



Keezletown Community Meeting #3

April 19, 2023



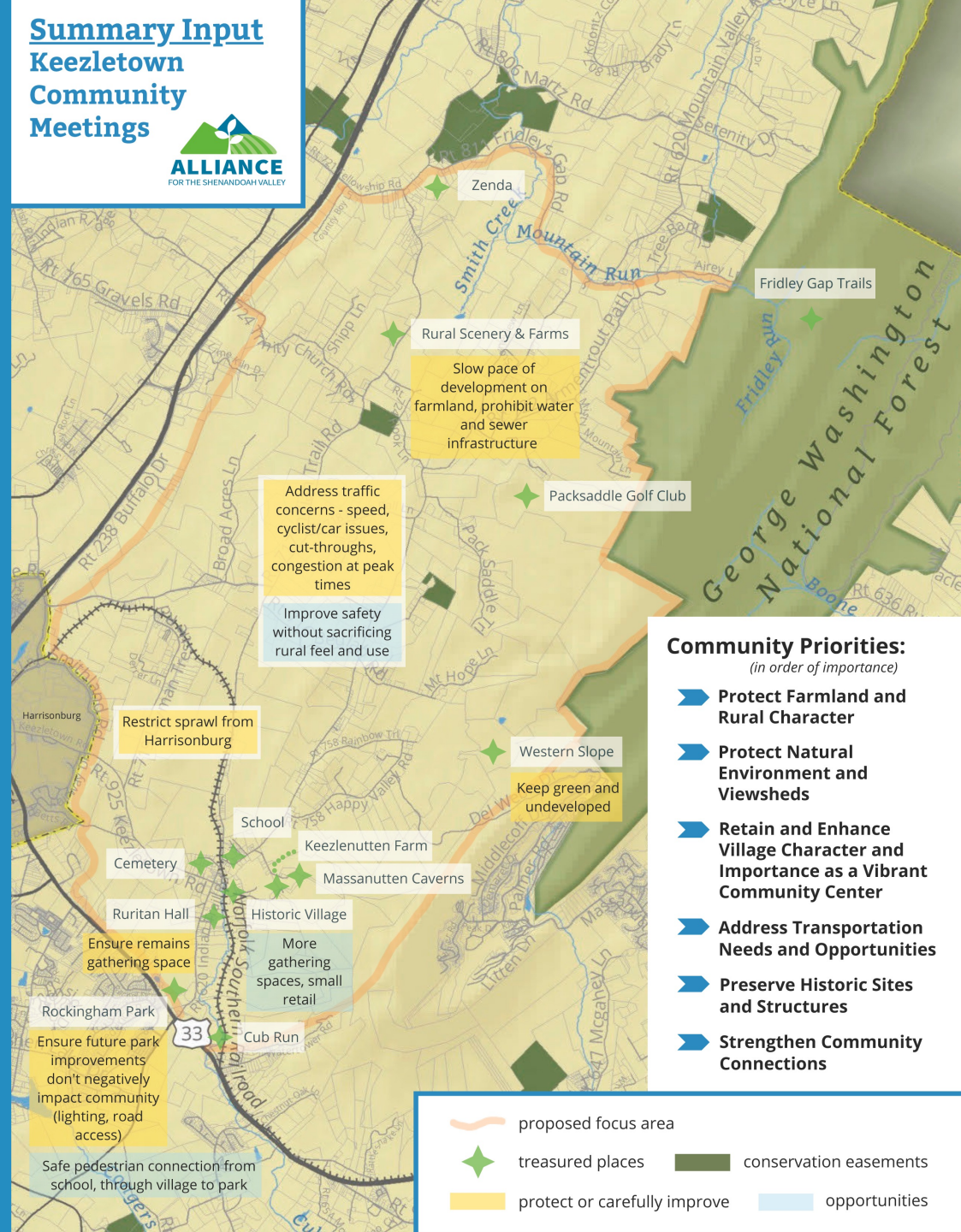
WHAT WE HEARD

MAP



Keezletown
Community
Meeting #3

Summary Input Keezletown Community Meetings



Address traffic concerns - speed, cyclist/car issues, cut-throughs, congestion at peak times

