

## **WHITPAIN 2035: 4 VILLAGES WITHIN A COMMUNITY**

In 1715, the “The Great Skippack Turnpike” had just been laid out and was under construction from Philadelphia. A few years later, “Centre Square and Norristown Turnpike” – soon to be called DeKalb Pike – was laid across Skippack Pike to connect a flourishing Norristown with Gwynedd at the William Penn Inn. Commerce immediately began surging over these arteries as villages sprouted alongside. In 1777, Washington’s army would use them to maneuver against the British and bivouac beside them on the way to Valley Forge.

Now three hundred years later, these arteries continue to surge with commerce and Whitpain’s four remaining village areas (i.e. Centre Square, Blue Bell, Broad Axe, and West Ambler) remain the foundation of our community character. How will they, and the diverse communities that have developed around them, prosper over the next twenty years and beyond?

The answers to that question and their many implications are the focus of a three-year, comprehensive planning effort now underway in Whitpain Township. Anyone at all interested in this community is encouraged to contribute to the plan and we welcome your participation.

There will be multiple opportunities for input over the coming year including online surveys, monthly committee meetings, and four town hall sessions in February and March. The first of these will be held on February 4th beginning at 7 p.m. on the main campus of Montgomery County Community College.

We are delighted that the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Thomas Hylton will deliver the keynote presentation at the first town hall. Mr. Hylton’s influential book “Save Our Land, Save Our Towns” was the subject of an hour-long public television documentary. His message is particularly relevant in our region as we face the accelerating challenges and opportunities of further development and necessary revitalization.

A few years ago, the Township adopted a vision that reads in part: “Whitpain is a community that embraces the future while cherishing our heritage. We will continue to be recognized for our diversity, fiscal responsibility, and leadership in resource conversation.”

Please help Whitpain live up to that vision.

Fred Conner  
Chairman  
Board of Supervisors