# **Huntingdon County Planning Commission**

# 2022 Annual Report



Raystown Lake, Seven Points Recreation Area



East Broad Top Railroad, Rockhill, PA



The 1000 Steps, Brady Township



Huntingdon Borough Town Clock



Huntingdon County Courthouse, Huntingdon, PA



Huntingdon County Annex I, Huntingdon, PA

### 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 subdivision activity occurring within Huntingdon County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services.

In accordance with Article 1 Section 107 of the *Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning* Code (Act of 1968, P.L. 805 as amended), the act of subdivision is the division or redivision of a lot, tract or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels or other divisions of land, including changes to existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of lease, partition by the court for the distribution to heirs or devisees, transfer of ownership or building or lot development.

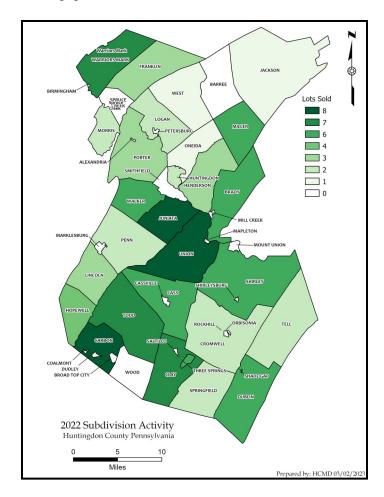
Subsequent to subdividing land, a deed is prepared demonstrating the new metes and bounds for the lot. After the County Mapping Department completes the Uniform Parcel Identification (UPI) stamping process, the deed is recorded in the Recorder of Deeds Office and the new lot is officially created. In many instances, lots may have been created by subdivision; however, if a deed is not created, then the lot is not officially created.

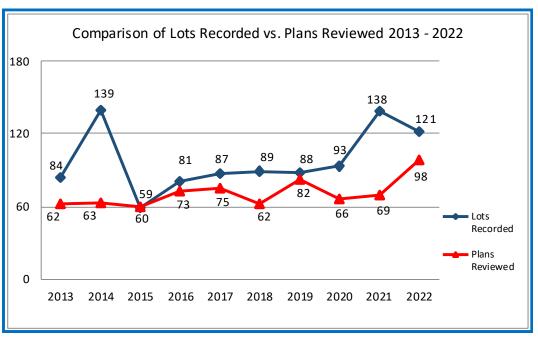
During 2022, 121 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is a decrease of 14% from the 138 lots recorded in 2021. The chart on this page illustrates a ten-year history of new lot activity and

subdivision and land development reviews, while the map illustrates the intensity of development in each municipality.

Municipalities with the highest levels of recorded lots in 2022 included:

- Carbon, Juniata and Union Townships, 8 lots each;
- Clay, Todd and Warriors Mark Townships, 7 lots each; and
- Brady, Cass, Dublin, Miller, Shirley and Walker Townships; and Three Springs Borough, 6 lots each.





# SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Article V Section 502 (b) 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 having their own adopted subdivision and land development ordinances. The Commission also comments on consistency with *Act 537*, the *PA Sewage Facilities Act*.

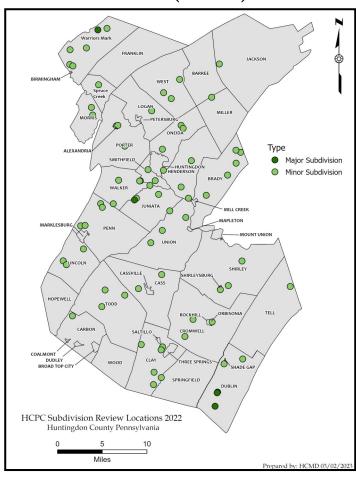
The Planning Commission reviewed a total of 98 applications in 29 municipalities during 2022, an increase of 29 applications from the 69 reviewed during 2021. These reviews included five major subdivisions; two major residential land developments; 15 non-residential land developments; 71 minor subdivisions; and five minor residential land developments. These projects encompassed a total of 142 new lots and 4,467.2477 acres.

The five major subdivisions included:

- M & J Land Acquisitions, LLC, Dublin Township: 203.728 acres, 6 lots, located east and west of Croghan Pike and west of Mentzer Lane;
- Deborah M. Roub to Bruce E. Cox, Warriors Mark Township: 53.6 acres, 6 lots, located on the north side of Ridge Road and along both sides of Spring Mount Drive;
- Judith R. Witt & James E. Witt, Jr., Dublin Township: 255.457 acres, 6 lots, located east and west of Croghan Pike near the Wilson Lane/Croghan Pike intersection;
- M & J Land Acquisitions, LLC, Dublin Township: 183.4150 acres, 9 lots, located directly north and south of Croghan Pike, west of Pleasant Hill Road, east of Tannery Road and south of Piper Lane; and
- Raystown Country Homes, LLC, Barry & Cynthia Parks; Piney Ridge Estates, John & Sherry Annibali, Juniata Township: 5.1510 acres, 8 lots, located east of Piney Ridge Road, approximately 50' south of the Hideaway Lane/Sophie Lane intersection.

The 15 non-residential land developments included:

- Walker Township-Municipal Facility Improvements, Walker Township: 7.87 acres, removal of a section of existing exterior building addition; construction of a 969 square foot building addition for a wash bay; and construction of a 6,024 square foot storage building, located at 10867 Fairgrounds Road;
- Alexandria Borough Water Authority, Porter Township: 0.76 acres, construction of one new 300,000 gallon water storage tank and rehabilitation of existing water tank for a total storage capacity of



600,000 gallons, located west of Juniata Valley Pike, north of Pine Street and northeast of Emily Lane;

- Bobcat of Huntingdon, Smithfield Township: 1.707 acres, construction of a 4,900 square foot building addition to an existing 3,656 square foot building for an equipment retail and dealer, located south of William Penn Highway, west of Snyders Run Road and east of South 4th Street;
- Rutters Store #93-Huntingdon, Smithfield Township:
   6.967 acres, construction of a 10,950 square foot convenience store, fueling station, 55 parking spaces and 25 truck spaces, located south of William Penn Highway and immediately east of the William Penn Highway/Raystown Road interchange;
- Southern Huntingdon County Elementary School, Cromwell Township: 47.83 acres, construction of a 97,000 square foot elementary school, located on the site of 10339 Pogue Road, Three Springs, PA;
- AT&T Mobility: Creation Festival, Cromwell Township: 266 acres, construction of an 85' monopole cell tower, located west of Spidertown Road near the McClure Road/Aughwick Creek Road intersection;
- E.B. Endres Storage Building, Smithfield Township: 4.13 acres, construction of an 11,100 square foot storage building, located north of Fairgrounds Road and east of Hordubay Road;

- Anderson Rail Campground, Clay Township: 16.286 acres, construction of a 20-site campground, located south of Hudson Street and west of Stone Quarry Road;
- Raystown Welding & Fabrication, LLC, Smithfield Township: 0.4616 acres, construction of a second structure (40' x 60' welding shop), located on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue approximately 0.5 miles northeast of the US 22/Pennsylvania Avenue intersection;
- Sheetz Store #215, Smithfield Township: 1.06 acres, demolition of existing convenience store and construction of a new 4,959 square foot store, located at the William Penn Highway/Fourth Street intersection;
- Stanley B. King & Julie A. King. Brady Township: 1.34 acres, construction of a second commercial structure totaling 6,100 square feet (including 1,600 square feet of warehouse space), located north of Big Valley Pike approximately 73' southwest of the Big Valley Pike/Sharpsburg Road intersection;
- ACPI Mt. Union Dock Additions, Shirley Township: 32.92 acres, construction of 82 (8' x 60') trailer parking stalls and 16 loading docks (8' x 60'), located north of Lenape Drive, approximately 1,000' east of the Lenape Drive/Croghan Pike intersection;
- BIRMINGHAM

  PRANKLIN

  PRANKLIN

  PORTER

  PORTER

- Calvary Christian Academy, Huntingdon Borough: 12.8063 acres, construction of a 15,300 square foot classroom building addition, located east of Standing Stone Avenue, southwest of Reynolds Avenue and Simpson Street and north of Stone Creek Ridge Road;
- Westminster Woods Maintenance Building, Oneida Township: construction of a 3,024 square foot maintenance building, located south of Petersburg Pike, northeast of Westminster Drive and northwest of Sycamore Way; and
- Christoff Events Venue (Lakewood Estates, LLC), Smithfield Township: 2.00 acres, conversion of existing elk farm garage/visitors center into an event (wedding) venue, located approximately 500' south of William Penn Highway, west of Snyder's Run Road, and accessed via Lonesome Drive.

