

A statement of clarification on the free Chambersburg Borough Land Use Permit process.

Simple maintenance projects usually do not require any review or permits. For example the painting of the outside of private property. However, in an effort to insure that contemplated projects are not more complex or cross the line to involve other local issues that would require review, Chambersburg staff suggests folks utilize the free Land Use Permit application process.

In the case of painting a mural on the side of private property, the Borough asks every project to submit an application just to insure that a mural is all that is planned. For example, if you are changing the wall structure or constructing a giant canvas, that might require a building permit so when in doubt submit a free application so the Codes office can know the situation.

And to confirm mural doesn't contain business identification as that would be regulated per local sign code parameters.

And to ensure property owner has authorized confirmation so the mural won't be regulated as graffiti or mistaken as vandalism per the Property Maintenance Code.

This review also insures that the planned work doesn't impact any health or safety rules or encroach on public property.

Other than commercial identification, which is allowed with limitations, the content of installations are protected free speech by the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

It is completely free and administrative in nature. Projects with no conflict receive staff approval to proceed and the elected officials are not involved in the review.