

New Policy: ACT 247 Proposed and Adopted Ordinance Amendments – Tracked Changes

Beginning **July 1st, 2024**, the Berks County Planning Commission is requesting that all municipalities begin submitting all proposed ordinance amendments and adopted amendments with tracked changes. Tracked changes are a way of organizing and writing text that shows changes that have been made to the text. A common example of this is utilizing “**redlined changes**”, whereby both the existing text that is being edited is shown crossed-out in red, and the new text that is to be added/changed is shown in red. If text is to be deleted with nothing replaced, it would simply be crossed out in red. Here are three examples provided below, with three different tracked changes shown in our amendment:

Example 1: Section D (a) (1): Policy #1 was deleted and was replaced with new text – shown as the new #1.

D. Historic Resources Policies

Historic Resources Goal: To preserve and promote community, cultural, historical, and aesthetic elements that identify Berks County as a special place to live and work.

a. Neighborhood Design

Goal: To maintain and enhance the character of established villages, towns, boroughs, and the city. To welcome new neighborhoods that have their own sense of community while blending with existing surrounding development and open space.

Policies:

~~(1) The county encourages municipalities to incorporate design regulations into their land use ordinances that will help maintain and enhance local character and prevent it from being degraded.~~

(1) The county would like municipalities to add new regulations to their ordinances that will help preserve the historic and unique character of local developments.

(2) The county encourages municipalities to allow for appropriate mixed-use development in areas zoned for greater densities to promote walking, community identity, and a sense of place.

(3) The county supports regulations for redevelopment and adaptive reuse that take into account surrounding land uses, impact on traffic and parking patterns, and maintenance/enhancement of properties.

Example 2: Section D (b) (1): -Policy #1 had a word deleted and replaced with a different phrase

b. Community Awareness

Goal: To promote and protect the people, places, and things that make Berks County distinctive to its residents and visitors.

Policies:

(1) The county will promote its heritage resources as a ~~destination~~ **place to visit** for travelers and tourists through various forms of media.

Example 3: Section D (c): Here, we added an entirely new section.

c. Historic Resource Inventory

Goal: To take inventory of the historic resources in a community for record-keeping purposes

Policies:

- (1) The county will count all historic properties for record-keeping purposes
- (2) The county will maintain an inventory of historic resources for record-keeping purposes
- (3) The county will work with partner organizations to maintain updated records of historic resources.

Utilizing tracked changes is an efficient way of allowing someone to read a document and clearly identify changes that are being made to it, especially for the purpose of reviews. By requesting this procedural change, we hope to be able to provide the municipalities with more efficient services and thorough review comments for consideration in their land-use decision-making processes.

The Planning Commission thanks you in advance for your support of this new standardized practice.