Improve safety without sacrificing rural feel and use

Restrict sprawl from Harrisonburg

Ensure remains gathering space

Ensure future park improvements don't negatively impact community (lighting, road access)

Safe pedestrian connection from school, through village to park

Rural Scenery & Farms
Slow pace of development on farmland, prohibit water and sewer infrastructure

Community Priorities: *(in order of importance)*

- **Protect Farmland and Rural Character**
- **Protect Natural Environment and Viewsheds**
- **Retain and Enhance Village Character and Importance as a Vibrant Community Center**
- **Address Transportation Needs and Opportunities**
- **Preserve Historic Sites and Structures**
- **Strengthen Community Connections**

— proposed focus area
◆ treasured places conservation easements
 protect or carefully improve opportunities

COMMUNITY VISION

RED LINE

In 50 years, Keezletown's landscapes remain open and agricultural and the village retains its historic look and feel. Community members new and old value and work together to preserve the community's rich history, ~~and~~ quiet rural character, ~~and dark skies~~. The pace of life in Keezletown is slow and laidback. Keezletown's natural and scenic assets are protected and outdoor recreation amenities are designed for local enjoyment and ~~to attract like-minded~~ visitors ~~who appreciate our rural community~~. Residents ~~travel~~ ~~move about~~ with safety and ease between homes, local parks, working farms, and cherished gathering places in the village.



ALLIANCE
FOR THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

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COMMUNITY VISION

PROPOSED FINAL

In 50 years, Keezletown's landscapes remain open and agricultural and the village retains its historic look and feel. Community members new and old value and work together to preserve the community's rich history, quiet rural character, and dark skies. The pace of life in Keezletown is slow and laidback. Keezletown's natural and scenic assets are protected and outdoor recreation amenities are designed for local enjoyment and visitors who appreciate our rural community. Residents move about with safety and ease between homes, local parks, working farms, and cherished gathering places in the village.



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COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

RED LINE

- ◆ Protect **Farmland and** Rural Character
- ◆ Protect ~~Local Water Resources, including
Cub Run~~ Natural Environment and Views
- ◆ Retain **and Enhance** Village Character and Importance as **a Vibrant** Community Center
- ◆ Address Transportation Needs and Opportunities
- ◆ Preserve Historic Sites and Structures
- ◆ Strengthen Community Connections



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COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

PROPOSED FINAL

- ◆ Protect Farmland and Rural Character
- ◆ Protect Natural Environment and Views
- ◆ Retain and Enhance Village Character and Importance as a Vibrant Community Center
- ◆ Address Transportation Needs and Opportunities
- ◆ Preserve Historic Sites and Structures
- ◆ Strengthen Community Connections



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ACTIONS

*TWO
TRACTS*

County Recommendations
&
Community Recommendations



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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM
COUNTY

