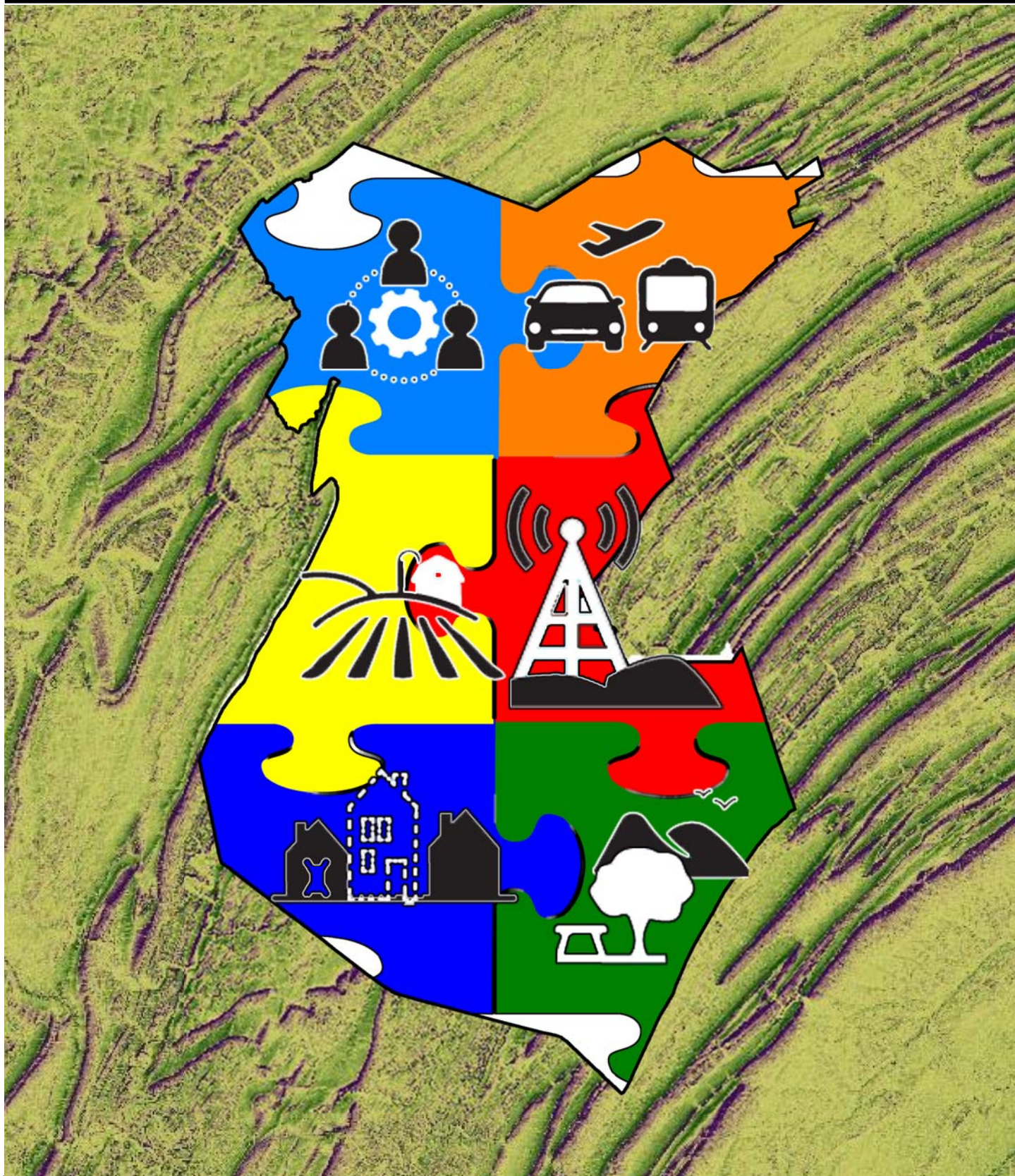


2018 Annual Report



Huntingdon County Planning Commission

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission to develop and implement a positive vision for Huntingdon County; one that reflects economic prosperity, a rural and small-town atmosphere, protection of natural resources, centers-focused development, greenway corridors, improved highway and communication access, and a high standard of excellence in both personal and community development.

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SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Proper maintenance and implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* requires continuous data collection and analysis. Data collected by the Planning Staff includes: Building and Subdivision Activity, Deed Transfers, Municipal Contacts, Municipal Land Use Ordinances, and Population and Socio-Economic Characteristics.

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY (LOTS SOLD)

The number of new subdivision lots recorded indicates the level of land development occurring within Huntingdon County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services.

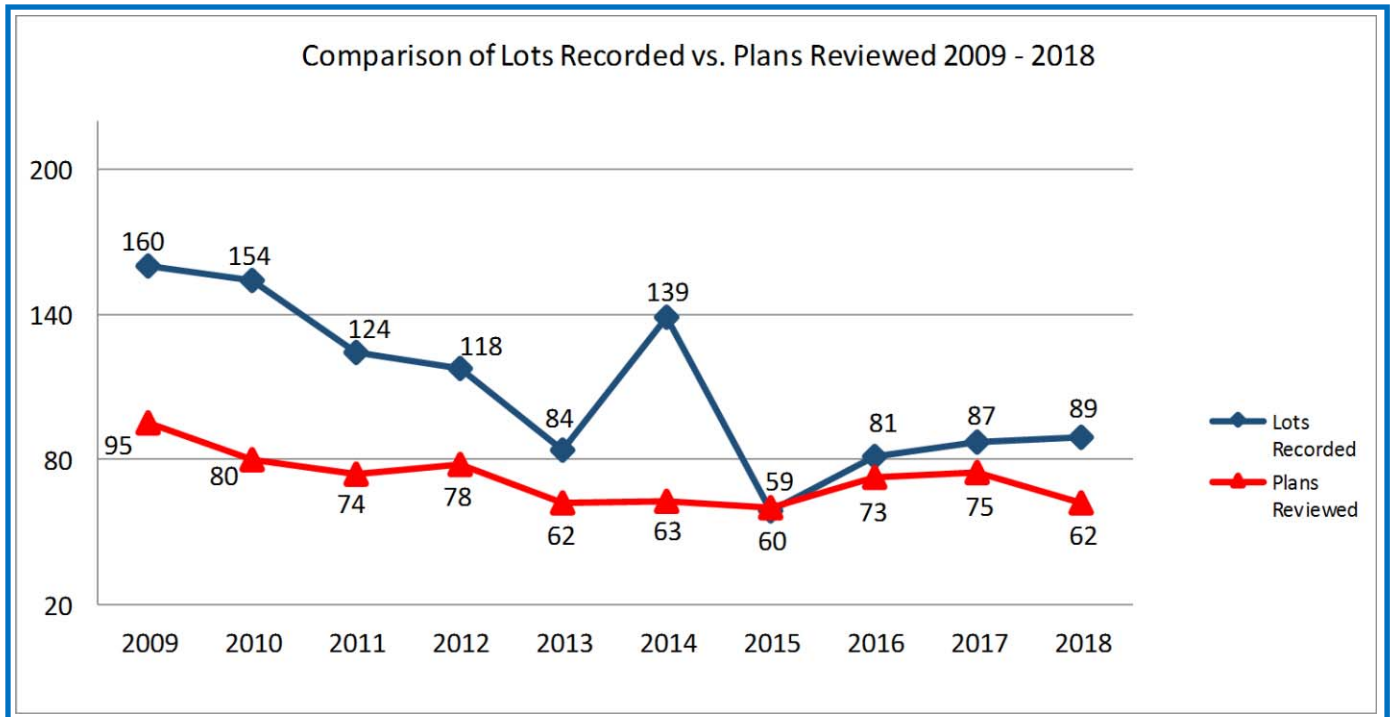
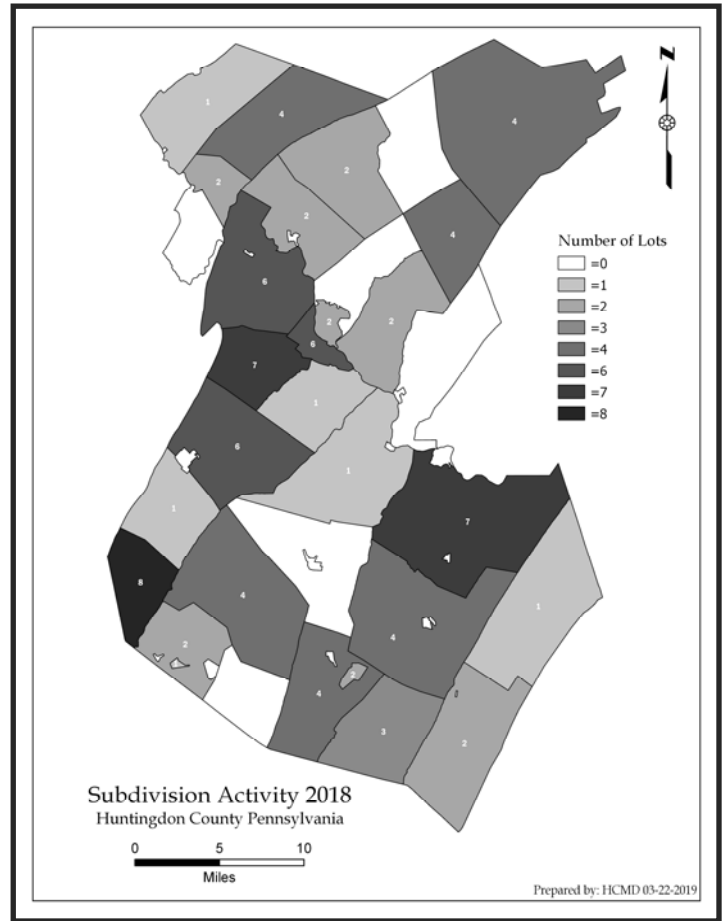
Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots referenced on page 2.

During 2018, 89 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is an increase of 2.3% from the 87 lots recorded in 2017.

The chart on this page illustrates a ten-year history of new lot activity and subdivision and land development reviews, while the map illustrates the intensity of development in each municipality.

In 2018, the municipalities with the highest levels of recorded lots were:

- Hopewell Township, eight new lots;
- Shirley and Walker Townships, seven new lots each;
- Penn, Porter and Smithfield Townships, six new lots each; and
- Clay, Cromwell, Franklin, Jackson, Miller and Todd Townships, four new lots each.



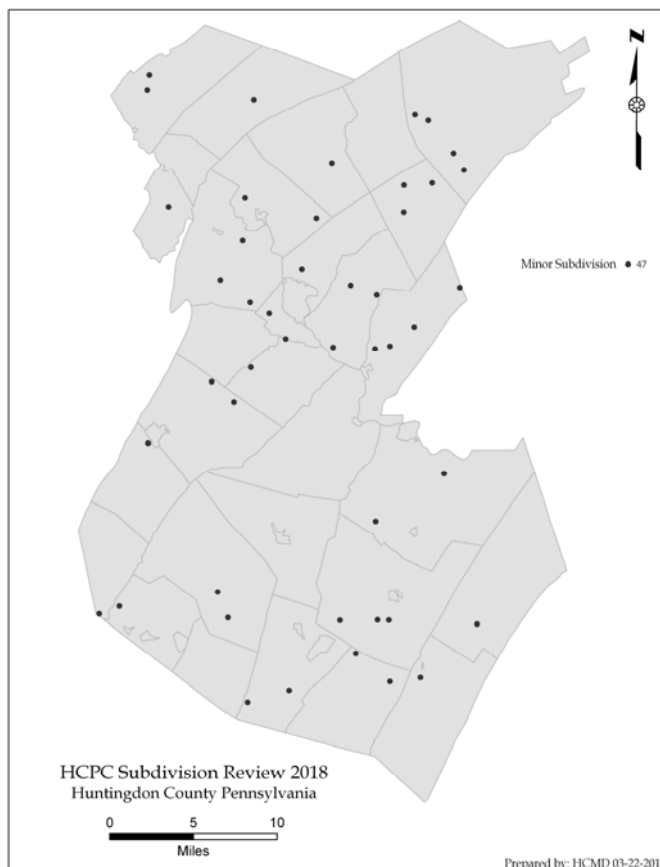
SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Section 502 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code* gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with *Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act*.

