects described in the Sustainable Community Action Plan (Section IV)

POINTS IN THIS SECTION WILL BE AWARDED BASED ON THE SC AREA'S NEED FOR REINVESTMENT AS EVIDENCED BY THOROUGH DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT CONDITIONS OR TRENDS (and will not be based upon current or planned revitalization activities which will be covered in Section IV).

A. Proposed Sustainable Area(s):

County: Worcester

Name of Sustainable Community: Town of Snow Hill

Include boundary descriptions and a map of the Sustainable Community. In addition to hard copies of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels(i.e. Parcel ID Numbers)that form the project boundary should be included. If possible, maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD,

wolters@MdHousing.org

The Sustainable Community boundaries are the same as the town limits of Snow Hill.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Approximate number of acres within the SC Area: 926

Existing Federal, State, or Local designations(check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Legacy Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Street | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Street |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Historic District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Register Historic District |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A&E District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRAC | <input type="checkbox"/> State Designated TOD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other(s) <u>Preserve America Community</u> | |

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Prior revitalization Investments & Smart Growth:

(a) List and describe any significant State local smart growth or revitalization related program investments (for instance, Community Legacy or SC Rehab Tax Credit) that have been invested in the Area since the launching of Maryland's Smart Growth initiative and programs in 1997 (including Housing investment). What impact have these investments made in the community?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

The Town adopted Strategic Revitalization Plan in 2003 to focus on economic development, land use and physical improvements. Thus establishing attainable targets that would result in a renewed and revitalized town.

While not a Maryland Main Street community, a citizen advocacy group known as SHARP, Snow Hill Alliance for Responsible Progress, has structured itself to reflect the Main Street Four Point Approach. In 2006, Snow Hill received designation as an "Arts and Entertainment District" to promote economic and business growth compatible with the town's history and its sensitive environmental setting.

Since 1997, the Town of Snow Hill has completed significant projects with funds provided through the Maryland DHCD Community Legacy Program. In 2003, the Town received \$20,000 for the Willow Street lift station. In 2004 Community Legacy funds provided \$80,000.00 for revitalization of the Old Firehouse. The Town received \$800,000 in CDBG funding for improvements to Market Street in 2005. Said improvements upgraded Market Street's water, sewer and gas lines, allowed for sidewalk rehabilitation and removal and replacement of manholes.

In 2002, Historic District regulations were adopted to preserve historic sites and structures, to stabilize and improve property values and safeguard our heritage. Appreciating and retaining property value contributes to significant capital investment in the community as well as job creation. The "Preserve America Community" designation promotes local historic resources with events like "Christmas in Snow Hill", "Blessing of the Combines" honoring our agricultural heritage, and Purnell Museum displays and events. Historic District Guidelines developed in 2010 thru MD Historical Trust Grant funds of \$15,000 will assist with preservation of resources.

The Town updated its Comprehensive Plan in 2009, grant funding of \$10,000 from CDBG and \$20,000 from MD Coastal Communities assisted with the update. The CDBG funds provided for preparation of the municipal growth element and water resources element which considered the residential development capacity analysis, with 707 infill lots no additional lands need to be annexed for projected growth. The town has amended the PFA map to include lands where water and sewer exist to encourage public investment. In 2012, the town adopted a tier map under SB 236 showing areas planned for water and sewer to encourage development in town.

Since 2008, the Town of Snow Hill has been awarded a total of \$135,000 in revitalization grants from the DHCD's Façade Improvement Program. These funds motivated downtown property owners to paint, as well as upgrade wood siding, awnings, signage and exterior façades creating an improved streetscape downtown and at strategic gateways to the community.

The Town is upgrading its water treatment plant to comply with federal water quality standards. Grants and loans from MDE, USDA and DHCD totaling 14 million dollars have assisted the Town with this project.

The Worcester County Commissioners are committed to improving the Rt. 12 gateway into Snow Hill with projects such as painting of Worcester County Court House and renovations at the Purnell House. The County Commissioners have demolished three structures at the entrance to town on US Rt 12 and are supervising a warehouse renovation.

The Town is in the process of restoring and maintaining its historic Town Hall on Bank Street. The threshold of the building, built in 1908, has been restored. The roof, the parapet wall, and metal frieze have been shorn up, repaired and repainted to reflect the historic nature of the building. A grant from the Bartus Trew Fund for Historic Preservation assisted with this project.

A large portion of Snow Hill's business district, 178.99 acres, was designated as a State Enterprise Zone in 2012. The Town's business loan program and Enterprise Zone encouraged new businesses, including a bakery, pet spa, bookstore, and kid's salon.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(b) Describe any existing barriers to Smart Growth that may affect your jurisdiction or the proposed SC Area. For instance, does your area have higher development fees than outer "cornfields"?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

The northern boundary of Snow Hill is set by the Pocomoke River, along which the historic Town of Snow Hill was settled. It was chartered in 1686 and became a Royal Port of Entry in 1694. The Town was once a thriving rural trading post and center for trade and commerce. Growth has been confined to annexations on the southern extents and western side of town due to land availability and accessibility to water and sewer service. Expansion across the Rt. 12 drawbridge on the northern border of town would be too costly as a result of environmental constraints that include wetlands and habitat thus limiting growth within the heart of the business district. Any future growth in the downtown core would require demolition of a number of historic buildings that are rich in architectural history and contributing elements to the Snow Hill Historic District and contrary to green development practices.

Double taxation creates a disadvantage when competing with areas outside of the Town limits. Taxes collected by the Town are over and above what is collected on behalf of Worcester County. Developers ask for significant incentives in order to offset this barrier. It is a challenge to demonstrate that other advantages outweigh the increased taxes. Mayor and Council have established a tax abatement program in an effort to retain businesses and may grant such abatements upon finding it is in the best interest of the town.

Recent upgrades to the waste water treatment plant to meet BNR and ENR requirements has imposed a financial burden to residents due to operation and management cost increases. Sewer rates increased in 2013 to service the debt remaining on the WWTP.

Another barrier is location. The town is not located along a major highway due to construction of a bypass, known as Worcester County Highway. The State Highway Administration plans to complete the dualization of Rt. 113 between Berlin and Snow Hill, but funding is not available at this time. RT 113 Business is now a minor arterial extending through the center of town. As a result, the town gets very little transient traffic unless there is a well publicized event, such as the Worcester County Fair, Blessing of the Combines, or Fourth of July festival.

The current national economic situation has also been a deterrent to development, resulting in construction for a planned development annexed in 2005 known as "Summerfield", to be placed on hold. Town officials hope that once the economy starts to turn around, the developer will start a small phase of the development.

Other barriers to Smart Growth are not known.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

B. Community Conditions: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed Area's existing built environment. For example, what is the condition of housing? Are there underutilized historic buildings and cultural palces? What is the condition and availability of community parks and recreational assets? Are there transportaion assests? What is the current condition of community infrastructure such as roads and lighting?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

Housing: The Town's housing stock from the 18th, 19th & early 20th centuries make it one of the most historically preserved communities in the region. 7 houses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 2010 Census shows 13% of the housing units are vacant and 43% are renter occupied. Yearly rental inspection is key to keeping sufficient housing stock. While the Town encourages property owners to restore their aging homes, this is not always feasible. Many homes in town have fallen in disrepair.

Recreation: The Town has three parks located along the Pocomoke River: Gateway, Sturgis and Byrd making Snow Hill an excellent up river boating destination. In 2009 it was designated as a Clean Marina. Gateway Park bio-retention area was refurbished in 2013. Byrd Park hosted the Delmarva Chicken Festival in 2013 and is in good condition. Sturgis Park is aging and needs renovated bathroom facilities and additional ADA sidewalks.

Transportation: Bus service, provided by Shore Transit, serves Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties. There are 5 stops with scheduled routes to Salisbury, West Ocean City, Princess Anne and Pocomoke City.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Access: Much of the Town is accessible by foot or bicycle. The town has improved pedestrian connectors between downtown and the three parks. The pedestrian experience is enhanced by wayfaring signs and by sidewalk improvements. Wider shoulders on Bay Street would improve access from Market Street to Rt. 113 for bicyclists.

Infrastructure: The Town's aging infrastructure provides water & sewer services. Old terracotta pipes contribute to inflow and infiltration (I & I) within the wastewater system. An I & I study conducted in 1999 identified areas to replace aging sewer mains. This work continues as funding is available. In 2013 Public Works conducted an I&I analysis. Eight locations were identified in need of repair. The Waste Water Treatment Plant was upgraded to a Class 5A Five Stage Bardenpho System to improve water and sewage services and to improve water quality in the Pocomoke River. The enhanced nutrient removal reduces nitrogen and phosphorous discharge into the River. The water distribution system has adequate storage provided by an elevated storage leg tank.

The streets were laid out in a grid pattern in the 17th century and the Town continues to use this pattern for development. Most streets have sidewalks, which are required for all new construction. Neglected for years the sidewalks in Snow Hill need repair or replacement. The Town plans to replace sidewalks on Market Street, our main street through town. Once completed, we will make improvements to other areas. The Town continually fills potholes and cuts and replaces sections of the roads in need of repair because we do not have the funds to repave each of our streets. Each year, we select a section of street to replace, which includes replacing the aging water/sewer line under the road way. We have found that it is not cost-effective to repave an entire roadway, only to have to cut it later to repair broken water or sewer lines. The cost to replace infrastructure and to repair a small section of the street costs over \$300,000. The Town has received state funds to help with these costs over the years and will continue to seek these funds.