Protect Farmland and
Rural Character



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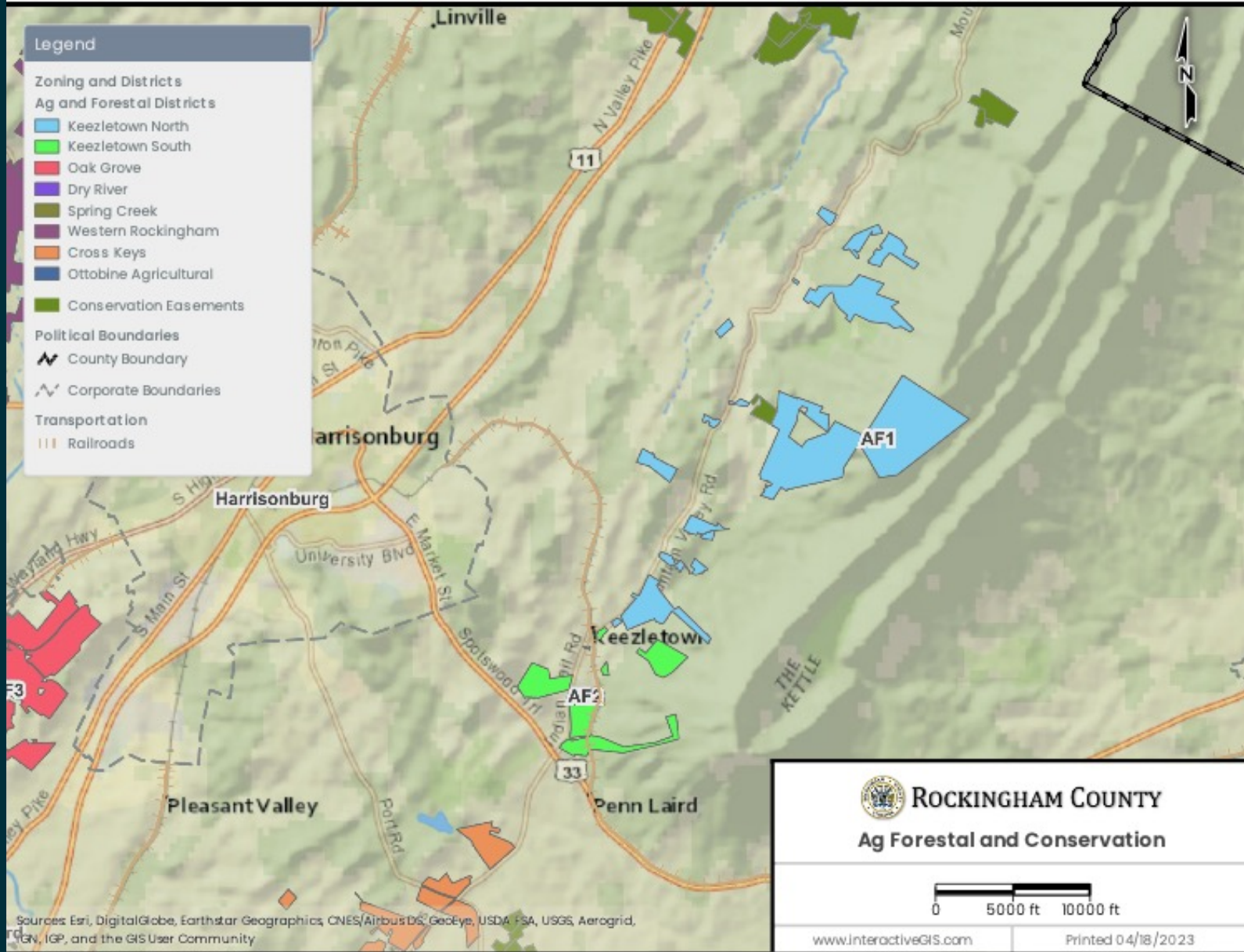
Support working farms and forest, both traditional and nontraditional

- ▶ Do not plan to extend utilities, develop major infrastructure, or expand roads in the Comprehensive Plan.
- ▶ Discourage rezoning agricultural land.
- ▶ Discourage uses not compatible in scale and character with agriculture.
- ▶ Support Agricultural and Forestal Districts and encourage more landowners to participate.

ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Protect Farmland and Rural Character



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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Protect Natural Environment and Views

Protect Natural Environment and Views

- Recognize the value of quality natural resources for economic development and tourism (esp. Western Slope).
- Incorporate natural resource protection in recreation projects.
- Support naturally dark skies as a goal in the Comprehensive Plan.



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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Protect Natural Environment and Views

Protect Natural Environment and Views

- Update outdoor lighting provisions in the zoning ordinance.
- Allow small scale solar. Discourage siting of utility scale solar.
- Consider applying for Virginia Byway status for routes such as Indian Trail Road.