The Planning Commission reviewed a total of 62 submissions in 26 municipalities during 2018, down by 13 from the 75 reviewed during 2017. These reviews included: 12 non-residential land developments; 47 minor subdivisions; one minor land development; one small flow treatment facility; and one sewage facilities planning module. These projects encompassed a total of 43 lots and 1,242 acres. The maps on this page illustrate the distribution of these proposals. The 12 non-residential land developments reviewed were:

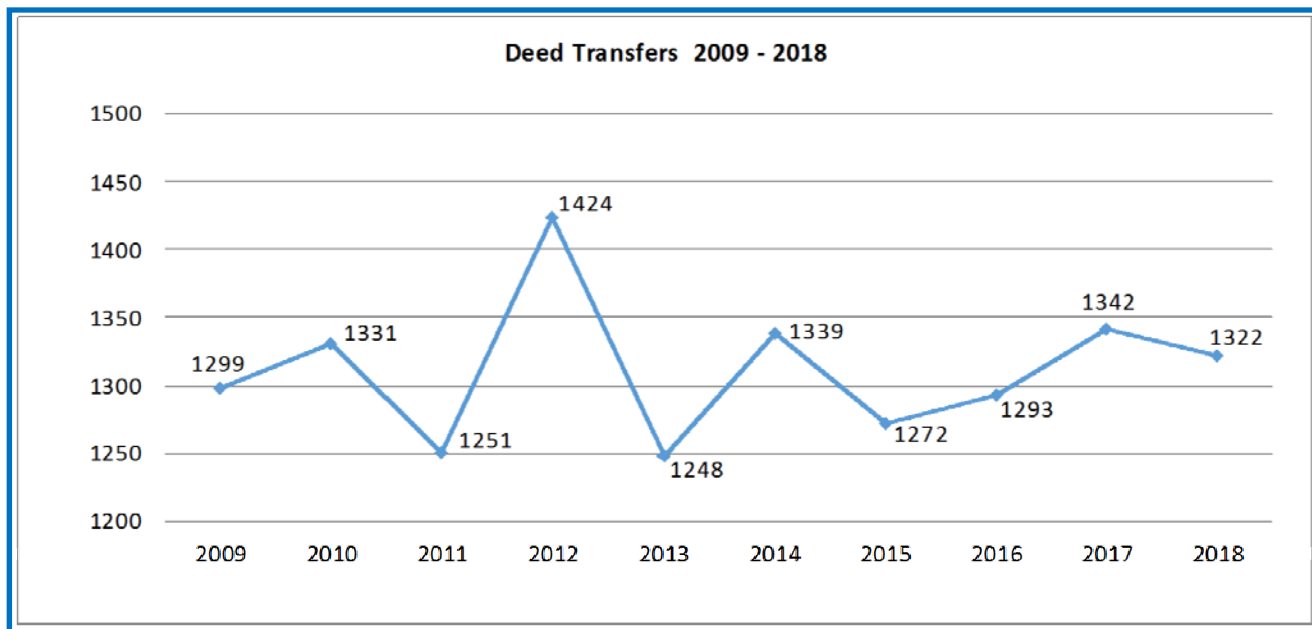
- Huntingdon County Career & Technology Center, Brady Township, 33.7 acres, construction of a 7,520 square foot classroom extension and a 12,500 square foot transportation center;
- McDonald's Restaurant, Smithfield Township, 1.124 acres, complete site demolition and construction of a 5,259 square foot restaurant;
- Huntingdon County Humane Society, Henderson Township, 5.0 acres, construction of a 2,450 square foot building addition and parking improvements;
- Huntingdon Fast Food Restaurant (Burger King), Smithfield Township, 3.18 acres, construction of a 2,900 square foot restaurant;
- Graystone Manor Huntingdon LLC, Smithfield Township, 2.228 acres, construction of a 24,900 square foot building for a 50-bed nursing home;
- Aaron J. Warner, Todd Township, 111 acres, construction of a 41,082 square foot swine barn;
- Reed Campground (Revision - Phase 3), Walker Township, 32.5 acres, increase campground to a total of 60 campsites;
- AT&T Mobility, Clay Township, 91 acres, construction of a 285' self-supporting tower on a 0.23 acre leased area;
- Huntingdon Family Practice Office, Smithfield Township, 4.8 acres, parking lot improvements after removal of office trailers and associated utilities;
- AT&T Mobility, Broad Top City Borough, 12.562 acres, construction of a 285' self-supporting tower on a 0.23 acre leased area;
- Helena Chemical Warehouse and Site Expansion, Warriors Mark Township, 7.74 acres, construction of a 100,000 square foot warehouse facility, a 1,800 square foot office facility and a gravel parking lot; and
- N. E. Reihart & Sons, Smithfield Township, 14.60 acres, construction of a 54,000 square foot light industrial facility.



SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well-being of the County. The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2018, both existing and new, showed a 1.5% decrease from 1,342 in 2017 to 1,322 in 2018.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

For 2018, the Department used electrical permits reported by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (VREC), and new addresses issued by the County Mapping Department to estimate new permanent and seasonal housing within Huntingdon County.

Valley Rural Electric issued a total of 41 electrical permits in 18 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing, while the Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 41 addresses in 21 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing.

The table to the right illustrates the highest concentrations of new addresses and new electrical permits issued in 2018. The new-home data from these sources includes conventional, modular, and mobile homes. Data for building activity in all 48 municipalities is available in the Planning Department.

BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL

The Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 41 new addresses in 2018, nine for seasonal housing and 32 for permanent housing.

The highest total number of new seasonal addresses (two) were issued in both Penn and Todd

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY ADDRESSES	VREC ELECTRICAL PERMITS
Cass Township	0	2
Clay Township	2	0
Cromwell Township	2	3
Dublin Township	1	2
Franklin Township	1	0
Henderson Township	2	3
Hopewell Township	3	2
Huntingdon Borough	2	0
Jackson Township	1	2
Juniata Township	1	2
Miller Township	0	2
Morris Township	1	0
Penn Township	6	7
Porter Township	1	0
Saltillo Borough	1	0
Shirley Township	1	0
Springfield Township	0	2
Three Springs Borough	2	0
Todd Township	4	4
Union Township	1	0
Walker Township	4	2
Warriors Mark Township	2	0
West Township	1	3
Wood Township	2	0

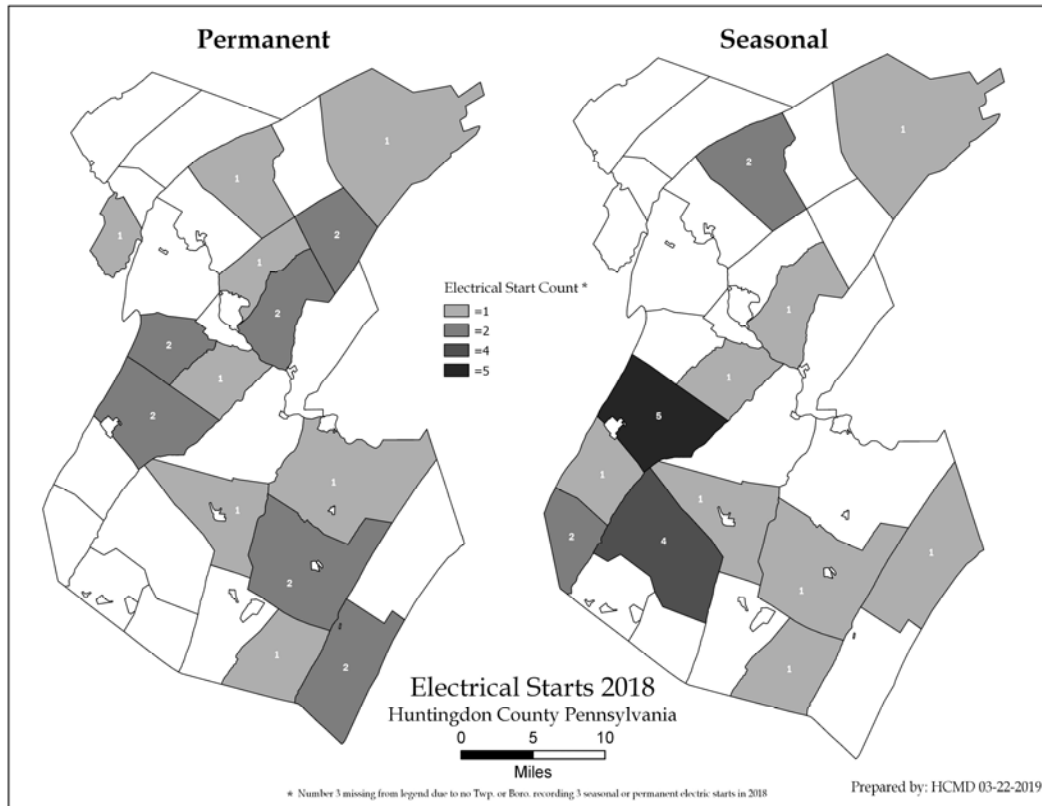
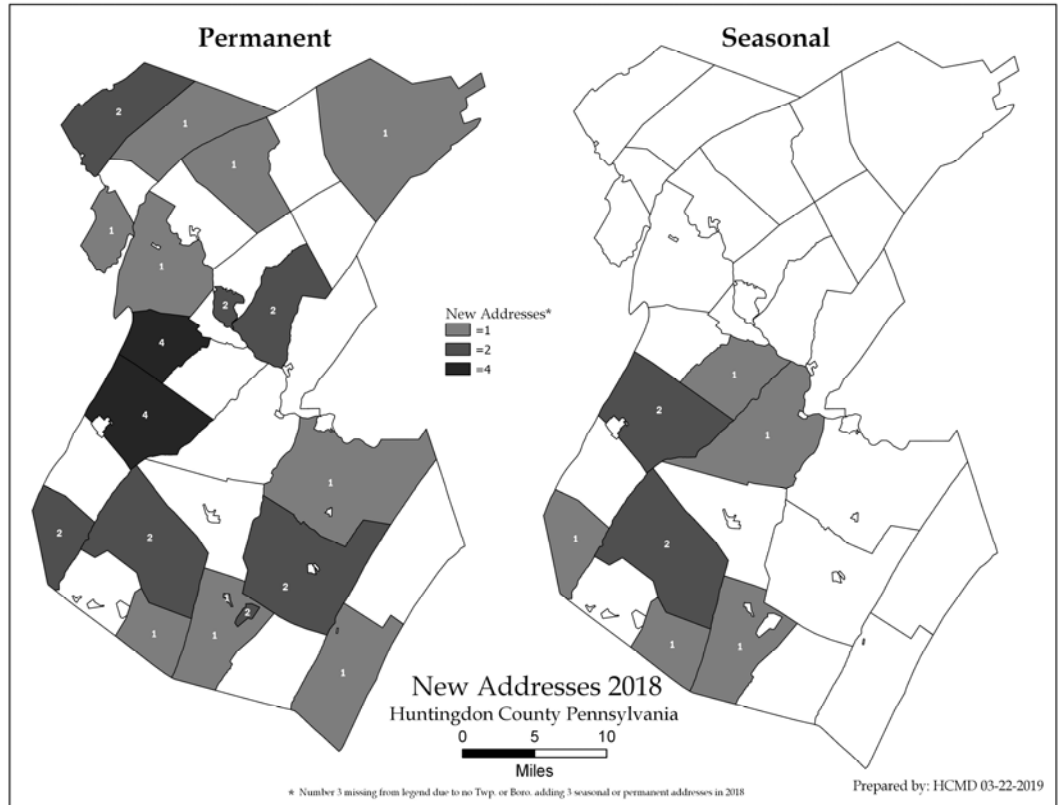
SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

Townships, while the highest number of new addresses for permanent housing (four) were issued in both Penn and Walker Townships. Overall, the highest number of new addresses (six), including seasonal and permanent housing, were issued in Penn Township.

Valley Rural Electrical Cooperative (VREC) issued 21 electrical permits for seasonal housing, including 13 conventional homes and eight mobile homes.

The highest number of electrical permits for seasonal conventional housing (three) were issued in Penn Township.

Six townships tied with two permits each for permanent housing: Cromwell, Dublin, Henderson, Miller, Penn and Walker. The most electrical permits, permanent and seasonal combined, were issued in Penn Township. Of the seven permits issued in Penn Township, two were for permanent conventional housing, three were for seasonal conventional housing and two were for seasonal mobile homes. In Todd Township, a total of four permits were issued, all for seasonal conventional housing.



A total of three permits each were issued in Cromwell, Henderson and West Townships:

- Cromwell Township - two for permanent conventional housing and one for seasonal conventional housing;
- Henderson Township - two for permanent conventional housing and one for a seasonal mobile home; and
- West Township - one for permanent conventional housing and two for seasonal mobile homes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department assists municipalities and non-profit organizations in meeting community development needs by applying for and administering various State and Federal grants, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program as well acting as the Responsibility Entity for Environmental Reviews.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

Huntingdon County CDBG implementation focused on three projects in 2018: Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority Water and Wastewater Plant Improvements; Mapleton Line Looping (water) and Spruce Creek Demolition. The Wood-Broad Top-Wells and Mapleton projects were funded through competitive CDBG contracts.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In addition to working on CDBG competitive and entitlement funded activities in 2018, Community Development staff submitted required annual and semi-annual reporting, responded to “desktop” financial monitoring reviews and environmental review and labor standards compliance monitorings. Staff also participated in a three-day on-site monitoring with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Grant Manager in July.

The FY 2018 CDBG Entitlement Application for Huntingdon County and on behalf of Huntingdon Borough and Smithfield Township was submitted to DCED on November 2nd. This \$453,576.00 application included \$243,119.00 for Huntingdon County, \$118,229.00 for Huntingdon Borough and \$92,228.00 for Smithfield Township.

HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT (HPG)

In August 2018, Community Development staff submitted an application for the maximum allowable amount of HPG funding. This \$50,000.00 was proposed for use as a Countywide Emergency Minor Housing Rehabilitation Program to address acute (minor) home repair needs of very low- to low-income homeowners located in Huntingdon County’s 48 municipalities.

Due to the demand of emergency rehabilitation funding, it is anticipated that this program will provide assistance for the most urgent needs, including cases that affect the health and safety of the homeowner and that are necessary to maintain habitability. Such needs include ADA barrier removal and accessibility, roof replacement, feasible repairs to the home’s mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, or other problems that threaten the health and safety of the residents.

In September 2018, David Corwin, USDA Housing Program Director, notified Huntingdon County Community Development Administrator Melody Mason that USDA had received additional funding and that Huntingdon County would be awarded more than the original \$50,000.00 maximum award. Huntingdon County’s total HPG award was \$71,718.23, or \$21,718.23 more than the \$50,000.00 requested in the application!

