

May 16, 2013
Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee
Public Hearing: Future of Main Street and Elm Street Programs
Submitted Remarks by:
Mary Luscavage, Main Street Manager
Downtown Shenandoah, Inc.

Downtown Shenandoah, Inc. has been a Main Street Program since 2006. In that time we have completed 26 Facades, completed a project in Girard Park, and opened seven new businesses. This could not have been achieved without the Main Street program. The amount of state money given to these projects is approximately \$120,000, and the money that private individuals have invested is well over \$300,000.00. It has brought a sense of pride and ownership for the town and for the individuals. Our local municipality has partnered with us in helping us achieve all that has been accomplished. Businesses have taken a stake in the community and are willing to help and do whatever it takes to make it a better place to live, work and play.

We are now in the process of applying for Designation for the next five years. Our plans include a Blight project which we are working with Senator Argall's office. We have been fortunate to have a wonderful committee that consists of borough and business leaders in the community, and the funding to start this project. This project will clean up some of the dilapidated buildings and make room for green spaces and new businesses.

Our future plans are to complete the recommended application for the Elm Street program so we can improve the neighborhoods.

The economic development of these communities could not be accomplished without the Main Street Program, State Grants, and private funds. Thank you to Senator Argall for his perseverance and hard work.

Sincerely,

Mary Luscavage

Mary Luscavage
Main Street Manager
Downtown Shenandoah, Inc.