Cultural Places: The Purnell Museum houses over 10,000 artifacts that highlight local history, including artwork from the museum's namesake, Julia A. Purnell. Opened in 1964 the Mt. Zion One Room School House Museum demonstrates to visitors how their forebears were taught in a one room school. Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum near Snow Hill uses a living history format with live demonstrations to re-create a vanished 19th century community. The museum contains various historic buildings, including the Nassawango Iron Furnace, an early 19th-century brick blast furnace that was used to smelt bog iron ore to make pig iron.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the Area's land use/zoning make-up(residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed-use). Is the current land use or zoning conducive to revitalization investment?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

The Town of Snow Hill once a rural trading post became a center for trade and commerce and businesses flourished along the Pocomoke River. Many transformations have occurred over the years as the community grew. As cited in the Snow Hill Comprehensive Plan “the historic Downtown area includes a mix of residential, commercial and municipal/institutional uses”. The residential component is served by apartments located above the businesses which provide convenience for residents and additional income to store owners. The downtown actually serves as the town’s urban center and center for Worcester County government and as such contains Town Hall, the Worcester County Courthouse, Worcester County Government Center, District Court of Maryland, and central office for the Worcester County Library as well as other professional offices.

Light and general industrial uses are concentrated along the railroad tracks in the eastern section of town. Commercial uses are predominantly found in the urban center and along Market Street.

A Planned Development District known as “Summerfield” was approved at the southwest end of town, which would double the size of the town. However, plans have stalled for now and the property remains in agricultural use with a few other parcels along the outer extents of the town boundary.

Unlike other jurisdictions the town has experienced little highway oriented commercial development, other than a commercial center at the eastern edge of town. However, rehabilitation of existing buildings for commercial use has been an asset. The former Moore’s Business Forms/AluGlas building on Belt Street has been rehabilitated by Royal Plus to become showroom and corporate headquarters for flooring, plumbing, HVAC, as well as clean-up and restoration facility. Downtown the Show-Wil Chevy Olds building on N. Washington Street also known as the E.M. Jones Building has been divided into five units for retail and office space downstairs and an apartment upstairs. Recently, the Town acquired the Old Snow Hill Opera House at the corner of Washington and Market Street and following rehabilitation of the building this will become the Snow Hill Arts and Education Center providing classrooms and a center for the arts. The current land uses permitted within the commercial and industrial districts were established in 1988. However, a recent revision to the zoning ordinance amended the minimum square footage for apartment units within a building and removed the site plan requirement in hopes of encouraging “live/work units” in the downtown shopping district making revitalization more viable. The interwoven commercial and residential zoning are very conducive to revitalization investment as it creates a walkable community with local services.

A large portion of the town and specifically the downtown area are located within the Critical Area. Under the Critical Area regulations there are limitations on lot coverage and requirements to improve water quality. Therefore, re-use of existing buildings is conducive to revitalization as no new impervious surface is being established.

Land use to the south of the downtown or urban center is a mix of residential uses with inclusions of non-residential uses by several churches, schools, and other community facilities. A majority of the residences are located in the Snow Hill Historic District. The Snow Hill Historic District encourages preservation and the rehabilitation of historic properties which leads to jobs for local contractors contributing significantly to capital investment within the community.

The mixed use of the Sustainable Community (SC) Area is demonstrably conducive to revitalization investment and to a smaller commercial development on the western edge of town.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe strengths and weaknesses in basic features of community quality-of-life. For instance, is crime an issue for this SC Area? What is the condition and quality of educational choices available to the community? Are artistic, cultural, or community resources, events or facilities with in or accessible to residents in the proposed SC Area?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

Crime: Snow Hill which has a municipal Police Department has a very low crime rate. Public safety has long been a priority of the local government. Law enforcement agencies in the county have integrated their technology and information, providing more effective and efficient police services. SHPD recently connected to the Worcester County Department of Emergency Services through a fiber optic cable that has enabled the Department to take advantage of the Records Management System of the county.

Education: Worcester County Public School System ranks first in the state. 94% of its students attained a proficient or advanced score on the 2011 MSA (Maryland School Assessments). Snow Hill has 1 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high school, and Cedar Chapel Special School. It's Elementary, Middle and High Schools are recognized as Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence. Snow Hill Elementary has achieved a National Blue Ribbon ranking.

Snow Hill is proud of the privately owned Snow Hill Christian Nursery School located just outside of town. It is a Licensed Child Care Center with a maximum capacity of 105 children. The center accepts children ages of: 6 weeks to 15 years. For over 30 years it has provided before and after school care with homework assistance.

Built in 1958 Snow Hill High School is on track for a major renovation to begin in 2014. It is known for its outstanding Marine Corp Junior ROTC program and its Marching Band.

Worcester County Public Schools receives the second lowest state funding per student, despite the fact that 41% of its students come from households of poverty.

Arts and Cultural Resources: The Town of Snow Hill is known for its growing arts and cultural scene, with an emphasis on tourism, and a continued focus on economic development. Complimenting its marketing campaigns are the Arts & Entertainment and Historic Districts which highlight the town's rich heritage and impressive art scene.

Snow Hill's Art & Entertainment District, Arts on the River, hosts First Friday celebrations from February through December. Merchants and gallery owners stay open late to provide visitors with an opportunity for leisure shopping and mingling with talented artists from the area. Snow Hill is proud of its working studios and art galleries, one of which is also a wine gallery and a central gathering place for First Friday events.

The Old Firehouse is on Green Street and is now being used for performing arts and studio space. The Town is fortunate to have excellent restaurants that contribute an air of sophistication to the First Friday evenings with music and food from local farms and vendors.

Snow Hill has two museums: the Julia A Purnell Museum and the Mt Zion One Room School House. The Purnell Museum has a full time staff that provides educational programs of interest to Worcester County residents. Outside of town, Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum is a source of pride as it enriches the community with its special events and programs. The Furnace itself is a National Historical Engineering Landmark.

The Worcester County Library System main branch is in Snow Hill. It provides residents with a gathering place and focal point for educational activities, art exhibits and access to media of all kinds. The Library is known for its Pitts Collection of survey records and as an important resource for genealogical research.

Community Resources: The Town of Snow Hill firmly believes our youth is a key component to our future. The Town is fortunate to have churches, government agencies, and area schools that provide activities and programs for after-school and weekends. The schools offer scholastic, athletic and entertaining activities in their after-school programs; the county recreational center offers sports programs for all ages; and the local churches have religious-based activities that guide children with their spiritual journey. All programs are offered at no-to-low cost and some transportation is provided.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

C. Natural Resources and Environmental Impact: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the community's "Natural environment" in or near the Sustainable Community Area. What is the current condition of key natural resources - lands, air, water, watersheds, tree canopy, other? If the community is located in a coastal zone, what risks might the community be subject to associated with climate induced sea level rise?

(Answer space 4,000 characters)

Land: The Pocomoke River is designated as a “Wild & Scenic Maryland River”. As part of the Atlantic Coastal Plain it’s susceptible to hurricanes, Nor’easters and flooding. Elevations range from sea level to 40 feet in the southern part of the town and most above 10 foot elevation. The Council adopted floodplain regulations to protect human health, minimize property damage, encourage appropriate construction practices, and protect water supply, sanitary sewage disposal and natural drainage. The floodplain provides great views of the river’s tranquil meandering waters and broad cypress swamps. Flooding along the waterfront, Byrd Park, and the Rt. 12 Bridge occur often. This impacts existing waterfront development. New structures need to be elevated sufficiently to avoid damage. The concession stand at Byrd Park had damage when waters surpassed the two foot freeboard.

In 2007, Worcester County sought to eliminate or reduce human, economic, and environmental losses with a Hazard Mitigation Plan to assess and analyze mitigation measures within the county. The plan noted that many critical facilities are located in areas key to hazard preparedness. New development is regulated through building codes, floodplain regulations, critical area regulations, and conservation measures. 3 town parks are located in the floodplain along the Pocomoke River and provide open space and recreational activities to the community.

Air: Air quality in Snow Hill, MD is 85 on a scale to 100. This is based on ozone alert days and number of pollutants in the air, as reported by the EPA.

Water: Drinking water comes from the ground water drawn from the Manokin Aquifer within the Yorktown formation. Three separate wells yield high quality water and require little treatment. In 2008, the town conducted a water model study to assess pressures and fire flows within the community water system. The study noted that generators were needed at Coulbourne Lane and Ross Street wells and noted other deficiencies for Capital Improvement Plans.

WWTP operator publishes the “Annual Drinking Water Quality Report” on the town website, www.snowhillmd.com. For several years Snow Hill has met or exceeded EPA’s safe drinking water standards and remains in compliance with EPA regulations.

The water quality of the Pocomoke River is impacted by stormwater run-off and discharge of sanitary sewer. The WWTP upgrade will aid in improving water quality in the Pocomoke River.