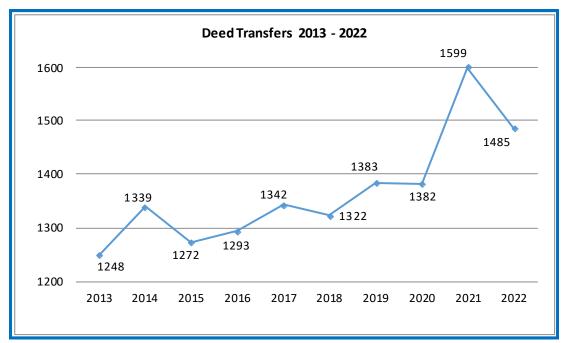
The two major residential land developments included:

- Emily Estates (Revised), Morris Township: shifting clubhouse 20' west; addition of 18 parking spaces along building frontage; and addition of 24 parking spaces south of Ashlyn Drive, located west of Spruce Creek Road and north of Birmingham Pike;
- Emily Estates (Revised), Morris Township: 70.0820
  acres, replacement of original horse barn with
  sports facilities; removal of designed internal
  sidewalk loop; and addition of sidewalks connecting
  clubhouse, sports facilities and pond, with a loop
  around the pond, located west of Spruce Creek
  Road and north of Birmingham Pike.

The maps on pages two and three illustrate the distribution of the 98 proposals reviewed during 2022.

#### DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds created and 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 a total of 1,485 deeds recorded in 2022. This is a 15.7% decrease from the 1,599 deeds recorded in 2021. According to the Huntingdon County Register and Recorder, deeds accounted for 25% of all filings in her office in 2022.



# BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL ADDRESSES ISSUED

For 2022, the Department used new addresses issued by the County Mapping Department to track new permanent and seasonal housing within Huntingdon County. A total of 92 residential addresses in 24 municipalities were issued - 66 addresses for permanent (year round) housing and 26 for seasonal housing.

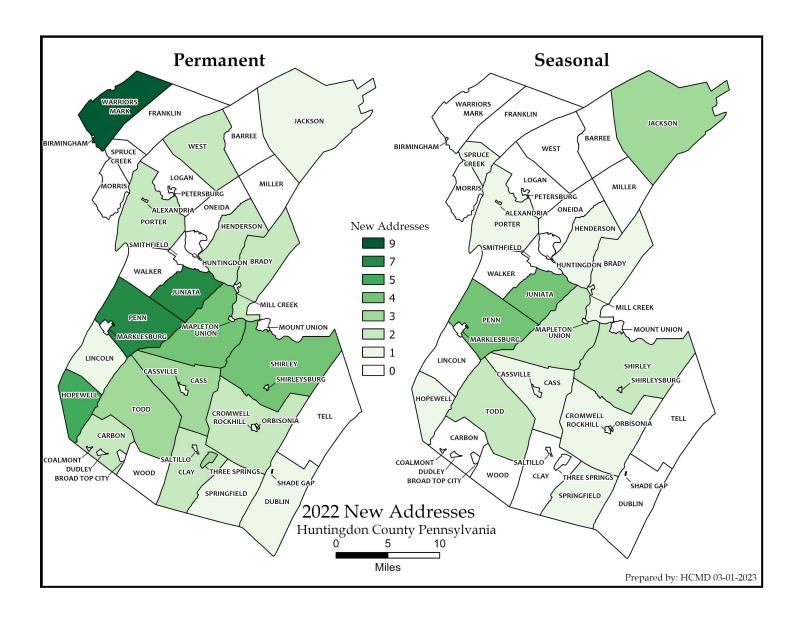
As illustrated in the table to the right and in the maps on page 5, the highest total number of new

 seasonal addresses (4) were issued in both Juniata and Penn Townships, while the highest number of new addresses for permanent housing (9) were issued in Warriors Mark Township.

Seven addresses for permanent housing were issued in both Juniata and Penn Townships.

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES ISSUED				
MUNICIPALITY	PERMANENT	SEASONAL		
Brady Township	2	1		
Carbon Township	2	0		
Cass Township	3	1		
Cassville Borough	1	1		
Clay Township	2	0		
Cromwell Township	2	1		
Dublin Township	1	0		
Henderson Township	2	1		
Hopewell Township	5	1		
Jackson Township	1	3		
Juniata Township	7	4		
Lincoln Township	1	0		
Mount Union Borough	1	0		
Penn Township	7	4		
Porter Township	2	1		
Shirley Township	4	2		
Shirleysburg Borough	1	0		
Springfield Township	1	1		
Spruce Creek Township	0	1		
Three Springs Borough	3	0		
Todd Township	3	2		
Union Township	4	2		
Warriors Mark Township	9	0		
West Township	2	0		
Totals	66	26		

#### HOUSING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL ADDRESSES ILLUSTRATED



### 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 responsible entity for environmental reviews.

#### GRANT ADMINISTRATION

2022 was a year of growth and development for the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department. Since July, two positions were filled; the Community Development Administrator by Jen Bellis and the Assistant Community Development Administrator by Jayme Reck. There have been many opportunities for training and new approaches. While both ladies have been learning the CDBG program from veterans Laurie Nearhood and James Lettiere, there are roles and responsibilities being defined and a confidence and eagerness to adapt new ideas to the office and program that will create new outlooks and develop new processes for smooth operations in the future.

While still in premature stages of training, Jen and Jayme have strived to make sure projects that were already begun continued to progress and be executed to the standards set forth by DCED, who we have relied on heavily to answer questions, explore possibilities and clarify procedures previously in place. They have also developed better working relationships with the two entitlement communities we work on behalf of (obo); Huntingdon Borough and Smithfield Township. Jen and Jayme were instrumental in updating and executing new policies regarding procurement, housing rehabilitation guidelines, and a newly created Language Access Plan (LAP). While they are learning and continuing to explore their roles, they are excited to be a part of the department and look forward to the many funding and planning opportunities they are able to provide for the county. Planning Department staff look forward to meeting and exceeding expectations of all our municipalities with our open communication, reliability, professionalism and accountability. Following are descriptions of the CDBG projects that were completed in 2022, as well as ongoing and recently begun activities.