Program participants will be identified by referrals from the social service network in Huntingdon County, including agencies such as Weatherization, Inc., Center for Community Action, Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity, as well as “cold calls” with acute housing needs that are directly received by the Planning Department. It is anticipated that this program will begin mid-2019.

WOOD-BROAD TOP-WELLS JOINT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY (WBTWJMA)

In February 2016, a fully-executed \$750,000.00 Competitive CDBG contract was received for improvements at the Authority’s water and sewer plants. After the March 27, 2018 bid opening, it became apparent that additional funding was needed to complete the projects as the general construction and electrical low bids totaled \$1,249,554.00. In July 2018, after considerable Community Development staff effort, Huntingdon County received an amended Competitive CDBG contract totaling \$1,000,000.00.

Since Bedford County has contributed CDBG funding for this project, staff are coordinating with Bedford County staff to complete this project, which includes replacing DOS-based master control computer panels that control operation of the water and sewer treatment plants; installation of an emergency generator; removal of two existing blowers and installation of three upgraded blowers, blower motors, diffusers, variable frequency drives; and installation of other related equipment that will improve both water treatment and aeration of sewage for improved aerobic digestion.

Outlined below is the total CDBG funding for this project:

\$	750,000.00, 2014 Huntingdon County Competitive*
\$	250,000.00, Additional Competitive
\$	76,000.00, 2015 Huntingdon County Entitlement
\$	159,120.00, 2015 Bedford County Entitlement
\$	1,235,120.00, Total CDBG Funding
	*includes \$50,000.00 in administrative funding

It is anticipated that this project will be completed in early 2019.

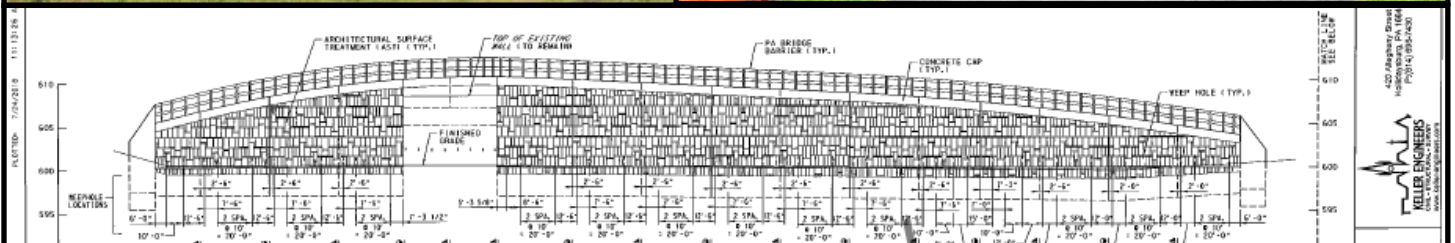
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

ONGOING REHABILITATION OF THE MOUNT UNION PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE CORRIDOR

In 2014, Borough Council received Competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-C) funding through the assistance of the County Planning Department to relocate water and sewer lines serving the 16 houses along Pennsylvania Avenue. Also funded were sub-surface investigation to determine the suitability of the installation of a new retaining wall and a new retaining wall design. The design was competitively won by Keller Engineers, the firm in which Brian Wisner has served as longtime Borough Engineer. Department staff have continued to seek the additional funding needed to completely rehabilitate the entire corridor, including the failing retaining wall that separates the road from the former Pennsylvania Railroad and East Broad Top Railroad line.

Simultaneously, the East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Association received a Greenways, Trails, Recreation Partnership (GTRP) grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to install the linear park along the railroad corridor.

Council desires to complete the Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Corridor as a multi-modal transportation hub in the heart of the downtown, linking the once disconnected school district and surrounding neighborhoods to the central business district on the southern side of the rail lines. The project design overcomes perceived conflicts between multiple modes of transportation by focusing on safety enhancements, while simultaneously allowing travelers to enjoy the celebration of movement between the various modes of transportation, including rail, motorized vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. Council approved working with the Planning Department to seek additional funding and authorized applications to both DCED and PennDOT for their Multimodal Transportation Funds (MTF), which require a 30% cash match. The match was a huge hurdle for the Borough to overcome. On February 1, 2019, Gov. Tom Wolf announced the award of \$1.2M from the PennDOT MTF. The Planning Department continues to seek the additional funding required to complete this \$2.5M project.



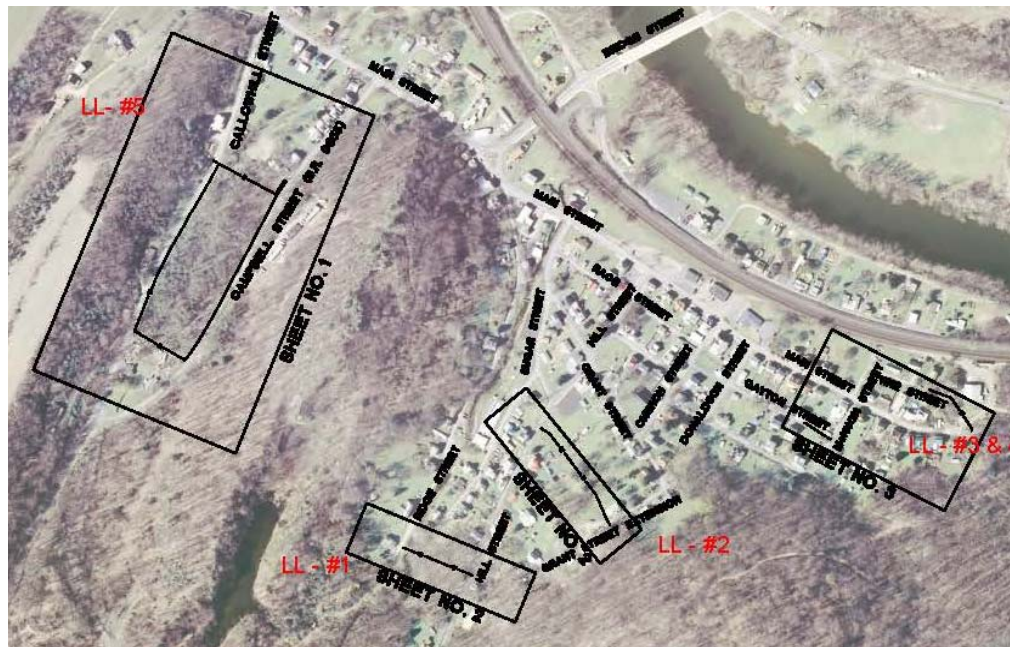
Above, in order: the failing retaining wall overgrown with weeds, the new linear park path, the preliminary design of one of two sections of retaining wall, a rendering of the wall, and a rendering of the future corridor.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

MAPLETON WATER TANK REHABILITATION AND LINE LOOPING

Mapleton Borough's antiquated water distribution system was constructed without forced water line loops due to funding limits. Water pressure forces water up "dead end" lines causing a number of problems. In 2014, a study was conducted on the system, and five locations were identified and listed in priority order for new line construction. These locations are Ridge to Hill Street, Hill to Grant Street, Vine to Main Street, Gayton to McHugh Street and Callowhill to Campbell Street.

In July 2018, Community Development staff met with several members of the Mapleton Authority, Ted Boozel, contractor/ Authority employee, and newly-assigned Gwin, Dobson & Foreman engineer, Garret Hargenrader, to discuss a new plan of action. Work on this \$406,790.00 project is anticipated to begin in March 2019 and wrap up in June 2019. Project funding includes Competitive and Entitlement CDBG funds and an Authority contribution.



THE HOME STORY: THE FINAL CHAPTER

The best method of overcoming obstacles is the team method. Without the full team in the Huntingdon County Planning Department, completion of this owner-occupied housing rehabilitation project in Broad Top City Borough would not have been possible.

After rehabilitation of the seventh and final house, Department staff closed-out this project in May 2018. The Story began in June 2014 when Huntingdon County was awarded a \$350,000 HOME Investment Partnership Program grant for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation of 12 homes in Broad Top City Borough. In conjunction with this HOME funding, the project also utilized \$23,000 in USDA Housing Preservation Grant funds.



After realizing that the initial project goal of rehabilitating twelve homes was not possible due to increased costs per house, Department staff set out to complete eight homes. This goal was in reach, and initial inspections had been conducted on all eight houses. Unfortunately, it was learned that one couple could no longer live in their home.

Ultimately, all grant funding was utilized on less than the goal of 12 homes due to unforeseen changes to administration of the State's Prevailing Wage law, which required payment of prevailing wages for rehabilitation projects. Additionally, several homes required larger budgets and more work to meet all code requirements.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS		
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2012 - Mapleton Area Sewer Plant Rehabilitation**	\$375,224
HOME Investment Partnership Program	2013 - Broad Top City Borough Housing Rehabilitation**	\$350,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2013 - Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Water & Sewer Relocation**/Wall Repair Pending	\$750,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2014 - Mapleton Water System Improvements	\$556,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2014 - Wood-Broad Top-Wells Water and Wastewater System Improvements*; Additional Funding Received July 2018	\$750,000 + \$250,000
Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant	2016 - Huntingdon County Courthouse Tower Phase II**; Amended November 2018 to include Courthouse Doors*	\$70,850
Housing Preservation Grant	2016 - Broad Top City Borough Housing Rehabilitation**	\$23,000
Housing Preservation Grant	2018 - Emergency Minor Housing Rehabilitation	\$71,718

ENTITLEMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS			
Activity	2014	2015	2016
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Stormwater	\$12,740	\$67,310	\$70,716
Smithfield Township Levee Rehabilitation**	57,173	2,238	0
Mapleton Water Line Looping* (Budget Revision To Be Submitted)	81,296	\$0	0
Petersburg Spot Blight	45,000	\$0	0
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Water Sewer Relocation	38,000	\$0	0
County Courthouse Accessibility**	26,000	\$0	0
Huntingdon Borough Sidewalk Rehabilitation	0	47,044	0
Huntingdon Borough Curb Cuts	0	40,000	0
Huntingdon Borough Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	0	0	63,000
Spruce Creek & Countywide Blight (Budget Revision To Be Submitted)	0	25,552	0
Wood-Broad Top-Wells Water/Sewer*	0	76,000	0
Mapleton Reservoir Upgrades (Budget Revision To Be Submitted)	0	47,000	0
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue (Budget Revision To Be Submitted)	0	40,000	0
Mapleton Sidewalk Replacement	0	0	50,000
Birmingham Water Line Replacement*	0	0	137,811
Total Budgeted	\$260,209	\$345,144	\$321,527
Activity	2017	2018	2019
Shirley Home Walk In Cooler/Freezer Combo	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
Todd Township Municipal Building ADA Accessibility Upgrades	50,000	0	0
Shade Gap Community Building Upgrade	84,000	0	0
Minor Home Rehabilitation (Countywide)	22,035	0	30,000
Huntingdon Borough Sidewalk Rehabilitation (Homeowner Occupied)	62,688	35,008	0
Huntingdon Borough Habitat for Humanity Demolition and Clearance	25,000	0	90,000
Standing Stone Senior Center Energy Efficient Improvements	0	61,940	0
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Sewer System, Phase 2	69,896	0	0
Smithfield Township Spot Blight	0	75,627	70,000
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - Hill Valley Sewer Improvement	0	87,000	0
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - W Water Street Waterline Replacement	0	60,000	0
Mapleton Reservoir Improvement Project	0	52,358	0
Municipal Water and Wastewater System Improvements	0	0	130,000
Countywide Spot Blight Remediation	0	0	30,000
Total Budgeted	\$343,619	\$371,933	\$350,000
* activity underway ** activity complete			

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) defines economic development as creat[ing] conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life by expanding the capacity of individuals, firms, and communities to maximize the use of their talents and skills to support innovation, lower transaction costs, and responsibly produce and trade valuable goods and services. Economic Development requires effective, collaborative institutions focused on advancing mutual gain for the public and the private sector. Economic Development is essential to ensuring our economic future. The role of the Department is to positively influence economic development policy and promote professional communication among members of key partners.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS (PEP)

The County Commissioners established the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) in 2000. This group has been meeting bi-monthly or quarterly over the past few years with the vision of “improv[ing] the economic health and the quality of life of Huntingdon County residents by fostering and enhancing community education and innovation, agency communication and coordination and promotion of a positive image of the County.”