Tree Canopy: The Town has not conducted a tree canopy study to date. There are several tree covered parcels totaling at least 500 acres (25% coverage) and individual properties contain shade trees as well as street trees. Trees and shrubs obtained from TREE-MENDOUS Maryland were planted at Byrd Park and over 100 trees received from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) were planted at the Train Station and two public parks. DNR often harvests seeds from the bald cypress trees it planted. The Pocomoke River is known for the bald cypress trees along the river. Their “knees” are visible at low tide, much to the delight of boaters and kayakers on the river.

While the town has not adopted a Green Infrastructure Plan, the Critical Area Program and Forest Conservation Program require tree plantings which add to the canopy. The Comprehensive Plan recommends creation of a greenway system to connect the Town’s parks and other community facilities.

Watersheds: The Pocomoke River extends approximately 66 miles from southern Delaware through Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay and is believed to be the deepest river for its width in the world. The Town of Snow Hill lies within the Pocomoke watershed and the Lower Pocomoke River sub-watershed. The Total Maximum Daily Load allocations for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant necessitate that nitrogen be reduced to 6,091 lbs/year of total nitrogen and 457 lbs/year of phosphorous to improve water quality within the Pocomoke River.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of any current efforts to reduce the community's "carbon foot print" or impact on the environment. Is recycling (commercial or residential) available to minimize waste? Are there current efforts to encourage the purchase and availability of fresh local food and other local products and services to the community? Describe any current energy or water conservation efforts that may be underway. If the community has not implemented one of the above initiatives, has the community identified a need or interest to pursue these or other efforts to reduce environmental impact, for instance through the new Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Recycling: Since 1992 the Town of Snow Hill has had a mandatory recycling program and provides curbside recycling collection to every residence. Glass, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum, paper and #1 thru # 7 plastics are collected. The State of Maryland requires Worcester County to recycle 15% of its waste stream. Last year, Worcester County achieved a 25% recycling rate, with the Town of Snow Hill achieving a rate of 14.18%. The Town of Snow Hill attends meetings of Worcester County's Solid Waste Management Board, where the recycling program is evaluated.

Water Conservation: The Town of Snow Hill is currently updating its water meters to replace the basic meter with a "smart meter". These "smart meters" provide detailed information to the Town and the resident regarding their water usage. This information includes: water usage, peak times of water usage and notification of possible leaks. Once the Town determines that there is a possible leak in a home or business, the owner is notified and is requested to make any necessary repairs to conserve water.

Farmers Market: The Town has a Farmers Market that operates from May through September. The hours of operation are from noon until 5 p.m. every Thursday. There is no fee required for local farmers to sell their goods. Last year there were approximately 10 vendors on a weekly basis. The Town provides support to the Farmers Market through marketing efforts, such as advertisements in the local newspaper and rack cards. The Market participates in the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, which is part of the WIC Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers program and the WIC food vouchers for seniors. One of the most successful promotions of the Farmers Market was the purchase of reusable string produce bags to give to the Farmers Market shoppers.

Shop Local: The Town implemented a successful Shop Local program in 2010. Participating businesses gave shoppers a card for every \$10.00 spent. Shoppers then placed the cards in a box at Town Hall to be eligible for a monthly drawing for "Snow Hill Bucks", which are used like cash at participating businesses. The Town continues to research ways to support Snow Hill businesses and encourage shopping locally.

Energy Conservation: The Town received an Empower Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) in March 2010 through the Maryland Energy Administration. These funds were used primarily to install eleven storm windows at the town owned Old Firehouse and to refit the buildings lighting fixtures with new ballasts, lamps and guards. The remaining funds were then used to assist with the purchase of a new computer for the Public Works Department. All materials removed were recycled as required under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Town of Snow Hill also investigated the installation of solar panels for public buildings in 2009 and recently looked at LED upgrades for street lights. The current administration has requested an energy audit of all buildings including energy upgrades for all town facilities.

Sustainable Maryland Certified: On July 11, 2011, Resolution 2011-04 was adopted to designate Snow Hill as a Certified Sustainable Community and the process being undertaken locally was described during the public meeting. This is a voluntary program offered by the state for localities through an initiative of the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC), Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG), non-profit organizations, state and regional government agencies, academic institutions, and business leaders. This certification program is suited for municipalities in Maryland who want to go green, control costs and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Snow Hill continues to work toward the completion of the certification process.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the jurisdiction's current stormwater management practices and how these may affect the proposed SC Area. Is redevelopment and retrofitting of infrastructure an issue or opportunity in this SC Area? Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution to Maryland's streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Buildings constructed before 1985 have little or no stormwater controls, and development between 1985 and 2010 have some controls. Updated stormwater regulations passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2010 require that development and redevelopment projects utilize stringent stormwater controls. Sustainable Community Areas may have opportunities for redevelopment practices that can reduce stormwater flows.

(Answer space 4000 characters)

The development of Snow Hill, chartered in 1686, began in the late seventeenth century; therefore the majority of development predates any stormwater management efforts. Under the current code all projects are required to undergo stormwater management and the town follows the Worcester County Stormwater Management Code which conforms with the Stormwater Management Act of 2010. Sanitary Sewer and storm sewer were originally combined with seven outfalls which discharged into the Pocomoke River which have been eliminated. These two systems are no longer combined. In the 1960's an interceptor sewer was constructed along the river and diversion manholes were constructed at each outfall. The town conducted an Infiltration and Inflow study in 1999 to determine priority areas for rehabilitation and to identify cost estimates for improvements. Several of these projects have been completed or are in preparation stages. As follow-up the town adopted a capital improvements program in 2010 which listed anticipated projects within the Worcester County Water and Sewer Plan. In 2013 Public Works conducted an I&I analysis of Bay Street to Market Street, from the High School on Church Street to Market Street, and the Tri-State Property, from the China Moon Restaurant through the marsh to the Pocomoke Canoe Company on Washington Street. Eight locations were identified that are in need of repair.

Additionally, there are several problematic areas during rain events that need to be analyzed to determine if any retrofits to current infrastructure can improve drainage or whether other options can be accomplished. Many of the problem areas are existing built environments with restrictions regarding accessibility due to accessory buildings, stormwater line size limitations and right-of-way issues. The Maryland Watershed Implementation Plan being developed for Worcester County may require some of the aforementioned retrofits to assist with strategies proposed to reduce nutrient and sediment loads in the Bay. The health of the Pocomoke River is a key component to the Town's heritage and its future. It is the Town's goal to ensure that growth does not occur at the future expense of the environmental health of the Pocomoke River. In the spring of 2012 the Town partnered with Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) for a Rain Barrel workshop. Businesses in downtown, including Town Hall, were issued rain barrels to install outside their buildings. Residents of Snow Hill and the surrounding area were also invited to the workshop and given repurposed barrels for their residential use. Later in the summer the Town partnered with the LSLT to create a rain garden using native plants in Sturgis Park.

Snow Hill is the first Town on the Delmarva Peninsula to build submerged gravel wetlands. Two were built in Byrd Park which lies on the banks of the Pocomoke River. Native plants were used in these wetlands. This project was made possible through grants from POS and Chesapeake Bay Trust. Educational signage was installed in the fall of 2012.

In 2007, Byrd Park was the site of installation of grass stormwater swales with an inlet to reduce standing water around the Pavilions. Then in 2010 and 2011 the Public Works Department planted over 145 trees, many of which were cypress, and bushes purchased through TREE-MENDOUS Maryland and the Department of Natural Resources to improve stormwater runoff at town parks and the Train Station.

Sturgis Memorial Gateway is part of the Chesapeake Gateways Network, a partnership system of communities and sites with facilities aimed at helping the public experience and learn about the Chesapeake through interpretive signs that explain the importance of the Pocomoke River to the bay's cultural and economic history. It has a boardwalk, gardens and bio-retention area.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

D. Economic Conditions & Access to Opportunity: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the jurisdiction's current economic strengths and weaknesses. For example, are there distinct economic drivers in the area or region that will affect access to job opportunities and the progress of the SC Plan? What are the main barriers to the Area's economic competitiveness? What is the current level of broadband access available to serve residents, businesses and public facilities? What efforts are currently in place to increase worker skills and employment? Describe trends in employment rates and business formation.

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Economic Strengths: Snow Hill is located in a beautiful area along the Pocomoke River. The area attractions and unique culture of the Eastern Shore are economic draws.

The Historic District is a key component in preserving and promoting the history and heritage of the architecture and the community. Economic research shows that properties in historic districts appreciate 28.9% faster than properties in the same jurisdiction outside the historic district and the capital invested is of substantial benefit to the economy. Thus the "Snow Hill Historic District" with its rich history, as well as restaurants and shops draws visitors to view the restored and rehabilitated structures within the commercial and residential districts and promotes Heritage Tourism.

Agriculture is an economic strength in the area. Local industrial businesses support local agriculture.

Snow Hill is the County Seat for Worcester County which itself is a big economic driver for the Town. Many of the job opportunities are through employment with the local, State and Federal government. This includes the State Highway Administration, District Court, Circuit Court and more.

Snow Hill is located near NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. The Town markets itself to those moving into the area for employment at the facility. Our excellent school system and availability of housing are selling points.

Broadband providers have placed their equipment on the Town's water tower making broadband available to Snow Hill residents and businesses.

The Town has two Bed & Breakfast Inns. The George Washington Purnell House, where the River House Inn operates, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. "The Cedars" Bed and Breakfast is located in the Walter P. Snow House. Together they can accommodate 28 overnight visitors.