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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Retain and Enhance
Village Character and
Importance as a
Vibrant Community
Center

Retain and Enhance Village Character and Importance as a Vibrant Community Center

- Encourage redevelopment that meets local needs and is compatible with historic scale and design.
- Invite property owners to rezone to Rural Village Zoning District to keep the same feel in the village.



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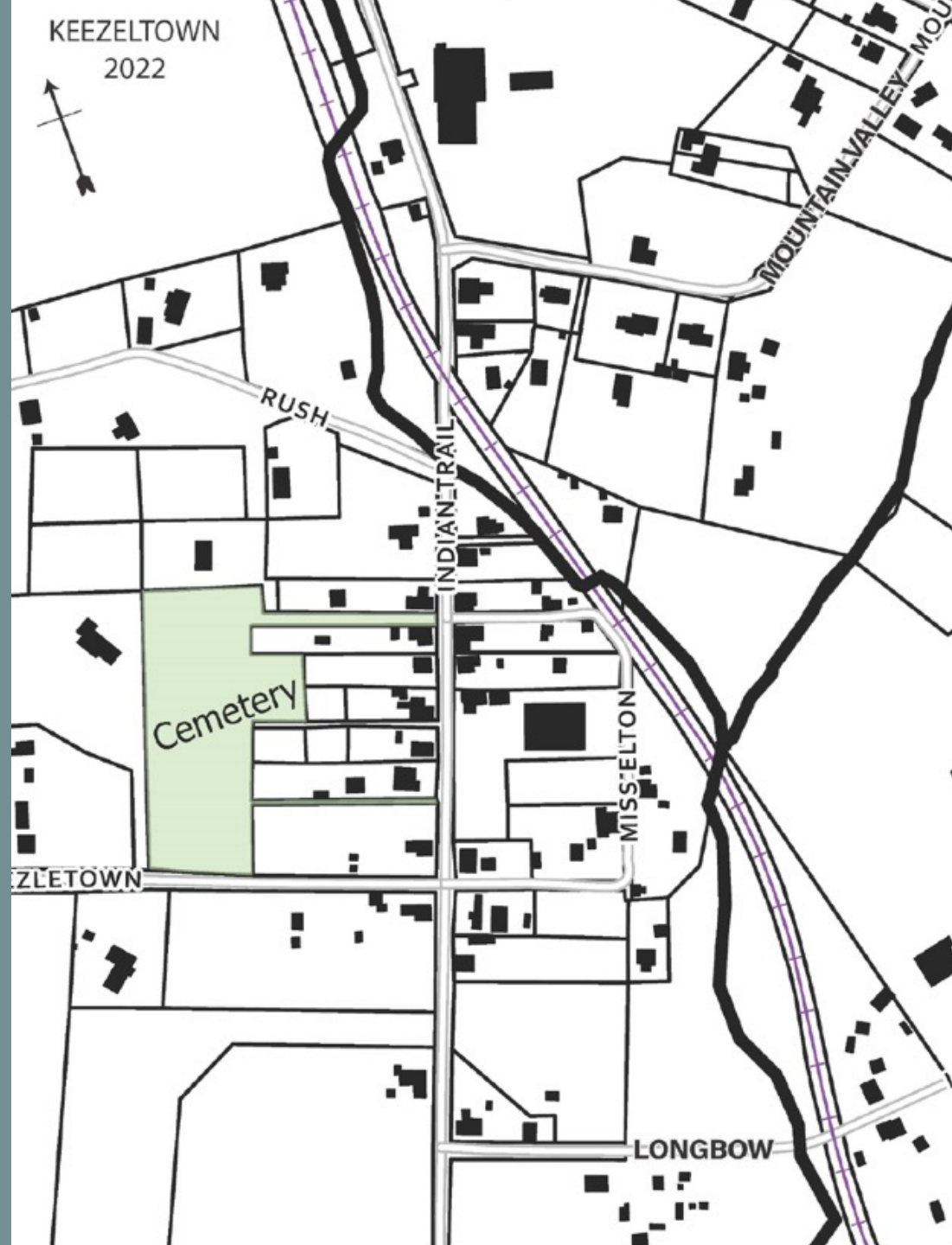
ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Retain and Enhance
Village Character and
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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM
COUNTY