#### FY 2018

#### MUMA West Water Street Waterline Replacement

This County project assisted the Mount Union Municipal Authority (MUMA) with



replacement of approximately 300' of corroded cast iron pipe with a 4" ductile iron waterline beginning at

the intersection of West Water Street and North Washington Street and ending at a cul-de-sac in Mount Union. A blow-off hydrant at the end of the line was also installed. Formerly, the corroded pipe only allowed for a 1/2" of the diameter for water flow, resulting in diminished water flow and pressure to the eight impacted residences. \$60,000 in FY 2018 CDBG funds were allocated to this project; MUMA contributed \$18,500 in local match for engineering costs and the remaining project funds. The Notice of Award was issued to Antares Site Work, LLC for \$91,343 on October 12, 2021. Substantial Completion was issued on December 2, 2021. Change Order #1, issued December 21, 2021, reduced original contract price from \$91,343 to \$75,400.50 due to final adjustment of quantities. The project timeline was extended until March 30, 2022 to allow for the restoration and seeding in the spring. All construction and engineering funds for this project were expended as of June 9, 2022.

#### MUMA Hill Valley Sewer Improvement Project

This County project involved addressing issues within sewer lines. In 2017, the Mount Union Municipal Authority (MUMA), with assistance from the PA Rural Water Association, visually inspected manholes and video inspected and smoke tested sewer lines. This activity reconstructed and rehabilitated existing lines

and manholes in the Hill Valley area of Shirley Township. \$87,000 in FY 2018 CDBG funds were allocated to this project. MUMA contributed \$13,126 of local match for engineering and the remaining construction balance. The Notice of



Award was issued to Guyer Brothers, Inc. for \$112,112 on October 19, 2021. The Notice to Proceed was issued on November 9, 2021. Due to material delays, construction did not begin until January 11, 2022. Substantial Completion was issued May 12, 2022. Three Change Orders increased the final contract project cost to \$115,476.50. All funds were expended as of June 9, 2022.

# obo Smithfield Twp Spot Blight (913 Pike Street Demolition)

This Smithfield Township project entailed the demolition of a vacant residential structure located at

913 Pike Street, Huntingdon, PA. This property had been abandoned since 2014 and was placed for tax sale several times with no buyers. Several drug busts took





place at the property over the years. Due to zoning regulations, a new home could not be built on this property, so the property will be maintained as green space by the Township in perpetuity. The Notice of Award was issued on June 29, 2021 to Antares Site Work, LLC for \$28,337.00. The Notice to Proceed was issued on July 13, 2021. The Certificate of Substantial Completion was issued on December 12, 2021. \$40,850.38 of the \$75,627 allocated in CDBG funds were used for this project. The final payment was processed after the grass was seeded and growing. All construction and engineering funds were expended as of July 8, 2022. A revision to add the \$34,776.62 balance of these funds to the Township's existing FY 2019 Levee Improvements project was submitted to DCED on May 25, 2022. DCED approved the revision on June 2, 2022.

#### **Mapleton Reservoir Improvement Project**

This County project involved improvements to the existing Mapleton reservoir to protect the Borough of Mapleton's primary source of drinking water. In July





2013, the PA DEP conducted a routine inspection of the dam and issued a violation per their inspection report. Addressing the findings included rehabilitating the upstream face of the batter wall of the impoundment, removing encroaching vegetation, and using a reinforced Shotcrete mix to coat the bottom of the reservoir where damage and seepage had occurred. \$52,358 in CDBG funds as well as \$19,167 in the local match were allocated towards this activity, for a total budget of \$71,525. On July 7, 2022, DEP stated a Dam Safety Permit was not required. Instead a letter of authorization was all that was needed. That

letter was received July 8, 2022. As the formal deadline for construction was April 1, 2022, an extension was applied for in late February 2022 so the project could proceed. That extension until August 31, 2022 was approved by DCED on April 28, 2022. extension, approved on August 16, 2022, granted a new deadline until January 31, 2023. The Invitation to Bid was published in The Daily News on August 5 and August 11, 2022. One bid, from Graciano Corporation for \$107,500, was submitted. A change order was issued to modify the scope of the project with Mapleton handling the draining of the reservoir along with other minor modifications resulting in a decrease of the bid amount to \$60,250. Work began on November 7, 2022 and was completed that same week. The project was closed after final payment was made in December 2022.

#### obo Huntingdon Borough 912 Washington St. Rehab

This project was created through a modification (to add the activity to FY 2017) and then a revision (to switch it





to FY 2018) when there were unforeseen delays. This project funded the acquisition and rehabilitation of 912 Washington Street. This three-bedroom house was completely rehabilitated and brought up to code by Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity. An extension request was filed October 5, 2022 as there were justifications for the additional time needed due to the delays early on, but significant progress was made and the estimated move in date was March 1, 2023. However, with extra man-hours by both the new resident and the volunteers, the house was completed and the LMI Habitat-approved family moved in mid-December 2022. The project was completed after final payment was made in December 2022.

#### **FY 2020-HB CV**

obo Huntingdon Borough Portstown Park Enhancements (previously COVID-19 Prevention and Housing/Utility Assistance)

On August 4, 2022, we received the contract and activity extensions for both the Huntingdon County and obo Huntingdon Borough CDBG-CV funding. Since no applications were received for assistance from any residents of the Borough, we began to discuss eligible

options to utilize these funds. Borough Huntingdon officials, chose enhancements tο Portstown Park - since outdoor park equipment least was the time consuming and best allocation of these funds. A contract modification for this project change was submitted to and approved by DCED.

A large new piece of playground equipment for young children will be added to the existing structures on site to



With the help of



create an even more sought after outdoor activity location. In addition, adult outdoor fitness equipment, the first-of-its-kind in Huntingdon Borough, will be featured. This project includes multiple pieces of equipment to promote a healthy lifestyle for all ages in our community. Construction will begin in spring 2023 and will be completed by Borough employees.

#### ONGOING CDBG CONTRACTS & ACTIVITES

#### FY 2018, FY 2019 & FY 2020

#### obo Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization

This activity involves repair and restoration (historical preservation) of the town clock located at 508 Mifflin Street, Huntingdon, PA. This project is very involved and includes repair of the Seth Thomas Time and

Strike tower clock movement; restoration of the dials; repair of the bell floor, bell cribbing, tolling wheel. and hammer assembly; installation appropriate dial lighting; physical and structure repairs to eliminate existing water infiltration.



Seiler & Drury Architecture, PC designed the project, which required approval from Huntingdon Borough as well as the Huntingdon



Presbyterian Church, as it changes the design of the front entryway to the church and requires annual maintenance of the timepiece. Seiler and Drury selected Balzer-Family Clockworks from Freeport,

Maine as the restoration entity. The Balzer family traveled to Huntingdon for on-site inspection prior to commitment to establish a plan and proposal for the restorative efforts. Once their proposal was approved by all stakeholders, they returned to Huntingdon and removed the clock movement, beveled gears and the bell hammer. This project is currently multi-year funded with a total of \$282,443.86 in funding from CDBG, Huntingdon Landmarks and the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church. It is anticipated the clock movement pieces will be available for public viewing within the entryways to the church by April 1, 2024.

#### FY 2018 & FY 2019

#### obo Smithfield Township Flood Levee Improvements

This activity involves efforts to maintain certification of Smithfield Township's levee and to ensure that flooding risks are minimized in the community. An internal closed circuit television inspection of the existing levee





culverts was conducted. An Invitation to Bid was published July 9 and 15, 2022. Two bids were received. The project was awarded to State Pipe Services, Inc. for a total amount of \$79,000. Work began late December 2022 and is approximately 70% completed

#### FY 2020

#### Pump Station #2 Upgrades

This County project was submitted by the Shade Gap Area Joint Municipal Authority (SGAJMA) and involves various improvements to their existing pump station (Pump Station #2) located at the intersection of Main Street and Croghan Pike in Dublin Township. The pump station currently serves residential users along Main Street in Dublin Township and a convenience store adjacent to the facility. Originally constructed in 1994, deterioration of the pump station has progressed to the point where measures need to be taken in the near future to prevent failure of the pump station. A total failure of this pump station would affect all residents that are connected and potentially result in a raw sewage discharge event.