Economic Weaknesses: The downturn of the national and global economy has had an effect on Snow Hill's budget which reduces the incentives the Town can provide to attract new businesses.

Several businesses have closed in recent years creating empty buildings in downtown. Many of the buildings are in poor condition. The Town would like to offer more incentives to property owners to rehabilitate their buildings to attract new tenants. Lack of a skilled workforce, low median income and high poverty rate are weaknesses in the local economy. There is no hotel or motel in Snow Hill to serve the business traveler and the community.

Snow Hill is not adjacent to a major highway. To enter the town limits, travelers need to exit US Route 113. We continue to research options of encouraging travelers to visit. While the Town has several bed and breakfast establishments it lacks accommodations for business travelers and for those looking for a motel or travelers inn. The Circuit Court holds trials that require overnight accommodations, whereas visitors seek lodging in nearby towns.

Snow Hill does not have an industrial park and currently does not have the infrastructure needed to attract large industry.

Workforce Development: The Worcester County Board of Education provides high school students the option of attending the Worcester County Technical High School (WTHS).

Wor-Wic Community College (www.worwic.edu) offers continuing education and advanced technical training. With its location in Salisbury, Maryland students have ample opportunity to attain vocational training or an Associates College Degree. Salisbury University (www.Salisbury.edu) is within 16 miles of Snow Hill offering a local opportunity for graduating seniors to obtain a college degree. University of Maryland Eastern Shore (www.umes.edu) in Princess Anne is another popular alternative. Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Peninsula Regional Medical Center have entered into the planning stages to establish a residency program for the area's future medical needs. The long term vision includes a regional medical school.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the jurisdiction's housing market and access to affordable workforce housing. What are the trends in residential construction (rental and homeownership), homeownership rate, foreclosure rate and, property values. Describe how and whether your jurisdiction's prevailing housing costs-both homeownership and rental - are affordable to households below 120% AMI, 80% AMI, 50% AMI. JWhat efforts are in place currently to house individuals, families and the disabled at or below the AMI levels described above?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

The 2010 Snow Hill Comprehensive Plan adopted a workforce housing element to create and preserve housing units within town limits. Goals included encouraging infill development and promoting redevelopment of current housing stock, encouraging mixed-use neighborhoods, promote re-development of existing housing units, ensure rental units meet code, increased policy needed to develop affordable housing in new residential subdivisions, establish funding source to utilize matching grant funds in Workforce Housing Grant Program (WHGP), and encourage qualified purchasers and first-time homebuyers into existing housing stock. The town must continue to create and preserve affordable rental units. Residents in low and extremely low income households will also need to be focused on as they are ignored in the WHGP. In 2012 the Planning Commission amended regulations for the downtown shopping district to encourage apartments. This was to assist property owners by providing multiple living units and income producing buildings to provide funds for rehabilitation and maintenance. These apartments may provide smaller less expensive living units for low income residents to live close to work. Preservation within Snow Hill is important as architecturally significant buildings exist throughout the town. In fact, 69% of the residences were built before 1970. Snow Hill has 1005 homes of which 871 are occupied per the 2010 Census. According to the U. S. Census 494 of these are owner occupied units, while 377 are rental units. The total population in renter occupied housing units totals 853 or 40%. The ability of residents to own and maintain these units is limited due to incomes and maintenance costs as the older housing stock in the historic district requires a great deal of care and maintenance.

While the town wishes to maintain affordable rental housing, safe and quality housing stock must also be provided for residents. The American Community Survey shows that monthly housing costs exceed \$1,000.00 per month for 32% of the occupied housing units making homeownership less viable. Among owner occupied units almost 37% of the households spend over 30 percent of monthly income on monthly housing costs. The town has adopted housing standards and requires an annual registration for rental properties in order to regulate rental conditions. Foreclosures are becoming an issue. As houses sit unused, they deteriorate and this is especially problematic within the historic district. These properties become a blight on the neighborhood and can impact real estate values for neighbors.

The housing market is and has been primarily single family and rentals, no new residential construction occurred this past year. The U.S. Census indicates that 425 or 20.2% of Snow Hill's population is 65 years of age or older. These individuals account for 139 of the 314 non-family householders living alone. This age group has continued to rise since the 2000 Census and indicates a need for additional elder care facilities. Currently the town has three facilities for seniors, Pleasant Manor, Maple Street Apartments, and Heath Manor. There is a nursing home located in Snow Hill. There are also three facilities for low income rental facilities that provide some level of government assistance to residents. "Snow Hill Citizens for Decent Housing" has been active in providing options for living quarters to local residents. An assisted living facility and/or additional senior housing units will likely be needed in the near future to give residents options. Town staff has had discussion with the marketing personnel for the local nursing home which is considering expansion.

Town staff works with Jo Ellen Bynum of the Worcester County Housing Program to assist low income residents with repairs and replacement of their homes and accessibility issues. In addition, some of the local churches have assisted elderly and handicapped residents with wheelchair ramps.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the SC Area's demographic trends (with respect to age, race household size, household income, educational attainment, or other relevant factors).

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Snow Hill's population as of the 2010 Census was 2,103, which is a decrease of 306 persons based on 2000 Census results. The Town's racial composition as of the 2010 Census is as follows: White 57%, African American 39%, and 4% make up the following races: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or a combination of races. The median age is 44.7 years. Approximately 23.2% of the population are under 18 years of age, 50.1% are between the ages of 18 and 59, and 26.8% of the population is over 60. Snow Hill had the second highest proportion of young adults indicating it's a popular choice among young mobile 18-24 year olds. The 25-44 year old primary labor force and household group is the highest of all municipalities in Worcester County. These high percentages are likely due to our excellent schools and Snow Hill's charming historic character. The average household size is 2.32 and the average family size is 2.90. The number of family households decreased by almost 10% between the 1990 and 2000 census and non-family households increased by 20%.

The 2007-2011 American Community Survey reported the Town's median income at \$40,515.00. The per capita income was reported at \$20,196.00. Much of the town's labor force is within the Education, Health, Social Services, Manufacturing, Public Administration, and Retail Trade employment sectors. Of the town's 936 workers, 66.2% are within the private wage and salary worker class, while 25.3% work for government which is more than the average government workers for the entire County. The high number of government workers indicates the importance that being county seat and government center bring to labor force and local economy. The town has continually supported expansion of government offices as they are an important economic driver to the town's economy. The Department of Housing and Community Development lists the LMI for Snow Hill at 56.1%. The median household income for Snow Hill was \$10,920 lower than Worcester County in 2000, while the median family income was \$8,636 less and the per capita income was \$6,945 less than Worcester County. In the 2000 Census the rate of individuals below the poverty line was 15.9% and the rate of families below poverty line was 14.8% which are much higher than County rates of 8.5% and 6.1% respectively. The rate of persons below poverty line has increased significantly since 1989 when it was only 10.7%.

Per the 2007-2011 American Community Survey, approximately 40% of residents over 25 years of age have earned a high school diploma, with 20% having a Bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately 18% have not attained high school graduation. The remaining 22% have some college course work completed or have attained an associate degree. The rate of person's enrolled in high school is between the County's (25.6%) and State's (20.9%). In Snow Hill, 23.8% of those 25 years and older do not have a high school or equivalent degree compared to 18.3% for Worcester County. While the Town of Snow Hill does have a higher proportion of high school graduates than County and State, it has a lower portion of higher education degrees.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

A. Organizational Structure:

Describe the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, which organizations are members in the Sustainable Communities Workgroup and who are the respective staff? Who are the leaders, and how will the workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

Sustainable Communities Workgroup: The Town of Snow Hill is the lead entity for the Sustainable Communities overall structure. Town Staff, particularly the staff position of Town Planner will help to coordinate the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Area Plan. The Planner, the Town Manager, and Grants Administrator will work directly with the Sustainable Communities Workgroup to oversee the plan and requests for funding. The Sustainable Communities Workgroup is comprised of the following members:

Charles Dorman – Mayor, Former Director of Public Works

Jenny Hall - Councilperson

Kelly Brewington - Town Manager

Ann Gibb - Grants Administrator, Board member of Furnace Town and Chamber of Commerce, Officer

Karen Houtman - Town Planner

Frank Daniels – Superintendent of W/S, Assistant Minister

Kirk Daughtery – Chief of Police

Bob Donnelly – Director of Public Works

Claire Otterbein– Director of Julia A Purnell Museum

Ann Coates - President of SHARP, Gallery owner, President A&E District

Richard DeAngelis – Town resident, Former HDC member, Project Leader - Preserve America designation

Kathy Fisher – Retired Director of Furnace Town, Former Teacher, Community Volunteer

Bob Fisher - Chairman of the HDC, Façade Committee member, President Worcester Co Historic Society

Rita Williams – Town Resident, Former Council person, Planning Commission Member

This diverse group has met on five occasions throughout the preparation of this application. The group has given much feedback and support for the continuation of the Sustainable Communities designation.

The Town of Snow Hill is the lead entity for the Sustainable Communities overall structure. Town staff, particularly the staff position of Town Planner will help to coordinate with implementation of the Sustainable Communities Area Plan. The Planner, the Town Manager and Grants Administrator will work directly with the Sustainable Communities Workgroup to oversee the plan and requests for funding.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

B. Organizational Experience:

Describe the Applicant organization's past experience in administering revitalization plans and projects. Describe the roles of the members of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, including their experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. What are the strengths and challenges of the capacity of these groups with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

The Town of Snow Hill's leadership and implementation team has more than a century of combined experience in government and in the past 5 years has overseen approximately 14 million in revitalization funding. The SC Workgroup adds expertise and experience in an array of private sector endeavors plus historic preservation and arts promotion.