Address
Transportation Needs
and Opportunities



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Address Transportation Needs and Opportunities

- ▶ As transportation projects are developed the community preferences include:
 - ▶ Minimize road widening to those places specifically needed.
 - ▶ Consider safety of cyclists.
 - ▶ Consider needs of agricultural equipment.
 - ▶ Reduce speeds especially in and near the village.

ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM
COUNTY

Address
Transportation Needs
and Opportunities

Address Transportation Needs and Opportunities

- Include Keezletown recommendations in the long-range transportation plan and comprehensive plan (ex: no Loop Road or major expansions).
- Strive to enable walkability in the village including the feasibility of a walking path from the Rockingham County Park to Redeemer School.
- Support traffic calming in the village that doesn't interfere with movement of ag equipment



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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM
COUNTY

Address
Transportation Needs
and Opportunities



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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM
COUNTY

Preserve Historic Sites
and Structures

Preserve Historic Sites and Structures

- ▶ Work with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to survey the architectural and archaeological resources in the Keezletown area.
- ▶ Apply for grants to help fund the surveys.
- ▶ Support efforts to nominate Keezletown as a National Register Rural Historic District.



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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM
COUNTY

Strengthen
Community
Connections

Strengthen Community Connections



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ACTIONS

KEEZLETOWN
COMMUNITY

Protect Farmland and
Rural Character

Protect Farmland and Rural Character

- ▶ Host workshop on conservation easements.
- ▶ Host/participate in existing Farm Legacy Planning workshops.
- ▶ Research and disseminate relevant programs to support/enhance farm businesses.