To implement this vision, the group works toward a common strategic plan, which has been updated several times over the past 20 years. The most recent Strategic Plan was adopted on May 9, 2017. PEP members work together to strive to achieve the group’s vision as a collative desire to improve the economic condition for the entire County. The 2017 Strategic Plan consisted of five key Strategic Priorities, each having three goals that are consistent with the Southern Alleghenies Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The five priorities and their corresponding CEDS references are:

Supply Chain: Support Existing Businesses by Promoting Crossover Businesses

- a. Assist the State Correctional Institutes with Locally Supplied Services [none]
- b. Identify Existing Businesses Supplied Goods/Services to Target Locally Sourced Businesses [1.A (partial); 4.B.2]
- c. Promote Full Range of Agricultural Products, such as Value-Added, Farm-to-Table, and Agritourism [4.A; 4.B]

Business Development: Assist Businesses by Providing a Host of Services

- a. Explore, Develop and Offer a Host of Capital Available for Entrepreneurs and Expanding Businesses [1.B.2]
- b. Explore, Develop and Offer Tax Incentives for Businesses (KOZ, LERTA, etc.) [1.A.4(partial)]
- c. Promote the Development of Professional and Family Housing [3.D.1]

Infrastructure: Promote 21st Century Infrastructure Provided to Businesses

- a. Work with Telecommunications Companies to Expand Cell Phone and High Speed Internet Services [2.A]
- b. Lobby for Roadway Improvements [2.B]
- c. Reactivate, Promote, and Utilize Rail Service for Distribution of Goods to Market [none]

Workforce Development: Attract, Retain, and Educate the Workforce

- a. Work with Educational Institutes to Provide Degrees and Credentialing in Areas of Businesses’ Needs [3.E.1]
- b. Analyze Desires of Youth to Provide a Desirable Place to Live, Work, and Play [3.A; 3.B]
- c. Develop a High School Graduates Network to Promote Area to Alumni [3.C]

Marketing: Market the County to Employers, Investors, and Employees

- a. Develop and Utilize Targeted Marketing Campaigns for Business Developers, Future Workforce, Visitors, and Local Residents [3.A(partial)]
- b. Improve the Image and Identity of the Community in the Local and Regional Media [1.C(partial)]
- c. Market Properties and Buildings Available for Business Development [1.B.3(partial)]

Members of PEP appointed a chairperson for each key goal to report on the progress of each goal at the group’s quarterly meetings. The group collectively acknowledged that, while each individual and the organization they represent have their own respective tasks promoting the economic vitality of the County, it is only by working together that these large strategic priorities can be implemented to achieve the desired vision. PEP will continue to meet quarterly in 2019 with the intention of implementing each goal.

PEP MARKETING

One long-standing committee of PEP is the Marketing Committee. Since one large strategic priority is marketing, the PEP Marketing Committee is engaged in marketing the County and its economic possibilities. One project that the Committee successfully completed in 2018

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

was the creation of several videos via a partnership with CGI Communications. The Committee drafted scripts and a video shooting schedule to build the following videos: Welcome, Live Here, Work Here, Play Here, Grow Here, and Learn Here. Each video specifically highlights the quality of life issues associated with specific user groups. The key was that each video would speak to a certain kind of individual that could be envisioned working, playing, or living in Huntingdon County.

The video project culminated in a reveal party on July 17, 2018, where each video was presented to the public for the first time. These videos are available on the County's webpage at www.huntingdoncounty.net. The Marketing Committee's 2019 project will be development of a media kit based on each of the five main videos.



ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

Part of the Juniata River Blueprint Communities (JRBC) Five-Year Strategy included focusing on Business Development, with a primarily entrepreneurial focus. Planning Director Colussy worked with HCBI and the JRBC Core Team members to develop a program called Entrepreneurial Communities. While the original Entrepreneurial Communities concept had initially been established by Bill Shuffstall, of the Penn State University Extension Office, the project never fully realized what this would mean for the communities. Considering that economies do not work on the local level, the Entrepreneurial Communities project was better suited for a countywide effort. One of the major tenets of the program is to create a group of already established entrepreneurs to provide feedback on what services,

opportunities, and assistance are and are not available to a new business. Having this pool of entrepreneurs from across Huntingdon County meant that the group could be filled with large to small employers, very successful to brand new business owners, and mature to fledgling business representation. By establishing a baseline of what is and is not available from multiple perspectives, the community could establish whether or not it was entrepreneurial-friendly. The Entrepreneurial Communities project was originally established in 2015, but the project lost steam after a staff turnover at HCBI. Colussy tried to resurrect the program by seeking a new partner, Terry Anderson at the Juniata College Sill Business Incubator. Shortly after Colussy and Anderson developed a plan to re-engage the entrepreneurs, HCBI hired Bob Reitman as their new Executive Director. Reitman was swiftly brought up to speed on the new

program, and he quickly established himself as a key contributor in the re-establishment of the Entrepreneurial Communities program.

Colussy, Reitman, and Anderson reached out to Don Macke of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, based in Oklahoma. Interestingly, it was Macke who had provided Shuffstall with some development of the Pennsylvania version of the Entrepreneurial Communities Program. After setting up a conference call between Anderson, Reitman, Colussy, Macke and Judy Chamber with PSU Extension, a plan of action was developed by which Anderson, Reitman and Colussy would work together with local entrepreneurs to gather some of the needed data. Chambers would facilitate some meetings and workshops, and Macke would conduct some deeper economic data analysis for the area. The PSU Extension Office

and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship sent a formal proposal, funding for which was being contemplated in 2017. Funding for the Program continues to be sought. Throughout 2018, Colussy, Reitman, and Anderson met several times to consider what key tasks could still be carried out without additional funding to pay for the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship analysis and data. This three-man team developed a strategy that could be implemented with local facilitation, as long as some initial seed capital was generated to conduct at least the first phase of economic analysis. Funding options continue to be explored with the hope of implementation in 2019.

JACK'S NARROWS RIVER ACCESS GRAND OPENING

An action-packed celebration was held for the Grand Opening of two community river access projects that opened convenient public launch areas to a historic portion of the Juniata River in Huntingdon County. This

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

three-day event, from June 8th to June 10th, was held along the river banks of Mount Union and Mapleton. The weekend-long festivities included free camping at Mapleton's Riverside Park, live music, history and skills clinics, free shuttle service to and from the Mapleton Riverside Park and the Mount Union Riverside Park. The shuttle was a



convenient way for paddlers and floaters to enjoy the river throughout the weekend event. People were able to use the shuttle as many times as they wanted, and they had an opportunity to test new gear at a Paddle Sports Expo area at Mount Union's Riverside Park. The first 200 attendees received a commemorative patch and a waterproof map for the event.

The two launches bookend the deepest gorge in Pennsylvania, known locally as Jack's Narrows, where the Juniata River cuts a gap in Jack's Mountain. The peak of Jack's Mountain on the south side of the gorge is just over 2,120 feet in elevation, and, 2.9 miles away on the north of the gorge, the peak is just over 2,320 feet. The surface of the Juniata River drops from 566 feet above sea level at Mapleton to 545 feet above sea level 3.3 miles downstream at Mount Union. This makes the gorge nearly one-third of a mile deep!

The two community-owned launches provide access to Jack's Narrows for paddle sports, fishing and leisurely inner-tube floating. The facilities and

distance between them make this the first and best recommendation for inner-tube floating in Huntingdon County, and, perhaps the entire Juniata River watershed, as State-owned launch facilities prohibit inner-tube access.

This stretch of the Juniata River is gentle and easily navigated by paddlers of all experience levels. The Jack's Narrows corridor also features the well-known Thousand Steps section of the Standing Stone Trail, which boasts a 1,200 rough stone staircase built by employees to access quarrying areas atop the mountain. This iconic area features great scenic views of the river gorge. The Standing Stone Trail is an 80-mile trail that traverses ridgetops with scenic views throughout.

The communities of Mapleton and Mount Union plan to build upon this Grand Opening weekend with an annual riverfest highlighting the area's great access to this beautiful, scenic and adventure-laden area.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH (SAEG)

The Strategic Alliance for Economic Growth (SAEG) is a collaborative group consisting of staff from the Juniata College Sill Incubator and Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (Terry Anderson), the Chamber of Commerce, (Yvonne Martin), Huntingdon County Business and Industry (Bob Reitman), the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau (Matt Price), and the County Planning Commission (Mark Colussy). While the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) had looked for ways to implement their newly-adopted Strategic Plan, the various members of the SAEG agreed that they should be a key implementation wing of PEP.

The SAEG members meet monthly to discuss collaboration opportunities and ways to move economic progress forward in Huntingdon County. The group had previously developed its own set of goals, but, beginning in 2017, the SAEG aligned its goals with PEP.

In 2019, the SAEG will meet quarterly to match the PEP meeting schedule.



EDUCATION

It is a goal of the Planning Commission to provide information to the public concerning planning and development issues as well as local trends in growth and development. The various methods listed below are ways in which department staff fulfill this responsibility.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2018, the Planning and Development Department published the *2017 HCPC Annual Report* and uploaded the *Alleghenies Ahead Shared Strategies for a Stronger Region Comprehensive Plan* to the Huntingdon County website.

HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Department staff continued to maintain the web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Most of the inquiries that the Department received were regarding municipal contacts and ordinances, floodplain data, and grant availability. Most of these requests came from municipal officials, realtors, engineers, residents of Huntingdon County, and those interested in relocating to Huntingdon County.

PUBLIC SPEAKING - UPDATE

Planning Director Mark Colussy was invited to present information on the new Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan, *Alleghenies Ahead*, to several groups including the Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee and Board of Directors, the Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, the HCBI Board of Directors, the HCBI Business Development and Economic Infrastructure Committees, the Council of Governments, the Township Association, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Rotary Club.

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, distributed recycling information at the Huntingdon County Fair and Huntingdon Borough's Mayfest, and she presented information at area schools and senior centers.

PMPEI COURSE IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

Mark Colussy was previously certified in two different courses by the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI): the Course in Community Planning and the Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review. This certification allows him to co-teach either course, which is desirable for providing training to Huntingdon County and municipal planning commissioners, especially since he had told all the

newer members of the County Planning Commission that he would seek training opportunities for them. In 2018, Colussy successfully coordinated co-sponsorship of the Course in Community Planning with Huntingdon County and the Council of Governments (COG). This training was held on April 18th, 23rd, and 25th.

The Course in Community Planning covers five main teaching units over 10 hours of in-depth training.



These five units include: the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), planning agencies, comprehensive plan, plan implementation, and an effective planning commission. Colussy co-taught the course with longtime instructor Stan Lembeck. Colussy will be working with PMPEI to conduct the Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review in 2019.

SCOUT CIVIC DAY

In 2017, the Boy and Girl Scouts reactivated Civic Day with the County. The Scouts again celebrated Civic Day on June 12, 2018, with the intent of learning about the functions and services of multiple Huntingdon County government offices. The event was almost identical to the 2017 event, during which scouts participated in a guided tour of the multiple offices that take part in implementing a subdivision plan from paper to reality.

Highlighting all Huntingdon County departments and their part in the process, the tour led the scouts to the Recorder of Deeds office to discuss the recording of plans and the deed process; to the Prothonotary's office to look into liens; to the Planning and Development Department to discuss

EDUCATION (cont...)

the Planning Commission review and municipal approval process; to the Tax Assessment Office to look at assessed values and taxes; to the Treasurer and Tax Claim office to learn about back taxes; and to the Mapping Department to discuss the Geographic Information System (GIS) and 9-1-1 addressing.

LEADERSHIP HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Upon graduating from Leadership Huntingdon County, Mark Colussy volunteered to serve on the organization's Steering Committee. In this role, he was able to volunteer to organize and teach the Municipal Planning and Infrastructure Course. This course, held on November 8, 2018, featured Councilwoman and Chair Carol Kuklo and Councilman Gary Kuklo speaking to the class regarding the role of municipal government in Pennsylvania. Colussy was also able to teach about the Pennsylvania Constitution, various forms of local government units, some local government statistics, information from the new Comprehensive Plan *Alleghenies Ahead*, the value and role of planning, the need for local volunteerism, and infrastructure planning.

Leadership Huntingdon County not only provides leadership training, it also provides networking opportunities and emphasizes community volunteerism.

HUNTINGDON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM UPDATE

Starting in 2017, Mark Colussy worked with the Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) teachers from the Huntingdon Area Middle School (HAMS). Colussy was again invited in 2018 to present to the entire sixth grade class on a project that included designing a man-made island (or key). His role was to assist the students with developing a decision-making framework based on design, need, and specific career aspirations for each learner.

Colussy teamed up with Bob Reitman of HCBI and Terry Anderson of JCEL to present to the HAMS students over a three-day span that included February 16th, 20th, and 22nd. Their task was to challenge the students to think about all the infrastructure planning and economic development aspects needed to create a successful island, how it relates to each student's own career aspirations and how that interrelates to the world economy.

After Colussy, Reitman, and Anderson made their presentations to the class, the students were then assigned a project in their STEM classes to build a physical model of their engineered and designed islands, and produce a marketing video to entice would-be visitors or residents to their island. The students were able to film themselves in front of a make-shift "green screen" in the school hallway (see below). It was important for the Colussy, Anderson and Reitman team to stress to the students the significance of thinking about location when they seek their own careers, and how that may relate to Huntingdon County's economy.

Colussy specifically let the students ponder whether or not they could live and work in Huntingdon County with a slight shift in how they perceive job availability in the area. Entrepreneurial skills and training will be vital for preparing local students to adapt their career aspirations into a local business or telecommuting possibility.



MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities and agencies upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning, and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant applications; requests for proposals for professional services and various planning studies.

INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Department staff worked directly with the following municipalities in 2018:

Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended Community Development Committee and Safety Committee meetings to discuss the Active Transportation Committee's (ATC) sidewalk lighting and designated bike lane projects.

Mount Union Borough

Staff attended meetings to discuss the Pennsylvania Avenue Project and Multimodal Transportation Fund grant dollars.

Smithfield Township

Staff attended meetings with Township staff and Supervisors to discuss CDBG projects.

Todd Township

Staff attended a meeting to discuss the Township Building Renovation project utilizing CDBG dollars.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

Since December 1997, Planning Department staff have worked with the Huntingdon County Housing Authority (HCHA) to complete the required Environmental Review Reports (ERRs) needed for modernizations and improvements to the five facilities owned by the HCHA. These ERRs must be complete before the HCHA can receive money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A revised agreement was signed in September 2017.