Mayor Dorman was Public Works Director for the Town. During his tenure he oversaw many infrastructure improvement projects. Mayor Dorman is currently working with local business leaders to revitalize the Town.

Jenny Hall, Councilperson, lifelong Snow Hill Resident,

Town Manager, Kelly Brewington has been employed by the Town since 1989. She has held the position of Town Manager since 2000 and has worked with Town staff in administering many revitalization plans and projects.

Karen Houtman has been in Planning field for 23 years and the Town Planner for the past 7 years. She has worked with Community Leaders and residents on many projects including the update of the Comprehensive Plan and administered numerous grants such as MHT Non-Capital Grant for Snow Hill Historic District Guidelines.

Ann Gibb our Grants Administrator is a member of, the Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce, Arts and Entertainment Committee, Board of Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum and serves as town grant writer and administrator.

Claire Otterbein has served as the Executive Director of the Julia A. Purnell Museum since 2008. She is responsible for providing the community with exhibitions and educational programming that explores local heritage.

Kirk Daughtery, Chief of Police Graduated from the Maryland State Police Academy in Dec. of 1963, Worked in various phases of law enforcement: Road Patrol, Criminal Investigation, Red Cross First Aid Instructor, Medic on Helicopter, Served as Sgt. at Arms of the Maryland Senate for 10 yrs.

Robert Donnelly, Director of Public Works, Maintenance Manager for Wicomico Board of Education 16 years

Frank Daniels is the current Superintendent of the Town of Snow Hill Water and Wastewater Department. He is an Honor Graduate of Shepherd Air Force School of Aircraft maintenance. Frank began work in the Water and Wastewater field with Maryland Environmental Service after being honorably discharged from the Air Force. He moved from operator to Supervisor at MES.

Ann Coates is the President and a founding member of SHARP, Snow Hill's Alliance for Responsible Progress. She oversees the Town's Arts & Entertainment District. Mrs. Coates has created and implemented many projects including, First Friday celebrations, Paint Snow Hill, a plein air art event held each spring, and is owner and operator of Bishop's Stock Fine Art, Craft and Wine.

Richard DeAngelis – Local resident whom served on the Snow Hill Historic District Commission July 2002 thru January 2010. He served as Project Leader for MD Historical Trust grant to prepare the Snow Hill Historic District Guidelines and Project Leader for obtaining Preserve America designation.

Kathy Fisher – Former teacher and retired Executive Director of Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum, past President of the Board at Furnace Town, Co-Chairperson of the 2006 Delmarva Chicken Festival, Founder of the Canoe Joust and Holiday Dinner Tour in Snow Hill, Secretary of the Worcester County Historical Society.

Robert Fisher – Retired teacher and local tour guide for the One Room Schoolhouse, Chairman of the Worcester County Economic Development Committee, Chair of the Historic District Commission for which he has served since July 2002, Worcester County Historical Society Treasurer and member.

Rita Williams - Served on Snow Hill Citizens for Decent Housing Committee for 2 years, served on Snow Hill Town Council, and currently serving a second term on the Snow Hill Planning Commission.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

C. Public Input:

How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to Action plan described below in section IV?

(Answer space 4000 characters)

The Town received input from the residents at meetings during the creation of the 2003 Strategic Plan.

The Town compiled a survey during the Comprehensive Plan update to garner information from the public regarding housing, economics, transportation, open space, public safety, and other topics. The Planning Commission held four topical meetings pertinent to the plan.

The Historic District Commission held a public meeting in 2010 to obtain comments while working on the Snow Hill Historic District Guidelines.

On January 15, 2013 Mayor Dorman conducted a community meeting to focus on Youth in Snow Hill. The two hour meeting revealed programs and resources available in the community through the Worcester County Schools (Snow Hill Elementary, Snow Hill Middle, Snow Hill High School, and Cedar Chapel School), local churches and Worcester County Parks & Recreation.

On January 22, 2013 a meeting was held with vendors of our Farmers Market to discuss better ways to promote the market to visitors and other vendors. It was agreed at this meeting to move the location, change the day and hours the market is open.

Comments were received from the public at various Mayor and Council meetings and work sessions. Common concerns center on youth activities, the need for Economic Development and the condition of vacant buildings along major thoroughfares in town. Positive comments focus on noticeable façade improvements in town, the new government newsletter the River Currents published in 2013 and events that include First Fridays, concerts, Fireworks and festivals.

The Town has conducted three SC Workgroup meetings on February 5, 2013, February, 13, 2013, and February 21, 2013. Town Hall staff has met numerous times to review and edit this application.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy - a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increased prosperity for local households and improved health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects in the SC Plan should improve the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties - and create new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. These projects should also reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a sustainable and livable community.

A.Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental Impacts.

(1) A community’s approach to Smart Growth generally includes two inter-related areas of focus: encouraging reinvestment and growth in existing communities; and, discouraging growth that degrades natural resources, and farms and rural landscapes. Broadly describe your jurisdiction’s Smart Growth approach and any significant accomplishments made over the last decade or so.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Snow Hill’s Strategic Plan of 2003 along with the 2010 Comprehensive Plan has guided the community and government officials with a continual list of projects. The Plan promotes infill and redevelopment of the town’s existing neighborhoods and endeavors to maintain community character. The twelve “visioning statements” in the 1992 Planning Act and subsequent amendments are incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan as goals. The 1997 Priority Funding Act legislation builds on the visions and directs state spending to priority areas such as existing communities like Snow Hill or where State investment supports future growth. Snow Hill also adopted a Priority Funding Area Map and has subsequently amended it to include annexed areas. The Town continues to foster many of the smart growth principles, such as mixed land uses, walkable communities, distinctive sense of place, preservation of environmental resources and directing development to existing areas with services. Per HB 1141, the town updated the Comprehensive Plan in 2009 to include new annexation procedures and new Water Resource and Municipal Growth elements. The municipal growth element identified areas where future growth can be accommodated based on population projections consistent with the development capacity analysis and water and sewer plan, as well as growth directed to municipalities by the County. The ultimate growth boundary adopted extends out to Rt. 113 and includes the Summerfield Planned Development annexation properties. The water resource element of the plan identified the Manokin Aquifer as a high volume water source which is supplied from three different well locations within the distribution system. In addition, it noted limitations on wastewater discharge to the Pocomoke River and considered storm water management needs within the town. Therefore, the plan addresses water resource protection areas, water storage, groundwater resources, water quality standards and total Maximum Daily loads (TMDLs).

In 2012, the legislature passed the Sustainable Growth & Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 (SB 236), known as the septic bill, which the town embraced to encourage growth in town. Staff met with Worcester County staff and MDP to prepare tier maps based on planned water and sewer service which were adopted in November 2012. The legislation passed limits rural development served by septic systems to protect the Chesapeake Bay and rivers and streams.

The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area law regulates development within 1,000 feet of the Pocomoke River and any tributary streams. All development activities in these areas are regulated by the critical area program to protect water quality. The town recently updated the Critical Area Ordinance to incorporate 2008 legislation and adopted Buffer Management Areas to streamline development for properties where the buffer was not functioning. The Comprehensive Plan also calls for enforcement of the Critical Area law in order to protect the health of the Pocomoke River. Other sensitive area goals include: avoidance of sensitive areas, buffers and habitat areas are protected, vegetated buffers are created along streams and wetlands, designation and protection of places of historic and/or cultural importance, etc.

In addition, the Town recognized the need to protect the Pocomoke River, and began updates to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2011 to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous. The Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed in July 2013.

In 2005, the Town embraced expansion of the town boundary with the annexation of 966.66 acres for Summerfield, a planned community with single family, commercial and mixed uses. The development will preserve the wetlands and woodlands within the Critical Area along the Pocomoke River to aid in filtering stormwater runoff while preserving habitat.

The Town received Arts and Entertainment designation in 2006 with the assistance of SHARP.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Describe any major investments in community infrastructure -water, stormwater, sewer, sidewalk, lighting, etc. -- that must be undertaken in order to improve the readiness or competitiveness of the proposed SC Area for private investment and compliance (if applicable) with TMDL regulations. Addressing the stormwater during redevelopment can reduce the pollution entering our streams and contribution to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Investments in infrastructure, generally, can be an important catalyst for new private investment in the community.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town has identified the following needed projects:

Complete construction of the state of the art ENR WWTP to meet the TMDL regulations in summer of 2013.

Complete a study of the aging water/sewer infrastructure and continue to prioritize the replacement or repair of same. Continue to seek funding sources.

Create and maintain vegetated buffers, preserve natural resource areas and reduce impervious surfaces to reduce nutrient run off.

Increase street lighting in the business district along Washington Street with post lighting to match that on Green Street.

Improve streetscape in the downtown area as presented in the Strategic Revitalization Plan. This includes items such as the reduction of paved areas and more green space, bricked crosswalks and lighting.

Increase street lighting in the business district.

Improve streetscape in downtown area.

Study retro-fitting lighting to new LED lamps for the streets and parks to become more energy efficient.