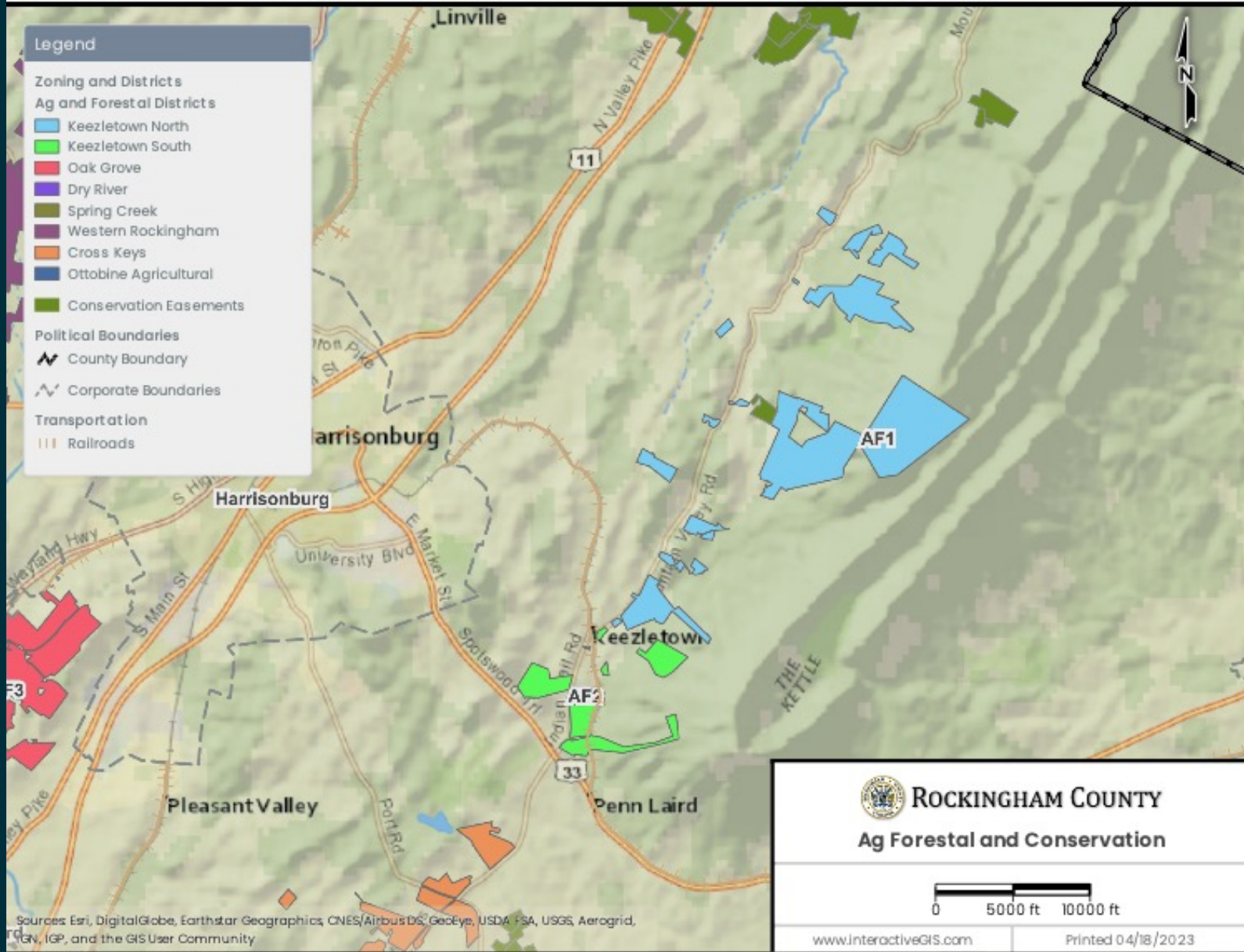


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ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Protect Farmland and Rural Character



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ACTIONS

KEEZLETOWN
COMMUNITY

Protect Natural
Environment and
Views



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Protect Natural Environment and Views

- Host farm-owner workshops on conservation opportunities.
- Host a workshop for non-farming landowners on programs for clean water, erosion control and habitat enhancement.
- Research and disseminate information on dark sky lighting options.

ACTIONS

KEEZLETOWN COMMUNITY

Retain and Enhance
Village Character and
Importance as a
Vibrant Community
Center

Retain and Enhance Village Character and Importance as a Vibrant Community Center

- ▶ Property owners request an individual or community-wide rezoning to Rural Village Zoning.



