

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities 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 2014:

Huntingdon Borough

Staff provided assistance with updates to the Borough's website.

Warriors Mark Township

Staff continued to assist with updating the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Map. Staff also provided assistance with Township website updates.

JUNIATA COLLEGE RESIDENCE HALL CROSSWALK

In 2013, Juniata College submitted land development plans for their new residence hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Cold Springs Road. As a condition of approval, the College was to work with a team comprised of Donna Isenberg of Huntingdon Borough Council, Mark Colussy of Huntingdon County, and Jesse Leonard of Juniata College to address the crosswalk crossing College Avenue. The team met several times in the spring and early summer of 2014. Eventually, an agreement was established, and a crosswalk proposal was approved and installed.

MOUNT UNION BOROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING

In December 2013, Mount Union Borough adopted the Mount Union Strategic Plan, prepared through a public process involving Council members, staff and citizens in three public visioning discussions. Mount Union Borough contracted with the Penn State University (PSU) Cooperative Extension to lead the planning process. The Borough formed a committee to implement the Strategic Plan, led by their Chairman, Dave Yocum. The Committee meetings focused around the Plan's five goals identified by the community:

- Rejuvenate rail infrastructure and activities;
- Increase River Tourism;
- Increase jobs and tax base in Mount Union;
- Revitalize and beautify homes and buildings;
- Build community pride.

Plan implementation continues to move forward and continues to gain momentum through the Blueprint Communities process.

ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

The PA Legislature passed a bill entitled Act 13, which Governor Corbett signed into law in 2012. The purpose of this comprehensive bill is to handle unconventional well drilling due to the recent industry breakthrough of extracting natural gas from the Marcellus Shale, a subsurface geologic formation.

One provision that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)). Each county in the Commonwealth received a share of the impact fee based upon the county's population. The 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."

On September 3, 2013, the County Commissioners established a grant process that made a total of \$30,000 available to any of the County's municipalities with a maximum award of \$10,000 per municipality. The Commissioners appointed the Planning Commission to accept applications, review them, and make recommendations similar to the way the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process operates. Five applications totaling \$41,423.03 were received and four projects totaling \$30,000 were approved in 2013. Work on Broad Top City Park's walking path was completed in April 2014.

The County Commissioners authorized another round of funding on February 11, 2014. Two applications were received by the April 8, 2014 deadline: \$4,228.50 for the Riverside Park Walking Path Repair in Smithfield Township and \$9,023.03 for the proposed Community Garden in Alexandria Borough. Both applications were reviewed by the Planning Commission and approved by the County Commissioners. Restoration of the walking path at Riverside Park was completed in August 2014.

Of the \$43,251.53 approved for eligible municipal projects since 2013, \$8,148.50 has been spent.