In 2018, Melody Mason completed the following ERRs:

- FY 2017 - 2021 Capital Improvement Program for Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village and Taylor Apartments;
- Capital Fund Program for Crawford Apartments; and
- Operating Subsidy Funds Program for Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village, Taylor Apartments and Crawford Apartments.

ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

One provision of Act 13 that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)), which allows each county in the commonwealth to receive a share of the Marcellus Shale drilling impact fee based upon county population. These funds are intended for "the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification projects, community and heritage parks and water resource management. Funds may be used to acquire lands for recreational or conservation purposes and land damaged or prone to drainage by storms or flooding."

Since September 3, 2013, the Huntingdon County Commissioners have made a total of \$30,000.00 available each year, with a maximum award of \$10,000.00 per project. The Huntingdon County Planning Commission accepts and reviews applications, and makes recommendations to the Huntingdon County Commissioners.

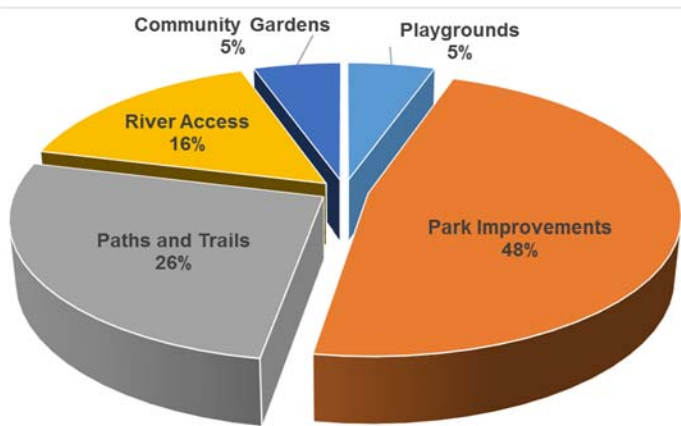
In 2018, three applications totaling \$29,900.00 were received and reviewed by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission. Recommendations were forwarded to the Huntingdon County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$28,000.00:

- \$8,500.00 to construct a pavilion at Mount Union Borough's Diven Park;
- \$10,000.00 for Phase Two of the Blairs Mills Sportsman's Association Renovation Project in Tell Township; and
- \$9,500.00 for boat launch improvement at Mapleton Borough's Riverside Park.

Of the \$145,345.53 approved for eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$94,907.36 was spent by the end of 2018 - \$89,578.01 for project costs and \$5,329.35 for program administration.

The 19 projects that have been awarded funding are located in Alexandria, Broad Top City, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mapleton, Mount Union and Shirleysburg Boroughs; and in Morris, Porter, Shirley, Smithfield, Tell and Walker Townships. A chart showing the distribution of Act 13 funds is on page 15.

MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)



2013 - 2018 Huntingdon County
Distribution of Act 13 Legacy Funds

FIRM AND DEVELOPMENT PERMIT ORDINANCE UPDATE *by Leslie Rhodes, PA Municipal League*

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was originally established by Congress in 1968 in an effort to provide affordable (subsidized) federally backed flood insurance to property owners. Many of our communities were established near fresh water out of necessity. With modern water supply and sewer systems proximity is no longer required for access to clean water. Unfortunately, affordable insurance resulted in continued appeal to settle near watercourses. The actual risk to property is much greater than the premiums being paid, and, as of 2018, the NFIP is \$20,525,000,000 in debt. Legislation has made attempts to rectify this issue. In 2012 Biggert-Waters was passed, which eliminated subsidies for second homes, business properties, severe repetitive loss, and substantially improved/damaged properties. Rates were to increase 25% per year until at full actuarial cost. New policies were to start at actuarial rates. This caused drastic economic harm and outrage from citizens across the country. In an effort to appease property owners, the Affordability Act was passed in 2014 which did not stop the transition to actuarial

rates but temporarily slowed it down. The rate increases created an ideal environment to promote higher standards in floodplain ordinances because investment in these areas was no longer going to be profitable for those that could afford it, and impoverishing for those that could not.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partners with other groups and communities through the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program to identify flood hazards, assess risks, and provide data through Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS). This data becomes the basis for floodplain management at the local level (statutory authorization given by the passage of the Floodplain Management Act of 1978).

In 2002, FEMA changed its mapping process and began digitization of paper maps. Whenever there is a map update, any community affected by such updates must also review and update their floodplain ordinance to ensure continued compliance with the NFIP. There are a number of steps to take before a new map (FIRM) becomes effective, such as: scoping and map production, community review period, community meeting, and sending the Letter of Final Determination (LFD). The LFD provides notice that the new maps have been finalized and will go effective exactly six months from the date on the letter.

On November 2, 2017, the LFD was sent out to five Huntingdon County communities: Birmingham Borough, Franklin Township, Morris Township, Spring Creek Township and Warriors Mark Township. Lincoln Township, Shade Gap Borough, Broad Top City Borough and Cassville Borough were the only communities that do not have any Identified Special Flood Hazard Areas and were not required to adopt. Lincoln and Shade Gap are the only Huntingdon County communities not currently participating in the NFIP. The remaining communities, while unaffected by the latest map update, were required to have their ordinances reviewed and updated if found to be non-compliant. To assist the municipalities through the ordinance update, DCED hired Leslie Rhodes, with the PA Municipal League, to help. Planning Director Mark Colussy then reached out to Rhodes to assist with municipal outreach. All participating NFIP municipalities in the County were invited to an in-person workshop that was hosted by the Planning and Development Department on February 26, 2018 in the Bailey Building. Additionally, there were



MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)

recorded webinars available to educate communities about the ordinance update process as well as the NFIP and PA Act 166 requirements necessary for compliance and provided for in the PA model ordinance. New maps became effective on May 2, 2018. All but one community complied. Alexandria Borough started the process and was given a final approved draft ordinance to adopt, but has not adopted the ordinance to date. DCED, PEMA and FEMA are currently working with them to come into compliance and avoid suspension from the NFIP.

JUNIATA RIVER BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES (JRBC) UPDATE

The JRBC adopted a Five-Year Strategy based on comprehensive input from several public meetings held throughout the Mapleton, Mount Union, and Shirley Township area. Due to such a wide array of needs and ideas presented, the five-year strategy was bold and wide-reaching. The JRBC Core Team of facilitators continued to meet and take action on the five year strategy throughout 2018 by holding six coordination meetings.

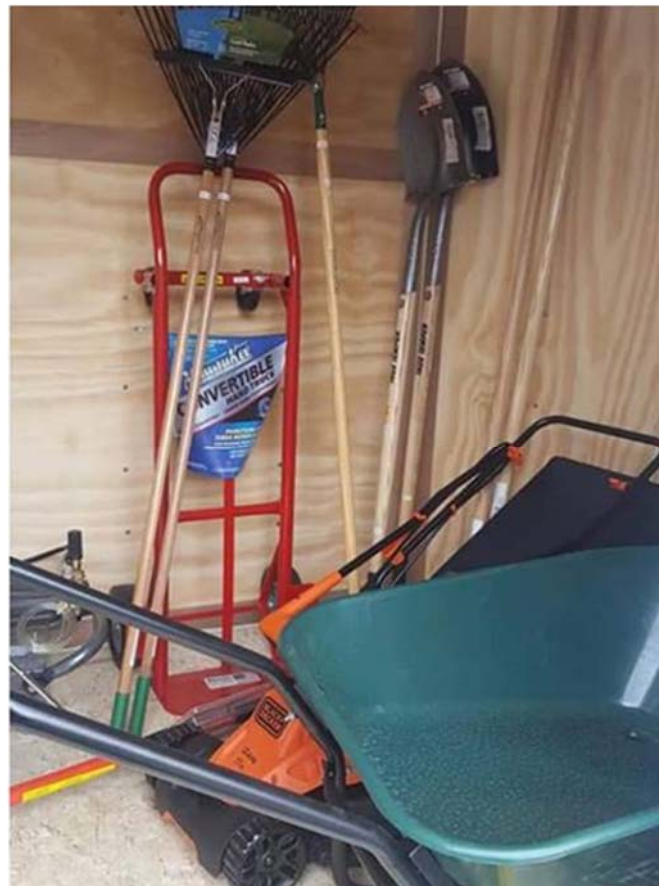
One of the major items undertaken in the Core Team meetings was the analysis and update of the five year strategy, which was provided to the Pennsylvania Downtown Center and the Federal Home Loan Bank, who facilitated the Blueprint Communities program for the State.

After reviewing all the projects and their current status, the Core Team hosted a May 21, 2018 public meeting at the Mount Union High School to highlight all the projects that had taken place since the last public meeting in February of 2017. At this 2018 meeting, the public were updated on the following projects and associated team leaders:

- Community Tool Shed
(Wendy Melius, Rachael Steinbach, Mike Dimoff)
- Capacity Building Grant
(Wendy Melius, Rachael Steinbach)
- Community Informational Signage
(Rick Rogers)
- Farmer's Market
(Tiffany Crouse, Laura White)
- Adopt-a-Park
(Jerry Dunkle)
- Jack's Narrows River Access Grand Opening
(Jane Sheffield, Matt Price)
- Pennsylvania Avenue & Linear Park
(Mark Colussy)

- Mount Union Riverwalk
(Jeremy Crouse)
- 9/11 National Memorial Trail/Mainline Canal
(Mark Colussy, Jane Sheffield)
- Mapleton Water and Sewer Infrastructure
(Mark Colussy, Bruce Richards)
- Entrepreneurial Communities
(Mark Colussy, Bob Reitman)

As projects shifted from the planning stage to the action stage, more and more local residents took charge to help implement projects. This new momentum helped propel additional action throughout the rest of the year. The Core Team plans to hold a public forum on January 28, 2019 to update the public on progress made throughout 2018 and to introduce a partnership with the new Art Guild, the Mount Union Area Partnership, and the Heart of Mount Union. This new partnership will host the collaborative town hall to receive community input on projects planned throughout the new year. For the JRBC, 2019 is slated to be yet another action-packed year, with the Core Team continuing to encourage additional people to become involved.



Some of the items available in the Community Tool Shed

COUNTY ASSISTANCE

Many Department activities are countywide in nature and benefit all municipalities equally while other activities assist the Huntingdon County Commissioners in non-planning areas.

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, provides educational programs for all Huntingdon County schools and major events that occur within Huntingdon County.

During 2018, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 901 Planning Grant and Household Hazardous Waste Grant, a 902 Grant for new recycling equipment, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2017 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon Counties Recycling Program.



The Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon County Drop-Off Recycling Program marketed 1,212.57 tons of recyclables. Huntingdon County Drop Off sites collected 657.61 tons equaling 54.2% of the total, while Bedford County sites collected 381.07 tons and Fulton County sites collected 276.08 tons. The Huntingdon County Voluntary Curbside Recycling Program collected 271.75 tons.

The seven recycling drop-off locations in Huntingdon County include:

- Oneida Township Building;
- Stone Valley Community Charter School, Jackson Township;
- James Creek Post Office, Marklesburg;
- Park's Garbage Service, Shirley Township;
- Fairgrounds Road, Smithfield Township;
- Porter Township Building; and
- Wood Mizer, Shade Gap

Although no Household Hazardous Waste collections were scheduled for 2018, special electronics recycling events were held at the County Fairgrounds on May 19th, July 28th, September 22nd and October 20th. These four events resulted in the collection of 124,565 pounds or 62.28 tons of electronic waste.

Electronic items collected free of charge included: desktops, laptops, notebooks, servers and tablets; monitors, televisions; computer peripherals; CD/DVD/Blu-ray ROM/burners, scanners, wireless routers/switches/modems, external tape, optical and hard disc drives; and printers. Items collected for a

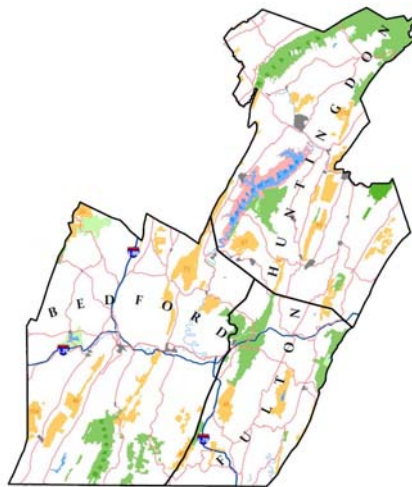
\$0.30 charge per pound included: VCR's, DVD and Blu-ray players; stereo equipment; digital cameras and camcorders; telephones, cell phones, PDA's, smart phones and MP3 players; all electronic cables; video games and consoles/controllers; and uninterruptible power supply/battery back-ups.

The Recycling Coordinator continued to be an active member of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP), serving on their Educational Committee. She was also an active member of the South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful. Although Lou Ann Shontz retired from County employment at the end of 2018, the County Recycling Program will continue. Plans for 2019 include hiring a Recycling Coordinator, holding four electronics recycling events and obtaining funding to retain the seven recycling drop-off locations.

SOLID WASTE PLAN UPDATE

Every ten years, counties are required to update their solid waste management plans, as outlined in Act 101 of 1988 and Act 97 of 2018.

Huntingdon County works with Bedford and Fulton Counties as part of the South-Central Counties Solid Waste Agency (SCSWA). These three counties plan to update their solid management plan together.