Continue to upgrade sewer lines to eliminate inflow and infiltration.

Continue to work with SHA on Market Street project.

Work with the County to address the appearance of the gateways into Town. New signage is needed as well as rehabilitation or demolition of properties creating blight.

Continue with developing a plan for the repair or replacement of sidewalks throughout town. Research funding for residents that are financially unable to maintain or repair their sidewalks.

Continue to look for ways to reduce stormwater runoff into the Pocomoke River by creating additional bio-retention areas and rain gardens.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that the community will undertake or expand in order to reduce the SC Area’s impact on the environment. Examples include but are not limited to: conservation or management of stormwater through retrofitting of streets and by-ways (Green Streets, rain gardens, etc.); retrofitting of facilities and homes for energy conservation; implementation of “green” building codes and mixed-use zoning; recycling of waste; clean-ups of watersheds; and, encouragement of “Buy Local” approaches that benefit local suppliers and food producers. A comprehensive menu of such actions may be found through the nonprofit Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town has identified the following projects to reduce the impact on the environment:

Continue to maintain and expand the Town’s existing grid system into new growth areas. Eliminate the use of cul-de-sacs except when temporary for future road expansion.

Review areas of the Town’s construction standards for ways to implement “green street” design and promote the use of pervious pavers and pavement where possible.

Implement green building codes and mixed use zoning.

Encourage “Buy Local” approaches that benefit local suppliers and food producers.

Encourage voluntary creation and use of rain gardens/rain barrels. Provide educational information to residents on the benefits of rain gardens/rain barrels. Apply for funding to offset cost of materials to homeowners.

Continue to encourage residents and businesses to recycle and reuse.

The Mayor and Council signed Resolution # 2011-4 in July 2011 authorizing town staff to complete the municipal registration on behalf of Snow Hill for “Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipal Certification Program”.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town of Snow Hill
Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce
Arts on the River, Snow Hill’s Art & Entertainment District

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

B. Valuing communities and neighborhoods -- building up on assets and building in amenities:

(1) What are the key assets that exist in the community upon which the Plan’s projects and initiatives will build? Assets may include physical assets such as parks and historic structures and also civic and economic assets such as employers, educational institutions, and cultural organizations and activities.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town of Snow Hill is fortunate to have many existing assets that will provide a solid foundation for future projects and initiatives. These assets include: an Arts & Entertainment District, a Historic District filled with significant architectural structures, a history of cooperation among the residents of the Town, good rapport with the Administration of Worcester County and the natural beauty of the Pocomoke River.

The Town has capacity to manage growth and has provided a great opportunity for future growth through its annexation in 2005 and for redevelopment of its historic downtown business district.

The Town possesses a strong sense of community, priding itself on its low crime rate and award-winning schools. Snow Hill is the home of 4 exemplary schools, with the Maryland State Department of Education naming the Snow Hill High School, Middle and Elementary schools as Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence for their commitment to meeting rigorous standards. The Pocomoke River is a wonderful asset as it provides residents and visitors alike with a beautiful retreat to nature. Whether you are kayaking or canoeing amidst the spectacular bald cypress trees or fishing off of the river banks, you will have a tranquil and relaxing experience.

Our three public parks are an important asset to our community, as they are home to many community and family events. Byrd Park, Sturgis Park and Gateway Park all exhibit lush landscaping and majestic views of the river. Being free-fishing areas, you will notice many residents along the riverbanks casting their lines.

The Plan builds on this vision of the town’s historic, visual, natural, and recreational resources. Equally important are more intangible qualities such as a positive community identity, low crime rate, in addition to work done by service clubs and churches to benefit the Town.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What policies, initiatives or projects will reuse or enhance the historical assets, traditional business districts/Main Streets and cultural resources of the community? What actions will reinforce your community’s authentic “sense of place” and historic character?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The following actions will reinforce our “Sense of place” and historic character:

Ensure protection of the visual and architectural integrity of historic sites and districts throughout town by enforcing the Historic District Guidelines and town code.

Provide technical assistance and information to property owners of historic properties to ensure that they are educated about the benefits of the designation and compliant with the Historic District guidelines. The guidelines are available online; however staff may investigate creation of a tri-fold pamphlet with general information.

Create and maintain a list of contractors and brick masons who are familiar with The Historic District Guidelines in Snow Hill.

Maintain and improve the visual character of Snow Hill’s gateway entrances and corridors through grants and working cooperatively with the county and state.

Continue to support the efforts by Worcester County to revitalize the gateway entrance to town on US Rt. 12.

Community input for use of the Old Opera House building was received. The Mayor’s panel has formulated a plan for the building; the town engineer is creating construction documents for stabilization and a new roof. In addition, a schematic design is being produced to show proposed layout for rehabilitation funding efforts to re-use this historic landmark as a Community Center for residents. Ultimately this will greatly improve the streetscape at a major intersection and focal point in the community.

Look for funding to hire part-time Main Street Manager enabling Snow Hill to become a Main Street Community.

Continue to support the Julia A. Purnell Museum located in Old Catholic Church built in 1891. The museum is important culturally for its collection of needlepoint and other historic artifacts on display.

Find additional display space for Julia A. Purnell Museum collection.

Continue to seek funding through Community Legacy for the Towns Façade Improvement Program to maintain and improve historic storefronts.

Expand arts programming, support existing artist and art businesses, recruit new artists and establish new art related businesses.

Find a permanent location for the performing arts and community projects.

Promote personal and business use of the historic, wild and scenic Pocomoke River ie. Encourage an outfitter to do bike and canoe trips.

Market our two scenic waterfront parks as good venues for weddings.

Engage in conversation with the Julia A. Purnell Museum, Mt. Zion One Room Schoolhouse Museum, and Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum to enhance the role of living history in Snow Hill.

Work with the Snow Hill Branch of the Worcester County Library toward extended projects involving history, genealogy, surveying, and culture.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that will increase community access to green spaces, parks and other amenities? A community can gain social and physical benefits from access to a healthy natural environment. The inclusion of complete streets, trails, green space, parks and trees contribute to the character and health of a community. Examples might include improvements to the tree canopy by planting street trees, improving local neighborhood streams, or reusing a vacant lot for a new community park or playground.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Provide handicap accessibility to the Pocomoke River in Sturgis Park by installing sidewalks.
 Repair/replace bulkheading in Byrd Park around the double boat ramp to stop erosion and further decay of the existing structure has been done in 2013. Continuing to update and repair launches and bulkheads will ensure waterfront access to the Pocomoke River for residents and visitors for canoeing, boating, fishing, and other activities.
 Promote a healthy environment in all of the town parks. Encourage the use of the parks for exercise through the Worcester County Health Departments "Just Walk" program.
 Install outdoor fitness equipment and distance markers in Byrd Park to encourage residents to exercise.
 Continue to promote and support the Worcester County Parks and Recreation Department which provides many programs and activities for residents. The facility on Bay Street provides many opportunities for fitness and alternate opportunities during cold winter months or inclement weather to keep residents physically fit.
 Investigate funding sources to reconstruct the double boat ramp in Byrd Park and add a floating dock for ease of accessibility.
 Revisit boardwalk connections between Sturgis Park and Byrd Park. A boardwalk promoting walkability by connecting community green spaces, parks and downtown businesses would create another trail to promote access. This would be very beneficial for the many large events held in Snow Hill such as the Delmarva Chicken Festival, Worcester County Fair, and Blessing of the Combine which have grown to include car shows, exhibits, bands, and demonstrations throughout town.
 Produce a "Walk Snow Hill" brochure with routes such as McDonald's to Makemie, or All Hallows to the MAC Center.
 Continue to strictly enforce speed limits in pedestrian areas where there are no sidewalks or where limited shoulders exist.
 The town will continue to encourage tree plantings where possible. Street trees should be native and appropriately sized for installation between the street and sidewalk. Trees shall continue to be encouraged in parks and subdivisions through the Forest Conservation Program and Critical Area Program. The town has already made effort to green the community, planting 145 trees and shrubs at Byrd Park, the Train Station and Sturgis Park to assist with the uptake of storm water and to beautify and green town properties.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town of Snow Hill
 SHARP
 Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce
 Snow Hill Historic District Commission
 Worcester Co Library
 Wor Co Board of Education
 Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum
 Julia A Purnell Museum

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

C. Enhancing economic competitiveness:

(1) What economic development policies, initiatives or projects will improve the economy through investments in small businesses and other key employment sectors? What economic development and business incentives will you build upon or implement as part of the SC Plan? Examples could include but are not limited to: green-taping for expedited project application review; permitting and inspection; job training; business tax credits; and, revolving loan funds.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town received Enterprise Zone Designation in 2012. The Town plans to use this as a marketing tool to attract new businesses.

The Town has an existing revolving loan fund. The Town plans to promote this program to attract new businesses or help existing businesses expand.

Snow Hill's Farmers Market began in 2008. Town Staff will continue to monitor the Farmers Market and adjust for current needs.

The Town will continue to apply for Community Legacy Funding. The Town's Façade Improvement program is in its 4th year and has awarded \$135,000 in funding.

The Town currently has a CDBG application pending approval to update the 2003 Strategic Revitalization Plan.

The Town plans to promote Snow Hill as a Wedding destination, utilizing our existing businesses, beautiful Bed and Breakfast Inns, and local venues. These venues include churches, local museums, parks, and the Pocomoke River.