The project scope primarily involves the replacement of both pumps with new duplex submersible pumps. The pumps will be controlled by Variable Frequency Drives

(VFDs) to improve overall energy efficiency rather than mechanical devices. The VFDs can regulate flow by adjusting the motor and/or pump speed. The pump controls also require replacement and will include both alarming and flow monitoring capabilities, permitting SGAJMA staff to remotely monitor the pump station's daily operations. This alarming will allow staff to



react to a failure and limit the potential for surcharging events. The valve vault will be replaced and new mechanicals will be installed. The new valve vault will house a magnetic flow meter, check valves, plug valves, and an air release valve. Reconstructing the valve vault will limit pump station downtime and the requirement for bypass pumping.

This activity is currently funded with \$204,358 in CDBG FY 2020 funds. SEDA-COG began the environmental review for this project on July 8, 2022. Once clearance was received on November 4, 2022, a sub-recipient agreement between Huntingdon County and the SGAJMA was approved on November 15, 2022. The project construction deadline is March 29, 2024. Bidding is expected to be completed by March 7, 2023 with construction to begin shortly thereafter.

#### FY 2020 CDBG-HC CV

#### Diven Park

After bid issues in the spring of 2022 and uncertainty that an extension request would be granted by DCED, an extension was granted on August 4, 2022; and the project was re-energized. We published the Invitation to Bid on August 10, 12 and 16, 2022 and received two bids. The selected bidder was Glenn O. Hawbaker with a bid of \$255,595. A Change Order was immediately requested to modify the scope of the work to fit the budgeted amount allowable for this project. This change in scope involved elimination of paving of a parking lot, but retained resurfacing of the tennis courts and new fencing. The Notice to Proceed was issued on November 29, 2022 with construction anticipated to begin

in the spring of 2023, once the weather is more predictable. Completion is expected mid-May 2023.

#### FY 2020 & 2021

#### obo Smithfield Township Housing Rehabilitation

On October 25, 2022 a public announcement flyer was sent from our office to all residential addresses within Smithfield Township. This flyer outlined the single-family housing rehabilitation program, defined the income restrictions and provided examples of eligible projects. Residents immediately began calling with inquiries and a list was created.

An agreement with SEDA-COG was approved on December 30, 2022 for SEDA-COG to administer this program. A Tier 1 environmental review has been completed and additional clearances will be designated once addresses have been finalized. Interested participants have been narrowed to two households who appear to meet the qualifications and who have expressed safety concerns within their homes.



### Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS				
FY 2020 CDBG-CV (CARES Act)	Amount			
HC COVID-19 Prevention and Housing/Utility Assistance—completed November 2022	\$5,599.81			
Diven Park Improvements—starting spring 2023	148,150.19			
Huntingdon Borough Portstown Park Enhancements—starting spring 2023	60,100.00			
Total	\$213,850.00			

ENTITLEMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS	
FY 2018	Amount
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - Hill Valley Sewer Improvements Project—completed May 2022	\$87,000.00
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - West Water Street Waterline Replacement—completed December 2021	60,000.00
Mapleton Reservoir Improvement Project—completed November 2022	52,358.00
912 Washington Street Rehabilitation—completed December 2022	96,948.00
Smithfield Township Spot Blight (913 Pike Street)—completed December 2021	40,850.38
Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization—started December 2022	160,418.86
Smithfield Township Flood Levee Improvements—started December 2022	34,776.62
Total	\$532,351.86
FY 2019	Amount
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall Phase 2—completed July 2021	\$200,486.00
Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization—started December 2022	99,552.00
Smithfield Township Flood Levee Improvements—started December 2022	77,239.00
Total	\$377,277.00
FY 2020	Amount
Pump Station #2 Upgrades—bid opening scheduled for March 2023	\$204,358.00
Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization—started December 2022	22,473.00
Huntingdon Borough 6th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation—project design started January 2023	79,836.00
Smithfield Township Housing Rehabilitation—outreach started October 2022; intake underway	78,945.00
Total	\$385,612.00
FY 2021	Amount
Pennsylvania Ave Restoration—activity pending	\$206,680.00
Huntingdon Borough 6th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation—project design started January 2023	103,964.00
Smithfield Township Housing Rehabilitation—outreach started October 2022; intake underway	79,970.00
Total	\$390,614.00

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) defines economic development as creating 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, with the vision of "improving 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. In 2022, the members of PEP met quarterly to discuss the following strategic priorities:

- 1. Supply Chain: Support Existing Businesses by Promoting Crossover Businesses;
- 2. Business Development: Assist Businesses by Providing a Host of Services;
- 3. Infrastructure: Promote 21st Century Infrastructure Provided to Businesses:
- 4. Workforce Development: Attract, Retain, and Educate the Workforce; and
- 5. Marketing: Market the County to Employers, Investors, and Employees.

#### PEP MARKETING

One long-standing committee of PEP is the Marketing Committee. The PEP Marketing Committee is engaged in marketing the County and its economic possibilities.

While the Committee planned to focus on development of media kits based on the Live Here, Work Here, Play Here, Grow Here, and Learn Here videos, no activity took place in 2022. Due to major staffing changes, reorganization of committee membership is needed.

# STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH (SAEG)

The SAEG is a collaborative group consisting of staff from the Juniata College Sill Incubator and Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, Huntingdon County Business and Industry, the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, and the Huntingdon County Planning Commission. No SAEG meetings were held in 2022.

# HUNTINGDON COUNTY BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The Huntingdon County Business & Industry (HCBI) mission is "to promote economic development throughout Huntingdon County." Through the HCBI Economic Infrastructure Committee, members advance and facilitate economic growth by addressing matters regarding transportation (highways, rail development, public utilities and etc.). infrastructure, telecommunications, and economic development The Planning Director serves on this incentives. Committee.

### **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 March 2022, the Planning and Development Department published the 2022 HCPC Annual Report.

#### **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 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.

#### FAIR HOUSING AWARENESS

An annual Fair Housing activity is a requirement for recipients of CDBG funding. For 2022, Planning Department staff partnered with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) to offer a free training on furthering fair housing opportunities in Huntingdon County. Event invitations were sent to Huntingdon County municipalities, banks and attorneys; the Huntingdon County Housing Authority; the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce; and Huntingdon County Business & Industry. A workshop



titled, "What is Fair Housing Really?" was held on September 21, 2022 in the Bailey Building Ballroom. PHRC presenters were Adrian Garcia, Director, Fair Housing & Commercial Property; and Brittany Mellinger, Fair Housing Training & Outreach Coordinator.

Specific goals of the session included an overview of PHRC's work and mission; American housing history that has perpetuated segregated housing opportunities; increased understanding of fair housing; who plays a role in affirmatively furthering fair housing; and key partnerships to achieve housing change. Participants learned that fair housing goals are "to prevent housing discrimination and to reverse housing segregation, also referred to as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)." The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and

financing of housing, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, familial status, age, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin or handicap or disability of any person. Ways to put AFFH into practice in our community were explained as education, barrier identification, partnerships, messaging and connection.



#### PMPEI COURSE IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute's (PMPEI) Course in Community Planning is a three session in-depth course, designed for planning commissioners and local officials in how to carry out their responsibilities under the *Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code* (MPC).

In October 2022, outreach was made to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission to determine their interest in sponsoring the Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review. The target audience would be appointed and elected officials, including planning commissioners, township and borough zoning hearing board members, planners, architects, surveyors, and attorneys in the six county Southern Alleghenies Region. It is anticipated this training will be offered in summer 2023.