The current Plan, adopted in 2010, incorporates capacity agreements with several landfills. These agreements are slated to expire in September 2019. The SCSWA set up a meeting with DEP staff to discuss updating the plan and filing for a 901 Grant to help pay for a consultant to assist the counties in the update process. On April 20, 2018, the SCSWA sent a

Request for Information (RFI) to several consulting firms. Three firms replied and were scheduled for interviews on August 3, 2018. The leading consultant, Barton & Loguidice, came in for a second interview on September 6, 2018, and was authorized to proceed at the September 10, 2018 SCSWA meeting. It is anticipated that work on the Solid Waste Plan will take place through 2020.

COUNTY ASSISTANCE (cont...)

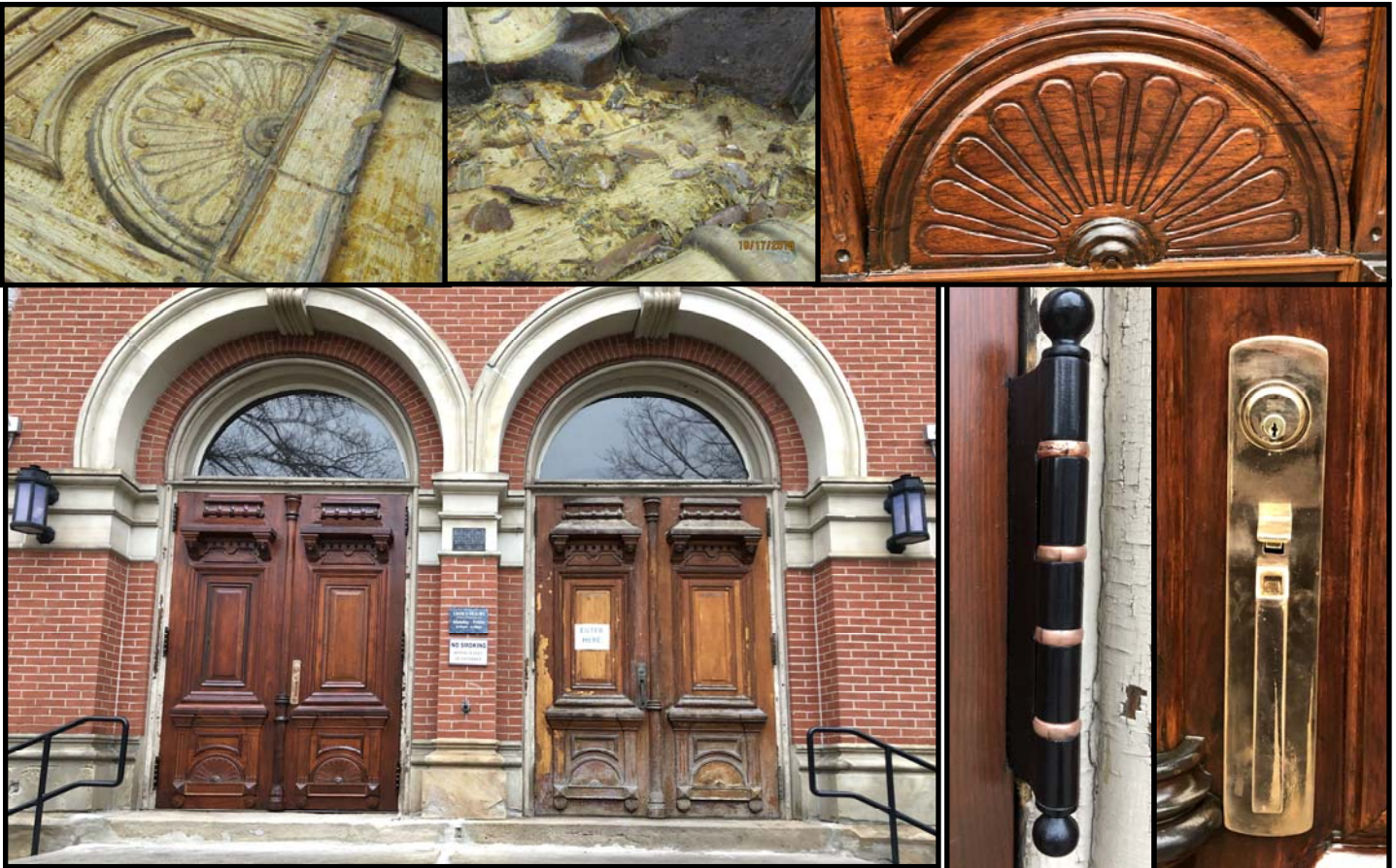
COURTHOUSE TOWER PRESERVATION PROJECT: PHASE II

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) provided a fully-executed Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Contract in the amount of \$70,850 in October 2016. The Huntingdon County Commissioners matched this amount equally to fund Phase II of the clocktower construction work to a maximum of \$141,700.

Phase II work included preservation carpentry and painting of the exterior of the entire tower, except for the top, bell level, which was completed in 2016 along with minor interior structural repairs. The color scheme for paint matched that used for the bell level. This scheme was selected in 2016 in consultation with the architect Ted Strosser, the Huntingdon County Historical Society, and the PHMC.

The contract was awarded to C&D Waterproofing Corp. at their bid price of \$129,110, which fell within the project budget. Although work under this 90-day contract was anticipated to begin in August 2017 and be completed by November 1, 2017, several delays occurred that did not allow completion of the painting before the temperature dropped below the manufacturer's recommended minimum application temperature. A no-cost change order extending the timeframe for completion until May 1, 2018 was approved in December 2017. The contractor re-mobilized in April of 2018 and completed work in May of 2018, with the final inspection completed on May 11, 2018. Due to the weight of the vertical access lift, the sidewalks in front of the Courthouse were cracked and repaired by the contractor.

After paying C&D and Strosser their full amounts, there was a balance remaining in the total project budget. On September 25, 2018, PHMC authorized a one-year time extension to utilize the balance of the grant funds for repairing the front doors to the Courthouse. The Commissioners approved a contract with Pennsylvania Correctional Industries (PCI) in the amount of \$9,654.77 to completely refurbish both sets of double doors and to apply a high quality marine grade varnish to the exterior. Since the front doors of the Courthouse are exposed to direct sunlight and weather, it is anticipated that the higher quality finish will allow the doors to resist weathering much longer than in the past. County Maintenance Director, Dave Wagman delivered the first set of doors to SCI Rockview in October of 2018. This set was completed and re-hung on December 30, 2018. The second set of doors were delivered to SCI Rockview with the intent of completion in March of 2019. Not only were the original doors completely stripped down to the raw wood further detailed work refurbished all of the hardware (see below).



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The comprehensive plan has been the cornerstone of American planning theory and practice since the early 1900s. Pennsylvania law requires counties to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan. It contains the basic policies that will guide the future growth and development of the community. The plan is of a general nature, long-range in outlook, and includes all factors affecting growth and development. The comprehensive plan serves three principal functions: 1. it is a statement of goals, a listing of objectives, and a vision of what could be; 2. it is an educational tool, helping everyone who uses it understand the conditions, problems, and opportunities of the community through the provision of factual information; and 3. it serves as a guide to public and private decision-making, thus, shaping the future of the community.

A comprehensive plan by itself is not a solution to all the problems and concerns of a community. The value of a well-prepared plan is derived from the process of preparing the plan and the implementation of the plan after it is prepared. The plan should focus attention on the major issues and concerns of a community and establish a basis for debate, discussion, and conflict resolution. The plan should never be regarded as a finished project, to be completed every ten years or so, but as a community-based planning process.

Continuity Through Conservation II, The Plan is Huntingdon County's blueprint for the future, detailing the vision, goals, objectives, policies and plans for the next twenty years. It is our goal that Huntingdon County achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small-town living. The Plan, developed between 1996 and 2015 by a team of consultants and the staff of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department, is made up of the following documents:

- *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan, 1996*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Part I, Background Studies, 1997*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Background Studies Supplement, 1999*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Part II, The Plan, 2000*
- *Huntingdon County Intergovernmental Action Plan, 2001*
- *A Comprehensive Economic Analysis for Huntingdon County, 2003*
- *Huntingdon County Natural Heritage Inventory, 2004*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, 2007 Supplement*
- *Infrastructure Investment Strategy and Water Supply Plan, 2007*
- *Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Plan, 2007*
- *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan, 2015*

ALLEGHENIES AHEAD

The six counties in the Southern Alleghenies Region, Cambria, Somerset, Blair, Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon, began a multi-county Comprehensive Plan update in 2016. The Plan was developed through several Steering Committee Meetings, an online survey, public outreach sessions, and key stakeholder interviews throughout 2017. Plan development was assisted with the professional help of Charles Buki and Pete Lombardi of czb, LLC from Alexandria, VA, and Matt Ingalls of Ingalls Design.

The Southern Alleghenies Region is truly a trail-blazer with regards to this innovative regional approach. From the very beginning of the project, the planning directors from each county, who meet regularly with the SAPDC staff at Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, sought to not only update the Plan data and query the public for their priorities, but to also focus on developing an action strategy that is both realistic and visionary, and also fundamentally *implementable*.

Each of the six counties formed a steering committee that met every six weeks for a little over a year, from December 2016 through March 2018. The consulting team developed take-home assignments called "Kitchen Table Conversations" as outlines for each committee member to discuss critical planning ideas with their friends, families, colleagues, and anyone else they had an opportunity to meet with to gain a more intimate, grassroots-style data collection method.

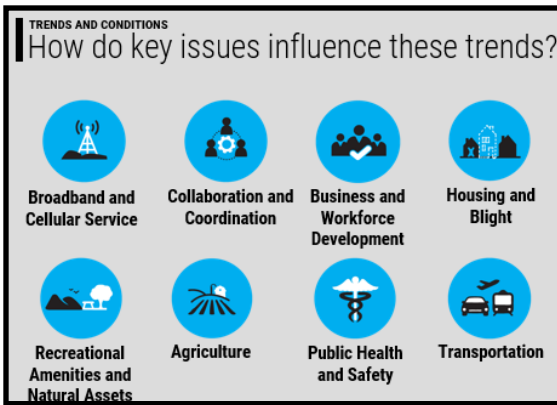
Simultaneously, a public survey was developed and promoted to seek additional feedback and input. More traditional public open houses were held throughout the Region at the end of May 2017 to inform the community of the Plan update process and to seek initial feedback on the data that had been collected to that point.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (cont...)


While doing research and data collection, the czb consulting team found a pretty stark reality: the Region is approaching a demographic cliff. The median age of residents throughout the Region had risen an average of six years over the past 15 years, which means the Region is aging much faster than the rest of the nation. Not only that, but the natural population change in the Region resulted in 6,500 more deaths than births since 2010. Also, the percent change in the civilian labor force between the age of 25 to 54, largely considered the “workforce” of the population, had decreased anywhere from 8 to 18% in the Region.

In order to make an impact on this stark reality, or any issue identified through the Plan update process, a set of core values and planning principals would need to be shaped to move the Region



forward. Through the process, each of the six counties identified the same eight key issues that would shape the rest of the planning process (see graphic above).

Once the key issues were identified, each county sought to prioritize each issue. Since there is such a regional aspect to broadband and cell service, coordination and capacity, and business development concerns, those issues were discussed to be approached regionally. The Steering Committee discussed and vetted the following additional county specific priorities: housing choices and blight remediation, business and workforce development, and recreational and cultural assets and amenities. In order to create an implementable plan, each priority had to be made complete by identifying if the outcome would be considered successful if finished, as well as the inputs and outputs needed to reach the outcome. Once these were identified for each priority, the action plan matrix was developed, to identify answers to the following question for each

ACTION ITEMS 					
WHAT?	WHY?	WHO?	WHAT RESOURCES?	WHEN?	
1	Establish regional broadband and cell service task force	Progress on this regional priority will require long-term coordination to determine appropriate action steps and oversee their implementation. Task Force can lobby on behalf of rural communities. Examples of steps currently being explored include items A and B below.	County planning commissions, SAPDC, and subject-matter experts	Dedication of time by task force participants	Spring 2018 and ongoing

action step: What? Why? Who? What Resources? When? By answering these questions for each project, key action items could be used to implement the Plan. The Plan development, including all the input throughout the eighteen-month process, resulted in a product that was not only fruitful just by building relationships with stakeholders, but was beneficial in developing a suite of projects that could actually be completed and not just hoped for. As the Plan was being finalized, it was evident that each action item based on the key issues would work together like a puzzle, with each piece being as critical as the next in moving the County and Region forward. One project that immediately saw action was the formation of the Broadband Taskforce. The SAPDC formed this Taskforce with three to four members from each county. Their first meeting was held on August 8, 2018.



The draft Plan was released to the public at the end of March 2018, with a public meeting held on June 21, 2018. Adoption of the Plan by the Huntingdon County Commissioners took place at their July 3, 2018 public hearing. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the America Planning Association recognized *Alleghenies Ahead* as the best Comprehensive Plan on October 15, 2018, during their Annual Conference in Erie.

The Huntingdon County Planning Commission has committed to a regular quarterly review of Plan progress as a way to maintain commitment to the *Implementable Plan* approach. Stay up to date on the project at: AllegheniesAhead.com.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (cont...)

Alleghenies Ahead provides a framework for making decisions and prioritizing actions in ways that best respond to key issues and the Region’s core values. Local governments and institutions at all levels – from regional to local – can use the framework to align their actions with those of other entities and to ensure that their actions are helping to contribute to stronger, more competitive communities.

In addition to its decision-making framework, Alleghenies Ahead also identifies specific priorities and actions to implement. But rather than serving as a static to-do list, these priorities and actions are intended to be regularly revisited and evaluated. Conditions change over time, after all, and priorities in 2022 could be different from priorities in 2018.