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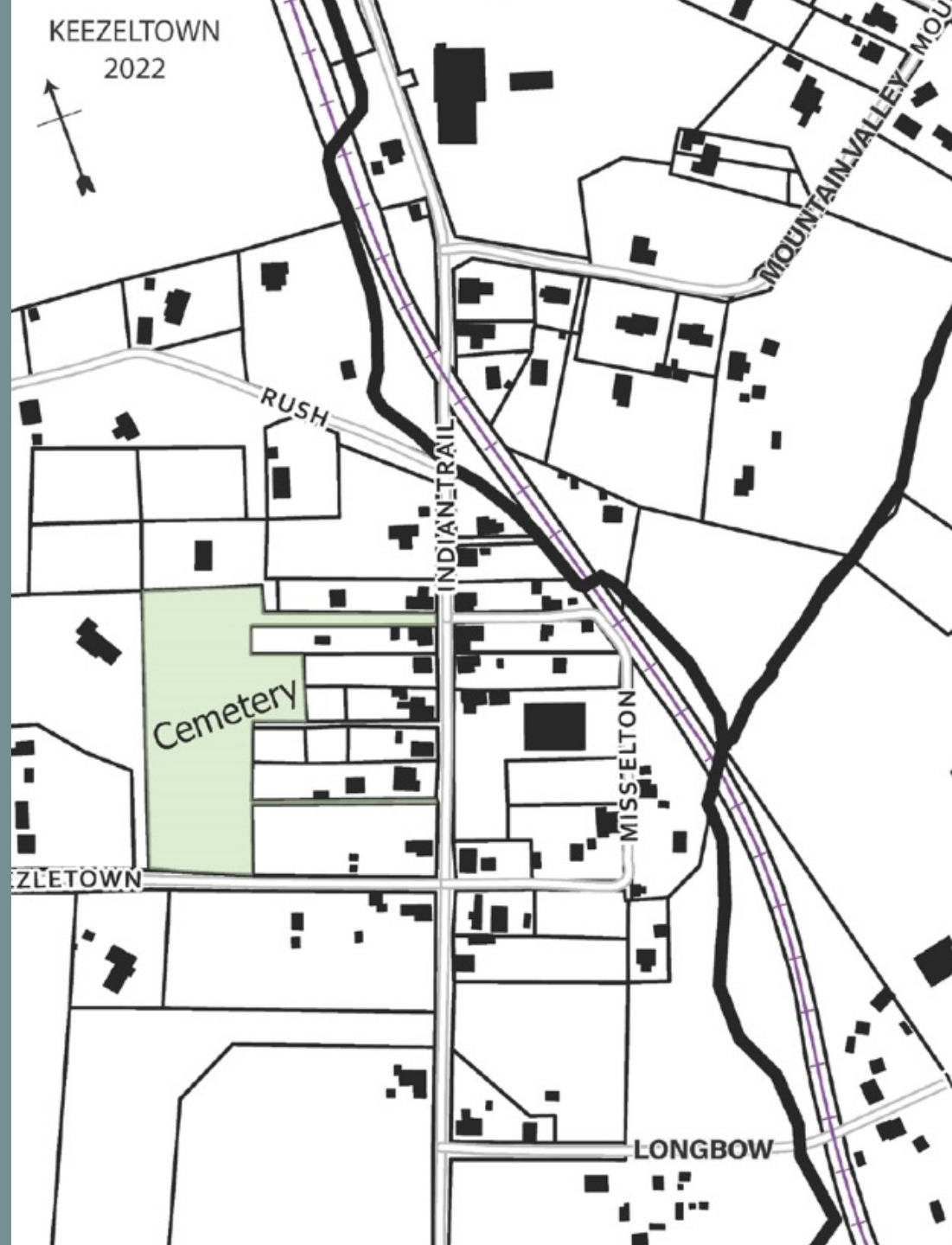
ACTIONS

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Retain and Enhance
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Importance as a
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Center



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ACTIONS

KEEZLETOWN
COMMUNITY

Address
Transportation Needs
and Opportunities

Address Transportation Needs and Opportunities

- ▶ Disseminate information about opportunities to comment on VDOT plans that affect the area.
- ▶ Develop a cooperative plan for off-road walking path connection to Rockingam Park.
- ▶ Engage with Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition's Massanutten Trail planning process.



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ACTIONS

KEEZLETOWN COMMUNITY

Preserve Historic Sites and Structures

Preserve Historic Sites and Structures

- ▶ Host a workshop with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to explain historic surveys and National Register processes.
- ▶ Organize community history to showcase and capture local histories and stories.
- ▶ Invite local historians to present on heritage topics.



ACTIONS

KEEZLETOWN
COMMUNITY

Strengthen
Community
Connections

Strengthen Community Connections

- Keep the momentum!
 - Develop community calendar.
 - Build engagement on the online community page.
 - Keep working together.



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HAPPY
VALLEY
LIBRARY

Help yourself
to a book!

ACTIONS

KEEZLETOWN
COMMUNITY

Exercise—Prioritize and Engage with Community Action Recommendations



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The Alliance will—

Finalize the Report

Present Recommendations to
Rockingham County

Provide Resources to Community
Initiatives

Thank you!

Mountain Vly Rd

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