The Planning Director is a board member of the PMPEI, and a certified instructor to teach the PMPEI Courses in Community Planning, Subdivision and Land Development Review, Zoning and Zoning Administration.

### MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

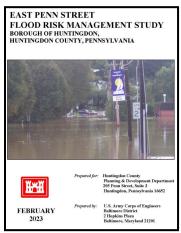
With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities and agencies upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning, and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant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

#### INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Department staff worked directly with the following municipalities in 2022:

#### **Huntingdon Borough**

Staff attended meetings with Borough staff and Council to discuss current and future entitlement CDBG projects. In addition, a Planning Department-initiated flood mitigation study for East Penn Street was funded by the USACE Baltimore District in February 2022. The study's primary purpose is to develop flood



mitigation measures reduce or eliminate flooding along East Penn Street allowing access to Borough by emergency vehicles during flooding events and mitigating flood damage to several privately owned businesses along this street. The completed received study was February 3, 2023and forwarded to Huntingdon Borough officials consideration.

#### Mount Union Borough

Staff coordinated a demographic survey with Borough and Water Authority staff to determine CDBG eligibility for a proposed waterline replacement project using FY 2022 funding. Staff also provided model subdivision and land development ordinances for Borough Council consideration.

#### Smithfield Township

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

#### ACT 13 MARCELLUS SHALE 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." These funds may be leveraged with other funding sources to complete a project, and mostly serve as gap financing.

Since September 3, 2013, the Huntingdon County Commissioners have made a total of \$30,000.00 available annually, with a maximum award of \$10,000.00 per project. Six percent of each award is retained for administrative expenses.

On April 21, 2022, the Huntingdon County Planning Commission reviewed five applications for Act 13 funding totaling \$66,400.00. The Planning Commission's award recommendations were forwarded the Huntingdon County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$30,000.00 to three projects on April 26, 2022. The three 2022 Act 13 Legacy Fund awards included \$10,000.00 each for:

- Renovation of the Broad Top City Borough Community Building:
- Improvements at Riverside Park in Smithfield Township; and
- Upgrades to the Little League Field in Warriors Mark Township.

Of the \$262.945.53 in Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds awarded for 32 eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$210,830.89 was spent by the end of 2022 -\$201,385.55 for project costs and \$9,445.35 for program administration. \$36,746.86 of the total funds awarded, was reallocated because four projects were no longer viable and six projects did not utilize their entire award. Projects utilizing awarded funds are located in Broad Top City, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mapleton,

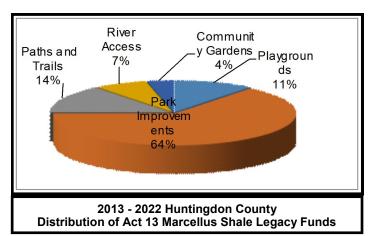


New Bleachers, Warriors Mark Township

Mount Union. Shirleysburg and Three Springs Boroughs; and Morris, Shirley, Smithfield, Tell. Walker, Warriors Mark and Wood Townships.

### MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)

The distribution of awarded Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, summarized by category, is detailed in the chart below:



# JUNIATA RIVER BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES (JRBC) UPDATE

Formed in 2014 with coordination by the Huntingdon County Planning & Development Department, the JRBC was one of only six participants in the Blueprint Communities program within Pennsylvania. The initial "Core Team" was tasked with committing themselves to trainings and focus groups that would aid in the education and experience required to create a comprehensive five-year plan for the communities of Mapleton Borough, Shirley Township, and Mount Union Borough. Through their extensive efforts, the group compiled a thorough strategic plan outlining seven themes: Business and Economy, Housing and Neighborhoods, Image and Identity, Quality of Life, Workforce and Education, Infrastructure, and Social and Political.

The current JRBC group consists of a mixture of original and new members sharing a common interest of continuing the work by driving the identified goals and plans forward to improve the quality of life and support the growth of the Mapleton, Mount Union, and Shirley Township communities. The JRBC members have been working as one committee with mini

committees to accomplish multiple facets of projects. In 2022, a list of potential members was created for an additional committee to coordinate the Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue mural project - from original concept, to fundraising, to execution and any other issues that may arise. The first committee meeting regarding the mural is scheduled for 2 p.m., March 13, 2023 at the Mount Union branch of the Center for Community Action (CCA). The JRBC has also been meeting at this location. CCA anticipates this branch office will open to the public in March 2023.

The Huntingdon County Community Development Administrator is involved in the promotion and marketing sub-group. She is working directly with JRBC staff on content for the Facebook page; ways to encourage community participation; and ways to grow followers to allow shared social media information to reach as many residents as possible. In addition, she has been designing several promotional pieces for the purposes of attracting the public and showcasing the JRBC. These promotional pieces are expected to take shape in early 2023.

One of the upcoming JRBC projects discussed in 2022 and funded through a mini-grant is a time bank. Tentatively, the time bank will launch in Spring 2023. A great community response is anticipated. This asset, available to residents of Mount Union, is seen as a means to trade services or talents. Someone with one set of skills or talents needing help can trade their skills with someone having the needed skills or talents. While the time bank will be a learning process, this concept is an exciting feature that can show worth in our area regardless of anyone's type of employment, lifestyle, pay rate, address, or any other diversity factors. It can showcase that everyone has value that is measured in means of hours rather than skill or educational background.

A redesigned website for the JRBC was launched mid-February 2023. Information about the JRBC can be found at https://www.jrblueprint.org/ or on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/mublueprintcommunity.



### 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

On Monday, March 8, 2021 the South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency (SCCSWA) voted to discontinue 10 drop off locations within the Tri-County region, at the host municipality sites, that were operated and under contract with Parks' Garbage Service. The four drop off recycling sites that were closed in Huntingdon County included locations at the Porter Township Municipal Building, the Jackson Miller Elementary School (Jackson Township), the Oneida Township

Building, and Wood Mizer (Dublin Township). Other facilities under a separate contract remain available for residents to deposit recycling materials. In Huntingdon County these sites are located on Fairgrounds Road in Smithfield



Township, at the James Creek Post Office in Marklesburg Borough and at the Parks Garbage Service Facility in Shirley Township. In Fulton County, sites are located at the Forbes Road School and the McConnellsburg Recycling Center. In Bedford County, sites are located at the Everett Church of the Brethren, the Bedford Township Supervisors Office, the Broad Top Township Building and the Sandy Run Landfill.

#### SOLID WASTE PLAN UPDATE

The South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency (SCCSWA) consists of the County Commissioners of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties. The purpose of the agency is to ensure there is sufficient capacity for the disposal of waste (both household solid waste and recycling) in the three county region.

In September 2021, the draft Municipal Waste Management Plan was advertised for public comment and a copy of the draft Plan was submitted to each municipality for review, as part of the plan revision process. On October 6, 2021, Bedford County, Fulton County, and Huntingdon County held a joint public hearing on the proposed 2021 Plan Update. Following the public review period, the Plan was submitted to the Huntingdon County Board of Commissioners for adoption.