What are the most important trends shaping the region and its communities today – and how do they influence the region’s ability to compete and thrive? This section defines the region’s demographic disadvantage – especially its rapidly aging population – and the market conditions that inhibit investment by local governments.

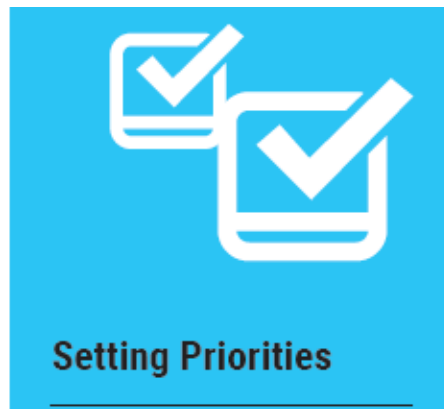


What are the biggest issues facing the region and how do they relate to the ability of communities to compete for households and businesses – especially those that have options? This section describes seven “Big Things” that have relevance across the region.



Decisions are made everyday by public and private entities throughout the region on matters big and small. What values and principles can help in coordinating decision-making for collective impact?

This section identifies core values that are then distilled into four principles for decision-making: (1) Our region must first look within; (2) Our region must work together; (3) Our region must protect its natural beauty and historic character; (4) Our region must support creativity.



The financial and human resources needed to make progress on critical issues and position the region to better compete for businesses and households are limited. Channeling these resources in a focused way – rather than spreading them thin to little effect – is not only wise but necessary.

This section identifies current priorities in the region and each county – areas where counties and communities are able and willing to dedicate the resources necessary to translate ideas into action.



What will be done to make progress on our priorities, and why? What outcomes will we seek and measure? Who will be accountable? What resources will they tap into? When will the work be done? This section identifies the specific activities to be undertaken at the local and regional levels.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Transportation Planning exists to facilitate technical information, effective transportation, and efficient movement of people and goods. Transportation Planning shapes urban form, affects economic vitality and impacts quality of life. The Planning & Development Department strives to create better communication among Huntingdon County Municipalities, Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC)'s Rural Planning Organization (RPO), and with other professional groups. We assess and make recommendations on policies and programs so as to derive the full public benefits of comprehensive and community-based planning that promote personal mobility and travel choices.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP), by *Brandon Peters of SAPDC*

Every two years, Huntingdon County participates in the update to the Region's TIP. The TIP is developed in cooperation with the four rural counties of Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset, PennDOT District 9-0, PennDOT Central Office, and SAP&DC. The Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) prioritizes, reviews, and approves the final TIP.

The TIP is the first four years of the Twelve Year Plan (TYP) that contains project-specific information. The TIP, fiscally constrained by available funding identified by PennDOT, projects expected funding sources to fund the Region's transportation projects, which include safety improvements, traditional roadway resurfacing and reconstruction projects, major construction projects of new facilities, and the bridge network.

Planning Director Mark Colussy is appointed by the County Commissioners to the RPO's Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC), which makes TIP recommendations to the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC.) The RPO relies on the County to solicit for transportation projects, which are reviewed bi-annually by the County Planning Commission. The Huntingdon County Planning Commission (HCPC) votes on recommendations to the County Commissioners regarding a list of prioritized projects to be forwarded to PennDOT for consideration and addition to the TIP.

The Southern Alleghenies RPO approved the 2019-2022 TIP on June 20, 2018. TIPs from across the state formed the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and went into effect on October 1, 2018. As transportation planning is a continual process to determine transportation needs and priorities, thus began planning for the 2021-2024 TIP! With input gathered at public outreach meetings in September 2018, the HCPC identified priorities in three categories for consideration for inclusion in the 2021-2024 TIP.

The priority projects were formally adopted as a recommendation at the HCPC's December 20, 2018



public meeting. They were approved for submission to the RPO at the Huntingdon County Commissioner's meeting on January 8, 2019. They are as follows:

Local Bridges

1. Bridge Replacement, Wilson Bridge over Three Springs Creek on T-573 in Cromwell Township
2. Bridge Replacement, New Fording Bridge, Co. Bridge 12 over Great Trough Creek, Todd Township

Safety and Mobility

1. SR 1009, Intersection Improvement of Cold Springs Road and Petersburg Pike (SR 4007) near Huntingdon Borough/Oneida Township line
2. Old William Penn Highway, reconstruction and rehabilitation of old roadway from Huntingdon Borough to Mill Creek for use as a multi-modal corridor

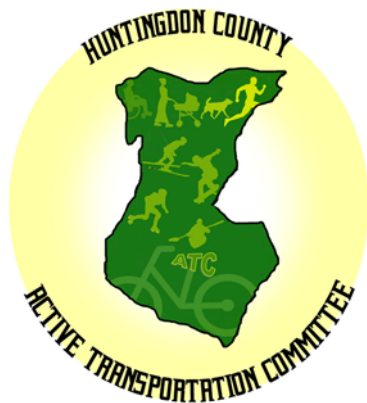
Major Projects

1. PA 453 and US 522, full transportation study for the reconstruction to 24 ft. cartway, from SR 4013 to I-99 (in Blair County) for PA 453 and PA Turnpike (I-76 in Fulton County) to PA 35 in Shade Gap for US 522
2. US 22, four-lane reconstruction shoulder improvements, from PA 522 Intersection in Mount Union to PA 829 Intersection in Mill Creek

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING (cont...)

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (ATC)

The Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) adopted the *2016 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* on July 20, 2016. A major recommendation in the Plan to carry out the priorities of the Plan was to have each county form an Active Transportation Committee (ATC). At their March 7, 2017 Public Meeting, the Huntingdon County Commissioners were the first Board to move forward with this recommendation by investigating the formation of an ATC in Huntingdon County. On November 28, 2017, the Commissioners formally approved the appointment of 18 individuals to the ATC as voting members and four individuals as ex-officio members. The Commissioners set the first meeting date to be January 29, 2018 to kick-off the new year with this new group. After meeting, the ATC developed the following mission statement: “It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee (ATC) to raise awareness of bicycle and pedestrian (non-motorized) planning concerns as identified in the SAPDC Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to improve public health, provide transportation alternatives, and expand recreational opportunities in the County”. The ATC initially developed the following primary initiatives:



- Improve Bikeability and Walkability of our Downtowns
- Plan Fundraising Events to Raise Awareness of Assets
- Evaluate Existing Conditions
- Gap Analysis
- Local Education and Advocacy Amongst All Stakeholders
- Integrate ATC Goals with other County Priorities for Prosperity
- Address Transportation Disparities for Underserved Demographics
- Increase Coordination and Collaborative Efforts Between Municipalities, Agencies, and Other Resource Providers to Identify and Address Issues

Throughout the first year, the ATC met bi-weekly in an effort to hit the ground running. The ATC aggressively took on the following projects throughout 2018:

- Block-by-Block Street Survey of Huntingdon Borough
- Coordination with the Huntingdon Tree Commission
- PennDOT Unofficial Bike Route Input
- Downtown Lighting & Huntingdon Borough Public Safety and Community Development Committee Meetings
- PennDOT Bike Lane Feasibility Study Coordination
- PennDOT Bicycling Safety meeting and site tour
- Yard Wicket Signs Development
- Newspaper Article in *The Daily News*
- Raystown Lake Master Plan Input
- Huntingdon County/SAPDC RPO TIP Input
- Mainline Canal Greenway Trail interaction
- Network of Support Survey
- Strava Heat Map analysis
- Paddling Interest Survey/Blair Park & Whitewater Surface Feature

The ATC shifted to a monthly meeting schedule into 2019 and will seek to meet with key stakeholders and groups to implement additional bicycle and walking/hiking focused projects.

MAIN LINE CANAL TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY by Robert Thomas and Doug Maisey, Campbell Thomas & Co.

Huntingdon County, along with Mifflin County, has completed a Feasibility Study for the Main Line Canal Greenway Trail corridor that will ultimately link from the current end of the Lower Trail at Water Street in Alfarata to Huntingdon, Mt. Union, and on to Victory Park in Lewistown, Mifflin County. The final report was completed and submitted to DCNR in January 2019 and will serve as the primary document for the future phases of Trail right-of-way acquisition, design, and construction.

The two counties contracted with the Allegheny Ridge Corporation, who in turn retained the trail consulting team led by Campbell Thomas & Co., the firm that authored the alignment study for the September 11th National Memorial Trail from the Great Allegheny

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING (cont...)

Passage, through Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties, and then on to the Delaware Water Gap. The Main Line Canal Greenway Trail, and the 9/11 Trail will co-locate as a single trail as they pass through Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties.

The Trail Feasibility Study worked to inventory and analyze a series of alternative trail alignments between the Lower Trail in Huntingdon County and Victory Park in Lewistown before defining the preferred interim and ultimate trail alignment. The study recommended a trail corridor that generally follows the alignment of the historic Main Line Canal and Juniata River and serves to connect historic canal towns and communities along its extent. Projected details and estimated costs, project phasing, and recommendations for the long-term maintenance and management of the Trail were all included as part of final report.



Once constructed, the proposed Trail in Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties will not only serve as a walking and bicycling route in both Counties, but will also serve as an important reach of the Main Line Canal Greenway between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, and of the 9/11 Trail's northern crossing of Pennsylvania and New Jersey between the Great Allegheny Passage at Garrett, PA, the Flight 93 National Memorial, and the Memorial at the World Trade Center.

The Trail is seen as a benefit to the residents, businesses and visitors to the communities served along its way, and thus as a generator of trail-related community and economic development.

Over the course of the Feasibility Study, the team interviewed numerous interested parties, and helped the Counties to conduct a series of Study Committee Meetings, Public Workshops, Stakeholder Meetings, as well as three general public meetings on April 5th, June 28th, and September 20th of 2018. Each of these meetings and interviews were vital in the development of the proposed alignment.

For more information please contact the Allegheny Ridge Corporation at

Tel: [814-940-1922](tel:814-940-1922) E-mail: info@alleghenyridge.org

Web: <https://mainlinecanalgreenway.org>

HUNTINGDON COUNTY RAILROAD AUTHORITY

In late 2017, the Huntingdon County Commissioners started the legal and financial paperwork to authorize the Huntingdon County Railroad Authority. The mission of the Huntingdon County Railroad Authority is to preserve and enhance freight and passenger railroad service in the Central Pennsylvania Area.

The seven-member authority, formed in May 2018, is comprised of Ron Rabena, Chairman; Charles States, Vice Chairman; Branden Brown, Secretary; Lee Zeger, Treasurer; and John Ferner, Fred Querry and Larry Newton, members. This action was taken in response to a missed opportunity for economic development in the warehouse complex along Fairgrounds Road in Smithfield Township that needed rail service.

The Huntingdon County Railroad Authority is in the beginning stages of conducting an economic feasibility study, underwritten by the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) for the Huntingdon Industrial Track that crosses the Juniata River and runs along Fairgrounds Road. The Authority is also in discussion with the Norfolk Southern Railroad Corporation regarding the possibility of acquiring their part of the line and reconnecting it to the main line in Huntingdon.

The owners of the warehouse complex commissioned an engineering study to determine the physical condition of the line, including the Juniata River Bridge and the Muddy Run Bridge. The study was completed by Keller Engineers in the summer of 2017. An additional investigation by divers is needed on the Juniata River Bridge piers to determine if any further erosion of the subsurface has occurred. The results of the economic feasibility study are needed before holding any further discussions with Norfolk Southern. The County Rail Authority is aided by Chairman Rabena's dual role of also serving as Chairman of the County Planning Commission.

Planning Director Colussy has attended many of the Railroad Authority meetings, as the reestablishment of the Fairgrounds Rail Spur was identified as an Action item in the newly-adopted Comprehensive Plan, *Alleghenies Ahead*. There is a possibility that the Planning and Development Department may assist the Railroad Authority in the future with seeking funding sources.

AGENCY LIAISON AND COORDINATION

Coordinating the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan*, with public and private organizations, is achieved through the following four processes: Agency Liaison, County-Municipal Project Review, Federal-State Project Review, and Subdivision and Land Development Review.

The Planning Commission and its staff coordinate the implementation of planning recommendations with many agencies and units of government. This includes staff participation in many committees and attendance at numerous meetings.

COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

The County Planning Directors Association (CPDAP) is an affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). The CPDAP provides input on State policy on environmental and land use issues to both CCAP and to the Commonwealth. Planning Director Mark Colussy was appointed to serve on the CPDAP Board as an at-large member in 2018.

SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SAPDC)

The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees, including the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC). The County Commissioners sit on the Coordinating Committee (RTCC). The RTCC plays a key role in development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Colussy was elected as Chairman of the PAC starting in 2019.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (HCBI)

The Planning Director serves on the HCBI Economic Infrastructure Committee. This Committee has the goal of advocating, supporting economic issues related to highways, rail, the Riverview Business Center, telecommunication, multimodal transportation, and economic development incentives. The Planning Director also serves as an ex-officio member of the Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Committee.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

The Community Improvement Awards are sponsored by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, and Kish Bank. The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee jointly review nominees, with final selection made by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

The categories for the 2017 Awards were New Construction, Preservation, Community Spirit, and Special Merit. Five applications were received for consideration and four awards were presented when

the thirteenth annual Community Improvement Awards were announced during the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 28, 2018. Recipients of the 2017 Awards were the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Friends of Raystown Lake for the Raystown Mountain Bike Skills Park, Community Spirit; MaryMart Family Limited Partnership for the Sandy Ridge Express and A & W Restaurant, New Construction; Juniata College for the Brumbaugh Academic Center renovations, Preservation; and Swigart Museum for The 48th Swigart Museum Meet, Special Merit.