The Town will continue to work with various organizations to promote and support major events, festivals and programs, such as First Friday, the Delmarva Chicken Festival, Worcester County Fair, Blessing of the Combines and the 4th of July Celebration with Fireworks. Others events include, the Iron Furnace Fifty Bicycle Ride, the Celtic Festival at Furnace Town, the Canoe Joust, Paint Snow Hill, The Blues Jam, Snow Hill Area Chamber Oyster Roast and free summer concerts in the park. A new event: A Cupcake Chunk'n Contest will take place in the summer of 2013. These events provide a boost to the local economy by increasing the foot traffic in the parks and downtown business district.

The Town will investigate grant opportunities through the Preserve America program.

The Town will continue to promote the Small Business Development Center at Salisbury University as a resource for its small business owners.

Town staff members routinely take classes to keep up to date with ever changing regulations such as, energy code, building code, water and wastewater, and ADA classes.

Staff has prepared a "Building Permit Checklist" to improve the building permit process. This informs applicants of the regulations that impact them and make the process predictable.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What workforce development policies, initiatives or projects will increase access to jobs and economic opportunity for residents in the SC Area? Do you have a goal for job creation? Are green jobs an opportunity in the jurisdiction or SC Area?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town will be active in disseminating information regarding the state's workforce development assistance programs. We will target training programs as this has been an issue for prospective new employers in the county in the past. This is due in part to the low educational attainment of the county's workforce. The State of Maryland has a full range of excellent training programs which have been relatively underutilized in Snow Hill. The Town will be proactive in ensuring that prospective new employers are fully aware of the plethora of assistance programs available for job training.

As of November 2012, Worcester County had the highest unemployment rate in the state (13.9%). Any new businesses which locate in Snow Hill will have an immediate impact on job creation numbers. This is another justification for maintaining the current business friendly approach to permitting and inspections.

The Town will encourage new businesses to hire local residents and minorities.

The Town will continue to work with the Worcester County Economic Development Department (WCEDD) to foster creation of economic opportunities for the Town.

The Snow Hill Planning Commission has drafted legislation to address alternative energy such as solar arrays, wind turbines, etc. The town hopes to be progressive in allowing alternative green energy options to create economic opportunities for residents and businesses. Small and medium size solar arrays will be permitted as accessory use and have already been installed at one industrial site in town as an accessory use and two residences.

The town will continue to encourage transportation alternatives for residents such as Shore Transit which can provide a ride to work, shopping, or other destination for the day.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe whether the Sustainable Community will be impacted by the Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in Maryland. If impacted, how do the initiatives and projects in your Plan complement BRAC-related growth? (If not applicable, all ten points will be assessed based on answers to questions 1, 2, and 4)

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Not Applicable

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Town of Snow Hill
SHARP - Snow Hill Alliance for Responsible Progress
WCDED - Worcester County Department of Economic Development
Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing.

(1) What housing policies, initiatives or projects will expand housing choices - rental and homeownership -- for people of a range of ages, incomes, and also for disabled individuals? How will these actions address the current housing conditions and needs noted in Section II?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town of Snow Hill will continue to support an increase in the number of housing units which can be made available to persons of all income ranges and needs. There were a number of housing developments planned for the Town in 2009. The Town continues to be supportive of these developments.

The Town will continue to administer and enforce the Rental Housing Program. This allows the Town to inspect all rental property to ensure that landlords keep their property in a safe and livable condition.

The Town will continue to work with the Worcester County Economic Development Office and their Housing Rehabilitation Program to help provide assistance to Snow Hill residents.

The Town will continue to support Snow Hill Citizens for Decent Housing, a nonprofit organization that has helped build a number of low-moderate housing units in Snow Hill.

The Town should inventory properties and pursue National Register designation for Snow Hill as this will provide opportunity for federal preservation grants, federal income tax credits, and preservation easements to nonprofit organizations, etc.

The Town will continue to promote redevelopment of the current housing stock and infill development. Inventory current housing stock and seek improvements with owner(s) thru incentive based programs and work with landlords to make rentals safe.

Provide education and outreach to local citizens and developers concerning the need to address housing affordability and how this will be addressed ie. live/work units, apartments, low-moderate housing, senior living units as options within the community.

Encourage variety of senior housing types that allow independent and dependent living to serve the elderly population.

The Town amended the apartment regulations for the downtown district permitting smaller units for those getting started in work force also enabling residents to live closer to their work. This is supportive of the Comprehensive Plan which encouraged workforce housing and mixed use.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Will these housing initiatives or projects increase access to transit or community walkability and/or decrease transportation costs? In other words, will the housing investments result in more people living near work or town centers, or able to more conveniently reach work, school, shopping and/or recreation?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Worcester County is one of the most rural areas of the state. For this reason, there are limited choices in transit. Citizens must utilize their own vehicles or take advantage of limited bus service provided by Shore Transit, a division of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The network of sidewalks in the historic downtown is essentially complete aside from the need for repairs in some locations. The Town will continue to ensure that sidewalks are installed or repaired throughout the town. New development is required to install sidewalks to code.

Lowering the square footage requirement for apartments in shopping district should enable property owners to establish more apartments above local businesses to aid with income to support maintenance of the structure as well as provide lower cost living options to those with limited income. In addition, they will be in close proximity to shops, services, and Shore Transit bus stop providing them with another option for transportation, thus lowering their transportation costs.

Senior living facilities with dependent care will provide many services on site thus limiting the need for travel, hence transportation cost should decrease. Many senior living facilities have buses to transport residents to needed appointments, shopping, etc.

New development will be required to install sidewalks, thereby contributing to walkability for newly annexed areas.

National Register designation for Snow Hill will provide purchasers of property with opportunities for federal preservation grants, federal income tax credits, and preservation easements to nonprofit organizations, etc.

The Town will continue to work with the Worcester County Economic Development Office and their Housing Rehabilitation Program to help provide assistance to Snow Hill residents, thus encouraging homeownership and residency in town limits to hopefully decrease transportation cost of residents.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) What is your goal for of number of units to be created of affordable workforce housin, rental and homeownership? What populations (by income or special needs) will benefit from this increased access to affordable housing?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town has set a goal to create 5-10 new housing units per year over the next 5 years, for a total of 20 – 50 new housing units. The Town will strongly consider the needs of the following special groups: low and moderate income families, those living in deteriorating housing, and the elderly.

The Town will continue work with Snow Hill Citizens for Decent Housing and Habitat for Humanity to provide low and moderate income housing. Both of these organizations have worked with the Town throughout the years and have built two apartment complexes and 6 homes.

Town staff will continue to work with Habitat for Humanity to develop the four residential lots off South Morris Street which have been awaiting resolution of right-of-way extension.

Town staff will work with new developers to provide for an assortment of affordable housing.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects ntoed in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town of Snow Hill
Habitat for Humanity
Snow Hill Citizens for Decent Housing
Worcester County Department of Economic Development, Housing Division
Worcester County Department of Social Services

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

E. Support transportation efficiency and access.

(1) What policies, strategies and projects are envisioned to strengthen the transportation network that affects the proposed SC Area? How will these initiatives support transportation choices (including walking, bicycling, bus or rail transit, and carpooling) or otherwise promote an efficient transportation network that integrates housing and transportation land uses?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town has made strides in the area of paving and improvement of infrastructure. Funds have been received in the past from DHCD and CDBG for water/sewer line replacement and paving. The Town continues to apply for funding whenever possible and to seek new funding sources to strengthen our street network.

Deteriorating streets and sidewalks must be improved to insure an efficient transportation network, thus creating a positive environment for future development. Sidewalks are also important to the community as they provide safe access to schools, Downtown businesses and parks adding to Snow Hill’s desirability and walkability.

Encourage water transportation along the Pocomoke River. During big events a water taxi could provide transport between the two waterfront parks making use of the existing docking facilities. Small paddle boats could also create a method of travel between the parks during warm months or during public events.

Encourage the development of alternate modes of transportation where possible appropriate to a small town.

Promote ADA accessibility to ensure safe harbor for all residents.

Extend existing street and sidewalk grid system into new development, discourage or eliminate the use of cul-de-sacs. The grid system is much more efficient and provides for continual free flow of traffic.

Investigate reduced street widths for adoption in Snow Hill’s Construction Standards. This will reduce impervious surface, as well as reduce maintenance cost and construction cost for roads and stormwater improvements.

Limit conflicting movement on major roadways; reduce access points and require service roads where required for public safety.

Develop greenway linkage system to Town’s parks and former railroad trail for pedestrian and bicycle use.

Mitigate heavy truck traffic where feasible on major and minor arterial streets to allow for more efficient flow of traffic in town and to reduce negative impacts on water and sewer lines in the center of the street.

Continue to seek improvements by the State Highway Administration for Market Street sidewalk and Bay Street a minor arterial which accesses the Towns industrial areas and therefore gets a lot of use from truck traffic.

Snow Hill will investigate opportunities presented through the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program, (TEP) for the following: Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, landscaping and other scenic beautification, historic preservation, and preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use of the corridors for pedestrian or bicycle trails).