Resolution 2-2022, approved by the Huntingdon County Commissioner's on January 11, 2022, adopted the South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency's (SSCSWA) 2021 Joint Municipal Solid Waste Plan consisting of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties. Each County's Board of Commissioners must approve the plan by resolution. Consistent with Act 101, the adopted Plan was sent to Huntingdon County

municipalities on January 19, 2022 for ratification. Each municipality had 90 days to act on the plan. If a municipality did not act within 90 days, it was assumed to have ratified the plan. Municipalities were required to submit a copy of their resolution of ratification to the county. If a municipality acted to decline to ratify the plan, they were required to pass a resolution containing a concise statement of objections and forward a copy of that resolution to the county and the advisory committee. A conditional approval was considered a disapproval. Huntingdon County municipalities that ratified the municipal solid waste plan by resolution included Cassville Borough, Clay Township, Coalmont Borough, Henderson Township, Huntingdon Borough, Marklesburg Borough, Penn Township, Township, Springfield Township, and Tell Township. All others were deemed approved since no municipality

The major goals of this plan update are:

- 1. Securing sufficient capacity for the disposal of municipal waste generated by residents, businesses and institutions within the Region for at least a ten (10) year period;
- 2. Showing how the Region intends to continue to provide recycling opportunities for residents and businesses in an effort to move toward the thirty-five percent (35%) State recycling goal; and
- 3. Developing a means to support expanded recycling for residents and businesses of the Region.

In November 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP) notified the Planning Department they had received and reviewed the substantial plan revision for the Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon County Municipal Waste Management Plan. The PA-DEP recommended the plan be withdrawn until a meeting could be held to discuss deficiencies and the deficiencies could be addressed. The Counties subsequently withdrew the plan by letter dated November 15, 2022.

On March 3, 2023, PA-DEP representatives; John Wood and Ashley Dobak, with Barton & Loguidice; and the Planning Directors from Huntingdon, Fulton and Bedford Counties met virtually to discuss the plan deficiencies. All concluded that Barton & Loguidice can provide amendments to the plan addressing the deficiencies. Further discussions with Barton & Loguidice and the County Planning Directors are forthcoming to take the next steps. It is anticipated the plan will be revised and approved by PA-DEP by December 2023.

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The comprehensive plan has been the cornerstone of American planning theory and practice since the early 1900s. The *Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code*, Act of 108 P.L. 805 No 247, as reenacted and amended, through 2017 (Article III Section 301.4) 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 by engaging public participation 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.

#### 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 adopted by the Huntingdon County Commissioners on July 3, 2018. The five priorities in Huntingdon County's Action Plan include Broadband and Cellular Service, Collaboration and Coordination, Business and Workforce Development, Housing and Blight and Recreational Amenities and Natural Assets.



The Huntingdon County Planning Commission (HCPC) has committed to regular quarterly reviews of the Plan's progress as a way to maintain commitment to the *implementable plan* approach. During 2022, several meetings of the HCPC involved discussions regarding furthering identified action items within the Huntingdon County Action Plan. Three items discussed at meetings were Act 137, Act 152, and furthering recreational amenities and natural assets.

Most notably the HCPC and Planning Department staff focused on the needs to address affordable housing and blighted structures within the County. Two state legislative acts that serve to address these needs are Act 137 and Act 152.

Act 152 adopted by the Pennsylvania legislature on November 4, 2016 allows for counties of the 6th class to authorize a special deed and mortgage recording fee by creating a county demolition fund. The action necessary for this to occur would be adoption of a resolution or ordinance by the county commissioners authorizing the recorder of deeds office to charge and collect an additional fee for all mortgages and deeds recorded in the county. The fee cannot exceed \$15 for each recorded deed and mortgage. It is also acceptable to allow a fee for costs associated with administration.

The Pennsylvania state-enabling legislation that allows for a Countywide Affordable Housing Trust Fund was through passage of the Optional County Affordable Housing Funds Act 137 of 1992, Senate Bill 962. This act, referred to as the Second Class County Recorder of Deeds Fee Law, allows governing bodies of each county to increase fees charged by the recorder of deeds. The additional fees levied by a county's governing body, under subsection (a), shall not exceed 100% of the amounts charged on February 12, 1993.

The purpose of Act 137 is to increase affordable housing in counties, including but not limited to providing local matching funds to secure National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 HOME funds, to assist or support housing efforts by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and supporting second mortgages. The funds can be used exclusively for a county single-family, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program. All homes using any Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, regardless of other funding sources, must be brought up to current code standards.

# BROADBAND TASK FORCE AND BROADBAND IMPLEMENTATION

The mission of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Broadband Task Force is "to create a comprehensive action plan that guides affordable, reliable network

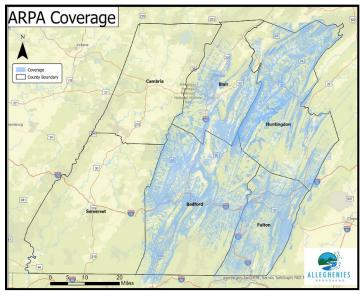
### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (cont...)

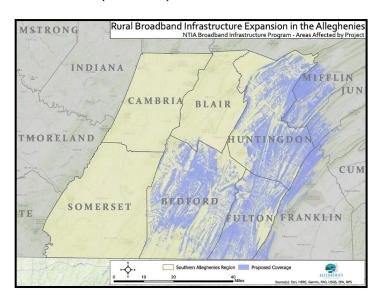
implementation for all businesses and residents in the six-county region." Led by Chair, Commissioner Jeff Thomas, the Broadband Task Force is comprised of elected officials, representatives from the private sector, and other community leaders.

The Broadband Task Force initiated a six-county regional fiber optic study for a 5-10 year study period. These broadband expansion efforts and the fiber optic study are consistent with Huntingdon County's Action Plan for broadband and cell service expansion to cover gaps in coverage, which will enhance the marketability and competitiveness of Huntingdon County and will incentivize future investment within the County.

The Broadband Task Force also identified a need for a regional entity to promote and support broadband infrastructure through partnerships with existing providers, rural electric cooperatives, state and federal funding agencies, and other stakeholders. A non-profit 501c3 organization was launched in 2020. In 2021, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) granted provisional authority for Alleghenies Broadband, Inc. (ABI) to serve as a Competitive Access Provider (CAP). According to their mission statement, "ABI is committed to digital equity in the six-county Southern Alleghenies region by partnering with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other stakeholders to provide high-speed internet connections and necessary resources to residents and businesses within our community. By working closely with incumbent providers and new entrants, ABI will support the development of broadband infrastructure and emerging technologies throughout the region to bridge the rural broadband gap."

Visit https://www.allegheniesbroadband.com/ to view interactive versions of their coverage areas maps:





The Huntingdon County Commissioner's Office is the primary office for implementing broadband strategies to serve unserved and underserved areas of Huntingdon County.

At their February 16, 2022 State of the County address held at the Lewistown County Club, the Huntingdon County Commissioners reported they used \$1.4 million of the \$4.39 million American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds received by the County. These funds were awarded to Upward Broadband to make improvements to 15 existing tower sites in the County that serve 4,000 customers. Additionally, \$85,000 was awarded to Crowsnest Broadband LLC to make improvements to two existing towers that serve 350 homes.

### 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)

Every two years, Huntingdon County participates in the update to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission's (SAP&DC) Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP makes up the first four years of the Twelve Year Program (TYP) and is developed in cooperation with Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties, PennDOT District 9-0, PennDOT Central Office, and SAP&DC.

The RPO prioritizes, reviews, and approves the final TIP. The TIP is fiscally constrained by available funding identified by PennDOT, projects expected funding sources to fund the RPO's transportation projects, which include safety improvements, traditional roadway resurfacing and reconstruction projects, major construction projects of new facilities, and the bridge network.

Huntingdon County Planning Director, James Lettiere is appointed by the Huntingdon County Commissioners the RPO's Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC), which makes recommendations to the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC). The RPO relies on Huntingdon County to solicit for transportation projects, which are reviewed bi-annually by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission (HCPC). The 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.