Located on approximately two unused acres in a borrow directly across Seven Points Road from the Visitors Center, the Raystown Mountain Bike Skills Park is the first of its kind on Federal lands. The Park contains berms, natural and wooden features, small vertical drops, and other skill features designed to help bikers improve their abilities in close proximity to emergency vehicle access points and services.



The Raystown Mountain Bike Skills Park recreates and concentrates the riding features of the Allegrippis Trails and gives riders a chance to experience and practice the skills necessary to navigate the remote sections of the Allegrippis. The Skills Park also complements the Allegrippis Trails and meets the 1994 *Raystown Lake Master Plan* goals of improving and expanding existing facilities within the Seven Points Day Use area.

The 4,600 square foot building containing the Sandy



Ridge Express convenience store, gas station and A & W Restaurant is architecturally designed to blend in with the rural community. Located just outside of Orbisonia in the Sandy Ridge Station complex along Croghan Pike

AGENCY LIASION AND COORDINATION (cont...)

(Route 522), these businesses provide over thirty jobs and serve both travelers and local residents.

The Sandy Ridge Express offers eight fueling stations with Sunoco fuels, features fresh donuts from the nearby Sandy Ridge Market and offers snacks, drinks and a full New England Coffee bar with cappuccino.

The A&W Restaurant is a fast food franchise with both a drive-thru and seating for thirty-four customers. Featuring the famous A & W Root Beer in a frosted mug, Root Beer Floats and Wisconsin White Cheddar Cheese Curds, the A&W menu offers something new and different from that of other fast food establishments in Huntingdon County.

The Brumbaugh Academic Center project addressed a dated exterior at the main entrance and improved accessibility to the building. Electrically-operated doors were added for easier access and an additional 576 square feet were added within the building's entrance, providing space for two new ADA accessible bathrooms and a more spacious lobby and gathering space for students. The entrance renovation also provided additional student gathering spaces on the newly-created terrace above the entrance and on the covered patio at the entrance.



Accessibility within the space was improved with the addition of an ADA compliant ramp to the stage area and ADA seating areas. Other improvements to this space include technology, lighting, new seating, and new ceilings and floor cover.

The refurbished entrance has provided a contemporary edifice for what had been a distinctive, though dated, building façade. The entire building, named Brumbaugh Academic Center, was constructed in the 1960s as the College's science center. By keeping the rounded circular character of the original building, the structure remains recognizable and evocative for alumni and community members who remember the original building.

The 48th Swigart Museum Car Meet was held on August 11th and 12th, 2017. W. Emmert Swigart began collecting cars in 1920 and continued to do so until his death in 1949. His son, William E. Swigart, Jr., also continued to collect cars until he died in 2000 with over 200 cars in his collection. William felt there was a need to host a venue in which car collectors could

meet and "talk cars". The Swigart Museum Meet was held on the campus of Juniata



College until the 1980s. In 1994, the car meets were again held on the grounds of the Swigart Museum. The Swigart brochure states that the Museum is educational, historical and entertaining. The Meet helps to promote all of this and brings many visitors to Huntingdon and the surrounding area.

COUNTY - MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

Section 303 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247)* gives the Planning Commission the authority to review and comment on various public facility projects, zoning, subdivision, and other land development ordinances. In addition, Acts 67 and 68 of 2000 provide an opportunity for local municipalities and counties to comment on the consistency of State-funded projects with county and municipal planning and zoning.

In 2018, local government and State agencies submitted thirty-three projects to the Commission for review and comment under Acts 67 and 68. Nineteen of these were also submitted in conformance with Act 127. Nineteen additional notifications submitted included two Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act); two Section 106 Informational Notices from the Federal Communications Commission; one DEP Air Quality Permit Plan revision; one blasting plan; one subdivision and land development ordinance revision; and twelve Comprehensive Plan Consistency requests for grant applications - one for the PennDOT and DCED Multi-Modal Transportation Fund, ten for the Pennsylvania Small Water and Wastewater Program and one for the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.

Act 14 also requires those applying for water obstruction permits, water quality permits or air quality permits to notify County Commissioners and municipal officials of all requests for State permits. The Commission received thirty-seven notices in 2018.

FEDERAL - STATE PROJECT REVIEW

The Planning Commission reviews projects that use federal funds for consistency with the *County Comprehensive Plan*, under the authority of Executive Order #12372. Under the Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), twenty requests to the EPA were received in 2018 - eighteen from DEP and two from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first County Planning Director in 1971. The County Commissioners have directed the Planning Commission to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the County and to promote public interest in and understanding of planning and the *Comprehensive Plan*. Volunteers, staff, money and equipment are the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

STAFFING

In 2018, Planning and Development Department staff included Mark Colussy, Planning Director; Melody Mason, Community Development Administrator; Laurie Nearhood, Office Manager/Secretary; and Taylor Pollicino, Community Development Assistant.

STAFF TRAINING

In 2018, Planning and Development staff training included:

- Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association Annual Conference;
- County Planning Directors Association of PA quarterly meetings;
- Southern Alleghenies Planning Advisory Committee bi-monthly meetings;
- Community Development and Housing Practitioners Conference, presented by the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA);
- Labor Standards Enforcement Training, presented by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED);
- CDBG New Grant Administrator Training, presented by DCED;
- Procurement Webinar, presented by DCED;
- FY 2018 CDBG Application Webinar, presented by DCED;
- Mandatory Electronic Invoicing Training Webinar, presented by DCED; and
- Income Survey Webinar, presented by DCED

LOOKING AHEAD to 2019

Continue to Seek Pennsylvania Avenue Funding

This project in Mount Union Borough has already been partially funded with CDBG dollars for the water and sewer relocation. Notification of a \$1.2M PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) award was received on February 1, 2019. The Borough also anticipates a Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB) Loan for just over \$400,000. With these two funding sources, there is \$900,000 funding gap to reach the \$2.5M project estimate provided by Keller Engineers. Searching for funds to meet all the moving parts, requirements, and wishes of the community is paramount to success in revitalizing this significant corridor through the heart of Mount Union.

Implement Blueprint Communities Plan

The Core Team of the Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) project will continue to work on ways to implement its 5-Year Strategy in Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, and Shirley Township. To move the plan forward, the Core Team will continue to build relationships with key community leaders and other interested citizens. They will also continue to host public meetings and engagement of stakeholder groups and individuals as the three communities enter into the fourth year of the Five-Year Strategy.

Host Entrepreneurial Communities Workshops

The team of Mark Colussy (Planning), Bob Reitman (HCBI), and Terry Anderson (JCEL) will continue to work together to facilitate the Entrepreneurial Communities Program as soon as funding is in place. This three-man team has already collaborated on ways to facilitate portions of the project that were once assisted by Penn State Extension. If funding could be secured, approximately \$9,000 in total, the team will then contract with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship to conduct deeper economic analysis of the county and offer key areas to build the economy into the future. This Program was initially made to piggyback off of the JRBC Five-Year Strategy and to provide Huntingdon County with an understanding of what successful entrepreneurial communities do to make a thriving business start-up community. The intent will be to look at all communities countywide as part of an entrepreneurial friendly ecosystem.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (cont...)

Complete PEP's Marketing Plan

Continue to work with the PEP Marketing Committee to develop a marketing strategy designed to promote a positive image of Huntingdon County to visitors, business investors and business employees, and residents. This will build off the new videos developed by the PEP Marketing Committee and CGI Communications. A final product similar to a media kit will be developed by key marketing and human resource professionals throughout Huntingdon County.

Implement PEP's Strategic Plan

The Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) will continue implementation of their new Strategic Priorities by working with newly-appointed Chairs to facilitate progress and to continue to integrate efforts by the Strategic Alliance for Economic Growth (SAEG).

Implement Alleghenies Ahead

Each member of the SAPDC Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) will work to implement the award-winning and first multi-county, implementable comprehensive plan: *Alleghenies Ahead*. A key tenant of this Plan is to work on communication, coordination, and collaboration, and thus efforts will be made to work on the implementable projects that were finalized in the July 3, 2018 adopted plan. Key projects, such as the Broadband Taskforce, are already underway and will be supported and assisted.

Identify Projects for the new Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

The newly formed ATC (circa 2018) has the dual task of formulating an identity and quickly forming a reputation and relationship with partners, while identifying key projects. On March 21, 2019, the ATC held a public meeting to introduce themselves to the community at large and to key stakeholders. They will continue to seek guidance on where projects should be focused on in the future and to find ways to collaborate with like-minded organizations and municipal leaders.

South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency Solid Waste Plan Update (SCSWA)

Since the waste capacity agreements of the member counties, Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon, expire in September of 2019, and the Plan reaches the 10-year mark in the beginning of 2020, a complete Plan Update is required. The SCSWA approved updating the Plan with the help of Barton & Loguidice. With the financial assistance of a DEP 901 grant, this process will begin in 2019 and extend into 2020. Additionally, each county will be forming a solid waste advisory committee (SWAC). A goal of the update is to determine the best alternative in establishing and maintaining a healthy recycling program amid a turbulent global commodities market.

Competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-C) Projects

Staff will seek to finalize and wrap-up the projects associated with previously awarded competitive grants for Mapleton Borough and the Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority. Both projects are slated for completion prior to the summer of 2019.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Staff agreed to work with Huntingdon County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) staff and volunteers to update the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Receipt of a grant from FEMA is anticipated to pay for a qualified consulting firm to assist with Plan development. It is expected that this process will last from April 2019 through the end of 2020.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Department is funded by the County General Fund's Planning and Zoning, Solid Waste and Recycling, and Planning Grants Line Items. The total of the 2019 General Fund budgets is 5.287% less than it was in 2018.

Planning and Zoning Budget Report

	2018 Budget	2018 Expenditures	2019 Budget
Personnel	\$90,720.00	\$90,727.02	\$92,727.00
Office Expenses	12,500.00	11,954.00	\$10,300.00
Materials & Supplies	1,200.00	423.24	1,500.00
Capital Outlay	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
Total	\$105,420.00	\$104,104.26	\$106,027.00

Solid Waste/Recycling/Planning Grants Budget Report

	2018 Budget	2018 Expenditures	2019 Budget
Personnel	\$94,922.00	\$96,148.51	\$84,527.00
Office Expenses	2,600.00	\$2,147.89	2,060.00
Materials & Supplies	1,000.00	717.51	950.00
Other	1,800.00	1,094.19	1,300.00
Total	\$100,322.00	\$100,108.10	\$88,837.00

General Fund Totals

2018 Budget	2018 Expenditures	2019 Budget
\$205,742.00	\$204,212.36	\$194,864.00

HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mark A. Sather, *Chairman*
Scott Walls, *Vice Chairman*
Jeff Thomas, *Secretary*
Heather Fellman, *Chief Clerk*

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

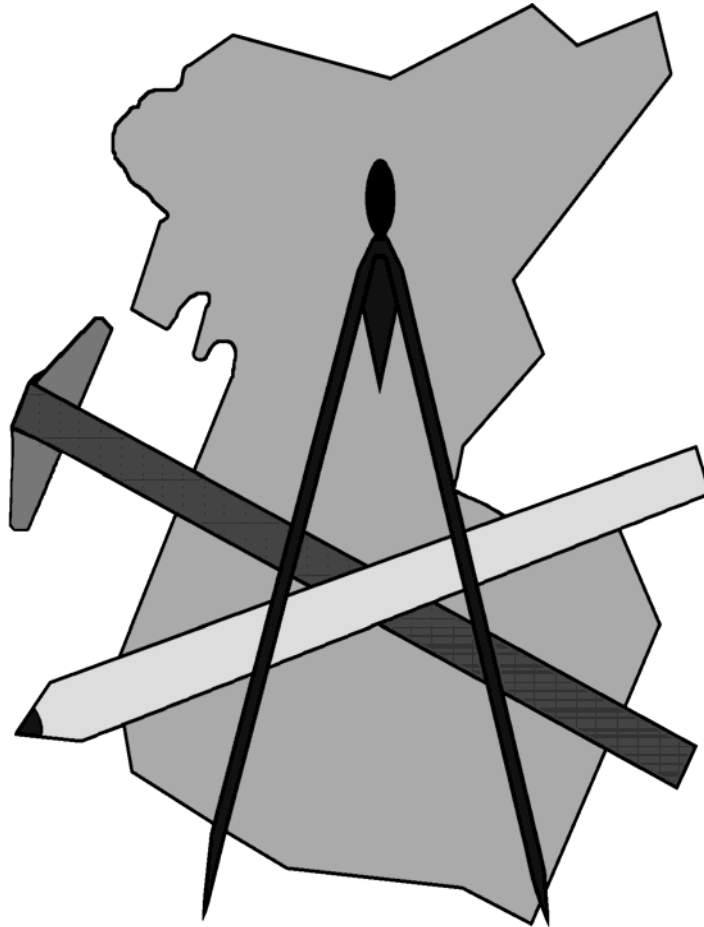
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Larry Mutti, *Vice Chairman*
Robert Benson, *Secretary*
Raymond Barley
Patrick Reeder
Wendy Melius
Philip Cahill
Bryan Yingling
Nancy MacNamara

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF

Mark Colussy, *Planning Director*
Melody Mason, *Community Development Administrator*
Taylor Pollicino, *Community Development Assistant*
Laurie Nearhood, *Office Manager/Secretary*
LouAnn Shontz, *Recycling Coordinator*

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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