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) If applicable, describe the SC Area’s connection or proximity to transportation centers (e.g. Metro, MARC, and light rail stations) and describe opportunities for Transit - Oriented Development (TOD). Will Plan strategies and projects contribute to jobs/housing balance or otherwise provide a mix of land uses that can be expected to reduce reliance on single-occupancy automobiles? (If transit or TOD is not applicable in your community, all points in this section will be based on questions 1 and 3)

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town is not close to transportation centers due to its location on the Eastern Shore.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implemntation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town of Snow Hill
 Shore Transit
 State Highway Administration

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

F. Coordinating and Leveraging Policies and Investment

(1) What specific steps will the Sustainable Community Workgroup take to coordinate policies and funding streams to remove barriers to investment and maximize and increase funding in the proposed Sustainable Community Area?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Town will continue to market Snow Hill as a place to live, to work, and to visit.

The Town will work with the Worcester County Economic Development Department in order to take advantage of state programs that offer incentives to new businesses.

Continue to seek grant funds from State and Federal sources.

Plan and develop projects that are competitive when applying for grant funding.

Continue to work with community organizations to raise funds for downtown revitalization.

Update the Strategic Revitalization Plan with funding provided by CDBG.

Review Town building codes to streamline the permitting process.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) How is the proposed Sustainable Community Plan consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Strategic Revitalization Plan focuses on economic development, land use, revitalization and physical improvements with targeted goals like the Sustainable Community Plan. Strategies to encourage new businesses and improvements with façade grant and other funds aid revitalization efforts and economic development. Any physical improvements that assist with community appearance with regard to signage, streetscapes, sidewalks, façade improvements, etc. contribute to the sustainability of the town. Revitalizing and repairing historic structures preserves and builds on heritage and eco-tourism in the plan and contributes to greening of the community while preserving resources.

The Snow Hill Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2009 and adopted in 2010. The plan includes many items within the sustainability plan as it calls for extension of sidewalks and a link for pedestrians between the Town’s park system and community facilities. Both plans also address working with SHA to develop transportation plans for roadways in the town, extension of grid system into growth areas, promoting mixed use in Downtown, developing jobs, providing increased recreational opportunities, and limiting environmental impacts in growth areas. The Water Resource element of the plan addressed source water protection plan, implementation of a capital improvement plan for upgrades to water mains, upgrades to Wastewater Treatment Plan to meet effluent standards to improve health of the Pocomoke River, and repair of inflow and infiltration problems. In addition, it calls for revisions to the Town’s construction standards to implement “green street” design. The housing section of the Comprehensive Plan also calls for the town to address workforce housing whether or not it participates in the WHGP. A mix of affordable rental and homeownership units needs to be maintained for lower income households, infill development needs to be made affordable, and the town needs to seek improvements with owners for incentive based programs as well as work with landlords to make rentals safe. Other policies recommended include design guidelines to maintain architectural standards in commercial areas and along Blue Crab Scenic Byway, work cooperatively with Snow Hill Alliance for Responsible Progress in prioritizing and implementing the Strategic Revitalization Plan, and focus on redevelopment and preservation of Bank Street which connects residents to the waterfront.

The Historic District Guidelines book “A Reference Guide for Property Owners” assists property owners, contractors and other interested parties with the context and rationale behind historic preservation, describes the application and review process and offers recommendations and resources for restoration activities. Information provided includes the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, Architectural styles and period of significance, a brief history, and summary of review process. The goals within the town code included below support Snow Hill’s Sustainable Community Plan.

- Preserve sites and structures, and districts, together with their appurtenances and environmental settings, of historic and architectural significance to the Town of Snow Hill, Worcester County, the State of Maryland and the nation.
- To enhance the quality of life and to safeguard the historical and cultural heritage of Snow Hill by preserving these sites and structures.
- To strengthen the local economy and to stabilize and improve property values of such sites and structures.
- To foster civic beauty and to promote the appreciation of such sites and structures for the education and welfare of the residents of Snow Hill and Worcester County.

Clearly the proposed Sustainable Community Plan incorporates many aspects of our Strategic Revitalization Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and the Historic District guidelines.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) How will the Plan help leverage and/or sustain more private sector investments?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Façade Improvement Program will lead to significant private investment as the revitalization of storefronts will attract new businesses to locate in Snow Hill. An attractive and active downtown will create a positive atmosphere, encouraging investment and promoting the shop local theme.

The Plan will provide clear and concise guidance to Mayor and Council for budgetary discussions and gives clear direction to town staff for researching grant options, as well as content to include within submittal to provide for a sustainable Snow Hill. The Plan will preserve the character of the community. Supporting the Historic District regulations and guidelines to protect historic sites and resources will stabilize and improve property values and safeguard our heritage as local tradesmen contracted to work on these structures will contribute to the local economy and attract more investment.

Plan promotes residential and commercial mixed uses in downtown while maintaining historic character.

The Plan follows Comprehensive Plan in that maintenance and expansion of existing grid system for streets is promoted and “green street” design is encouraged.

The Plan builds on the Pocomoke River as an asset promoting many recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Encourages infill development and rehabilitation of structures which is beneficial to everyone as existing buildings, generally do not have to worry about development issues, such as lot coverage and stormwater regulations. In addition, the re-use of buildings is an important element in “greening the community” and therefore important parts of the sustainability plan.

The town will continue to add to the tree canopy with plantings on town lands where appropriate and through the development process per the Forest Conservation Program and Critical Area Program. These plantings add to the character of the community and the streetscape while taking up stormwater which improves water quality in the Pocomoke River watershed. Improved water quality will aid in protecting our natural resources and ensure future generations the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Pocomoke River.

Improvements to the parks will induce families to locate in Snow Hill and contribute to the livability of the community.

The Town has planned for growth with recent update of Comprehensive Plan, identification of priority funding areas, adoption of SB 236 map, Enterprise Zone Map designation and development capacity analysis study and is set to receive growth directed to the municipalities within the Worcester County Comprehensive Plan. Their inclusion in this Sustainable Community Plan will assist with funding opportunities.

The Town’s recent Enterprise Zone designation which encompasses our business districts throughout town will attract private investment.

The Town’s low interest business loan program will help attract more private investment.

Snow Hill’s Arts and Entertainment District creates tax incentives that will aid in obtaining private investment.

The Town will continue to use the Rental Code to educate current and prospective landlords about the benefits of reinvestment in their properties.

The Town will continue to promote a positive and friendly atmosphere for potential investors to ensure that they receive assistance in locating to Snow Hill.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

For the Plan parts of section IV(A through F):

(1) List the specific outcomes that the Plan seeks to produce.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

1. Improved and revitalized downtown
2. Fewer vacant storefronts
3. Improved owner occupied housing
4. Improved rental housing
5. Increased availability of affordable workforce housing
6. Revitalized infrastructure throughout town
7. New private investment
8. Increase employment opportunities
9. Enhanced tax base
10. New businesses
11. Increased number of yearly visitors
12. Increase live/work units in downtown
13. Permanent facility for Performing Arts
14. Community Activity Center
15. Increased visitation to local museums
16. Hotel for visitors
17. Complete WWTP to meet ENR/BNR
18. Reduction of Inflow and Infiltration of sanitary sewer lines.
19. Eliminate storm drains from sanitary sewer lines.
20. Increase in park rentals.
21. Senior housing options

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

(2) And, list the specific benchmarks that will be used to measure progress toward these outcomes.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

- Increase of visitors to Snow Hill by 5,000 or more per year (1, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16,20)
- Creation of at least 20 new jobs (1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14)
- Attraction of 5 new businesses to serve the visitors and residents of Snow Hill (1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)
- Increase of the Town's assessable tax base by 5% (1, 16)
- Reduction of I & I (Infill & Infiltration) by 10% (6,18,19)
- Grant 6 new small business loans using the Town's Revolving Loan Fund (2, 10)
- Develop plan and renovate the Opera House (13, 14)
- Three new live/work spaces in downtown (3, 4, 5, 12)
- One hotel/motel (16)

**REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH LOCAL
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
RESOLUTIONS**

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICATION
DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") to make such inquiries as necessary, including, but not limited to, credit inquiries, in order to verify the accuracy of the statements made by the applicant and to determine the creditworthiness of the applicant.

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1983.18, the Department advises you that certain personal information is necessary to determine your eligibility for financial assistance. Availability of this information for public inspection is governed by Maryland's Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the "Act"). This information will be disclosed to appropriate staff of the Department or to public officials for purposes directly connected with administration of this financial assistance program for which its use is intended. Such information may be shared with State, federal or local government agencies, which have a financial role in the project. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct personal records in accordance with the Act.

The Department intends to make available to the public certain information regarding projects recommended for funding in the Sustainable Community Plan. The information available to the public will include the information in this application, as may be supplemented or amended. This information may be confidential under the Act. If you consider this information confidential and do not want it made available to the public, please indicate that in writing and attach the same to this application.

You agree that not attaching an objection constitutes your consent to the information being made available to the public and a waiver of any rights you may have regarding this information under the Act.

I have read and understand the above paragraph. Applicant's Initials: _____

Any one who knowingly makes, or causes to be made, any false statement or report relative to this financial assistance application, for the purposes of influencing the action of the Department on such application, is subject to immediate cancellation of financial assistance and other penalties authorized by law.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Sustainable Communities Plan or Project(s) proposed in this Application can be accomplished and further certifies that the information set herein and in any attachment in support hereof is true, correct, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Authorized Signature	Print Name and Title	Date
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