On October 25, 2022, the Huntingdon County Commissioner's approved recommendations from the Huntingdon County Planning Commission for prioritizing projects for the 2025-2028 TIP. Projects submitted to the SAP&DC on November 10, 2022 included:

#### Safety:

- 1. Underpass on Route 45 in Spruce Creek Township.
- 2. Seven Stars intersection (Route 45 & 350) in Franklin Township.

- 3. Sharp curve on Route 350 just beyond the intersection with Ridge Road (State Route 4025) in Warriors Mark Township.
- 4. Stone outcrop area of Route 350 in Warriors Mark Township.
- **5.** McAlevy's Fort intersection of Route 26 and Route 305 in Jackson Township.

#### **Pedestrian:**

The rail yard between Franklin Street and the Kistler bridge in Mount Union Borough.

#### **Bridge:**

Route 550 (Pennington Rd.) over Logan Spring Run in Warriors Mark Township.

# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (HCATC)

The Huntingdon County Commissioners authorized the creation of the Active Transportation Committee (ATC) on November 28, 2017, consisting of 18 members and four ex-officio members. The ATC was inactive during 2019 and 2020 due to staff turnover and the pandemic. It reconvened in 2021 and now consists of 11 voting members and three ex-officio members. The ATC meets regularly the last Friday of each month.

The ATC's main goals, at this time, are to re-establish the committee and look into applying for the PA-Downtown Center's WalkWorks grant to hire a consultant to prepare a County Wide Active Transportation Plan.

In fall 2022, Huntingdon County (through coordination of the ATC and the Planning Department) applied for grant funding through the PA Downtown Center's WalkWorks Program for the creation of a Countywide Active Transportation Plan. The WalkWorks Program is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

In October a press release was issued indicating Huntingdon County was one of eight counties statewide to receive grant funding for development of a

### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING (cont...)

Countywide Active Transportation Plan with goals to develop non-motorized transportation plans to increase physical activity within boroughs and townships.

The WalkWorks award is \$25,000; and the sub-award agreement is between the County Commissioners and the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. In addition to this grant, the Huntingdon Commissioners committed \$5,000 from the PA-DCED Local Planning Technical Assistance Program, which was earmarked for comprehensive planning activities to leverage funding for this project totaling \$30,000.

The sub-award period is October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. This is a reimbursable sub-award grant and will be administered through the Planning Department in coordination with the ATC and the selected consultant.

The advantage of having a standalone active transportation plan is that funding agencies such as the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). the Pennsylvania ofDepartment Community and Economic Development (DCED), and the Pennsylvania ofDepartment Transportation (DOT) implementation funding preference to counties that have adopted such plans.

The ATC and the Planning Department prepared a Request for Proposal document that was circulated to consultants in November 2022, and was due Friday, December 16, 2022. Huntingdon County received four (4) proposals and the award was made to the EADS Group.

The Huntingdon County plan will identify projects that can be developed to create new walking and biking trails, fill in trail gaps, assist with crosswalks, safe pedestrian maneuverability, and bulb outs to calm traffic - all to encourage more active lifestyles and promote physical exercise.

The ATC's focus will be on segments 1, 13, and 19 of the feasibility study for the Main Line Canal Greenway Trail (segment of the September 11th National Memorial Trail).

The Huntingdon County Active Transportation Plan must be completed and adopted by the County Commissioners by September 30, 2023.

#### The September 11th National Memorial Trail

The Northern Pilgrimage through Pennsylvania Trail Alignment Study



The Visitor Shelter at the Flight 93 National Memorial – Reached by the September 11th National Memorial Trail

Prepared for

The September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail Alliance 5000 Liberty Woods Lane, Woodbridge, Virginia

\_ane, vvoodbridge, virginia

Somerset County, Pennsylvania as the Coordinating Municipality 300 North Center Avenue, Somerset, Pennsylvania

November 23, 2015

This study was made possible through the generous support of: The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies

The September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance

Prepared by:

Campbell Thomas & Company Trails-Architecture-Preservation-Planning 1504 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 Robert P. Thomas, AIA – Partner in Charge Phone: 215 985 4354 E-mail: rthomas@campbellthomas.com In association with:

Laird LA, PLLC

Landscape Architecture & Recreation Planning
Roaring Spring, PA

TPW Design Studios

Landscape Architecture & Planning York, PA

# A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE MAIN LINE CANAL GREENWAY TRAIL

(A SEGMENT OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL)
HUNTINGDON AND MIFFLIN COUNTIES, PA

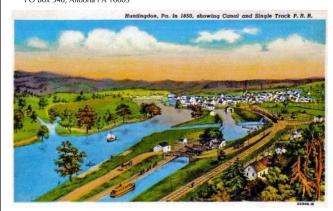
Prepared for:

Allegheny Ridge Corporation Allegheny Heritage Discovery Center 1421-1427 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue PO Box 348, Altoona PA 16603









Prepared by:

Campbell Thomas & Co. 1504 South Street Philadelphia, PA 19146 215-545-1076

> CT &C

In association with: Laird LA, PLLC 821 Dick Schoolhouse Rd

821 Dick Schoolhouse Rd. Roaring Spring, PA 16673 814-614-4707



January 2019

### 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 OF PENNSYLVANIA

An affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), the County Planning Directors Association (CPDAP) provides input on state policy on environmental and land use issues to both CCAP and the Commonwealth. James Lettiere, Planning Director, is a member of this organization and was appointed as an at large member of the CCAP Board of Directors.

# SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SAP&DC)

The Planning Director represents the County on several SAP&DC committees, including the Planning Committee (PAC) and the Advisory Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC). County Commissioners sit on the Coordinating Committee (RTCC). The RTCC plays a key role in development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). James Lettiere was elected Chairman of the PAC. The Planning Director and Community Development Administrator have been named to the Coordinated Transit Plan Steering Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop a plan to coordinate a regional network of transportation services and facilities that works to strengthen transportation access for all residents.

# HUNTINGDON COUNTY BUSINESS & INDUSTRY (HCBI)

The Planning Director serves on the HCBI Economic Infrastructure Committee and the HCBI Revolving Loan Committee. The Economic Infrastructure Committee has the goal of advocating, supporting economic issues related to highways, rail, the Riverview Business Center, telecommunication, multimodal transportation, and economic development incentives.

#### 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. Categories for the 2021 Awards were Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit. Seven applications were received and five awards were presented when the seventeenth annual Community Improvement Awards were announced during the Planning Commission's March 3, 2022 Annual Dinner Meeting. Recipients of the 2021 Awards included:

- Bryan Park, Huntingdon, PA Community Spirit;
- Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Retaining Wall, Mount Union, PA - New Construction;
- Hartslog Heritage Museum, Alexandria, PA Preservation;
- Robertsdale Old Post Office, Robertsdale, PA Preservation: and
- John Eastman and Chris Wencker, Huntingdon, PA
   Special Merit.

In August 2019 a fire destroyed the M&T Vacuum business and apartments on the 500 block of Washington Street and created a vacant space in the downtown business district. Because building codes, the space layout, no off-street parking and no open traffic access limited the rebuilding value of this property. the Huntingdon Borough envisioned creating a uniquely attractive ADAcompliant community park space, focused on outdoor dining, gathering, and entertainment. With approval of Huntingdon Borough Council, the plan for this downtown park included repurposing the original Bryan Street pavers to provide a foundation for the park and installing water, sewer, and 30/50 amp electric to accommodate two unique food trucks using the space simultaneously. Also envisioned was

planting of a centralized blue spruce, installing support poles to anchor overhead sails, string lighting and hanging flower arrangements.

Bryan Park was officially dedicated on

October 16, 2021; and Huntingdon's annual tree lighting celebration was held in and around Bryan Park on December 3, 2021.

### AGENCY LIASION AND COORDINATION (cont...)

The primary purpose of the Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Retaining Wall project was to replace the existing structurally deficient Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) retaining wall, replace broken sidewalks and



reconstruct a large portion of Pennsylvania Avenue between North Division and North Franklin Streets. In 2020, demolition, excavation and reconstruction of the portion of wall between North Division and North Jefferson Streets was

completed. Excavation and reconstruction of the portion of wall between North Jefferson and North Franklin Streets was completed in July 2021.

This \$2.8 million multi-modal project is locally and regionally significant as it reestablishes safe access to homes along the corridor and provides multiple means of transportation, including rail, motor vehicles, bicycles and walking trails. A variety of State, Federal and local funding sources enabled completion of this project. The restored retaining wall and reconstructed street turned a blighted corridor in the center of Mount Union into a central community gathering space, sparked rehabilitation of housing in the corridor, and serves as a catalyst for expanding economic development in Mount Union Borough.

On October 19, 2020, John Eastman and Chris Wencker helped a neighbor in need. Shortly after 8:00 A.M. a huge explosion occurred and they realized the home of their neighbor Michele Shovlin was completely destroyed. John called 9-1-1, he ran to see if he could help and heard Michele calling for help. After unsuccessfully trying to climb over debris at the front of the house, he ran to the rear of the house and was able to get to the basement area were he found Michele, with burns over her body, hair singed and clothing in tatters, starting to climb out of the basement debris! John helped her out, led her to a safer area and placed his coat around her to help avoid shock.

Chris Wencker also heard Michele calling for help and arrived on the scene. He brought a deck chair for Michele to rest in while waiting for emergency services. After being assured by Cpl. Streightiff and another officer from the Huntingdon Police Department (HPD) that emergency services were on the way, John and Chris carried Michele in the deck chair to an adjoining neighbor's driveway to wait for the ambulance. While the HPD Officers and John waited with Michele, Chris went to the homes of neighbors to alert them of the fire danger and to check for damage. A neighbor's young

son, Will Woomer, also went to the neighboring Heaton home, which was on fire, and rescued their dog Odin. John credits the Huntingdon Fire Department's great job of putting out the fire and saving homes in the neighborhood. He commented, "if credit or merit is due, it should go to the ...EMT's, Fire Department, Doctors, Nurses, Care Givers, and Michele's incredible family."

John also observed that "this tragic explosion event really showcased how this wonderful Huntingdon Community can rally around one of it's citizens who is suffering. This has been demonstrated in so many ways... neighbors providing water to the firemen

putting out the fire, businesses having fundraisers for Michele, Go Fund Me collections, a parade for Michele when she was able to come home from the hospital, and countless other acts of kindness and support. All, during a global Pandemic shutdown!"



The National Bank building in Alexandria Borough served the community as a bank and post office since 1919. It has also been one of two public landmark buildings that have contributed to the charm and community spirit of Alexandria.

When the First National Bank announced in August 2016 that the branch bank would close in November 2016, board members of the Hartslog Heritage Museum began to consider acquiring the prominent landmark to preserve the building and to address the curatorial needs of the Museum, housed on the second floor of the adjacent Alexandria Memorial Library. In late 2017, the Museum Board acquired the empty bank building through pledges from Board members and other community-minded individuals.

Volunteers tore out unneeded or unwanted bank and post office fixtures and assessed a myriad of damages to walls, floors and ceilings due to many years of inattention. After several years of sweat equity from Board members and friends of the Museum, donations and earnings from hosting Hartslog Day, the restored building provides space for Museum storage, displays of large donated items, temporary Museum exhibits, special Museum events and meetings of the Museum Board and Alexandria Borough Council. Preservation efforts included period-appropriate paint and lighting fixtures. Attention to detail in the restoration and repair of furnishings and reinstallation of a portion of the postal boxes from the building's Post Office era point to a high aesthetic standard and express an

### AGENCY LIASION AND COORDINATION (cont...)

appreciation for the history of the community. Although plastering and repairing damage from roof



and window leaks was contracted to professionals, the majority of work to restore this historic building was completed bу Board members.

their families and community members.

Constructed in 1916, the Old Post Office of the Robertsdale Company Square is part of the Friends of the East Broad Top (FEBT) Robertsdale Museum Complex. Located at 570 Main Street in Robertsdale, PA,, this building has served many purposes, including post office, barbershop, temporary lock-up, arcade, and apartment.

The FEBT purchased the building in 1987 with funds from a private donor. To rehabilitate the building, they also obtained various loans and grants from the State government and the National Railroad Historical Society. Although rehabilitation was substantially completed in 2003, not much happened with the facility until the East Broad Top Foundation bought the East Broad Top Railroad in 2020 and announced plans to reopen the railroad. The FEBT realized completion of the museum was necessary to draw tourists visiting the East Broad Top (EBT) Railroad site in Orbisonia, PA.

FEBT volunteers fitted custom made hardwood doors, installed locks, removed all construction materials from the first floor, and prepared and installed interactive display panels and select exhibits. They also established a gift shop with a state-of-the-art sales system in the historic building. With sustainability in mind, volunteers reused original materials, when possible, and changed halogen track lighting to LEDs for safety and energy conservation. Volunteers also cleared the railroad right-of-way and designed an official walking tour of the mine area. The Robertsdale Museum officially opened on June 12, 2021, the same day as the rejuvenated EBT. The goal of the entire museum complex is to demonstrate the importance of

Robertsdale and its mines during the heyday of the East Broad Top Railroad.



#### COUNTY - MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

Article III, Section 303 of the *Pennsylvania 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, 68 and 127 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 2022, local government and state agencies submitted 23 projects for review and comment under Acts 67 and 68 and 10 projects for review under Act 127.

Additional notifications included a request from Ferguson Township, Centre County regarding amendments to the township's official map; one new surface mining permit application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); one surface mining permit renewal application to DEP; and 10 comprehensive plan consistency requests along with three letters of support for applications to funding sources that included PA DEP Growing Greener; PA Small Water and Sewer; PA COVID-19 ARPA H2O; PA COVID-19 ARPA Small Water and Sewer; and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development Multimodal Transportation Fund.

Act 14 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 Huntingdon County Planning Commission received 29 such notices in 2022.

#### 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), 30 funding requests to federal agencies were received in 2022: 24 from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); two from The Pennsylvania State University to the US EPA; one from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to the US EPA; one from the PA DEP to the Federal Emergency Management Agency; one from the PA DEP to the US Department of the Interior; and one from the PA DEP to the US Mine Safety and Health Administration.

### 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**

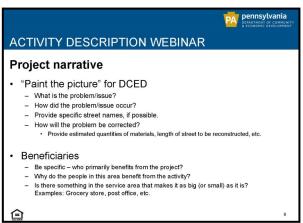
The Department encountered several staffing changes during 2022. Stacia-Fé Gillen, Community Development Administrator, resigned effective March 18th. Jennifer Bellis was hired to fill this vacancy and assumed her duties on July 18th. In June, Jayann Leibley, Assistant Community Development Administrator, submitted her resignation and offered to stay until the position was filled. Jayme Reck was hired to fill this position and assumed her duties on October 3rd.

#### STAFF TRAINING

James Lettiere, Planning Director, attended the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association's Annual Conference held October 2 - 4, 2022 in Lancaster, PA.

Other Planning and Development staff training activities during 2022 included:

- HUD ACS Mapping Tool Webinar, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED);
- Creating a Solid CDBG Activity Description Webinar, sponsored by DCED;
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing/Fair Housing Fundamentals Training, sponsored by DCED and provided by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC);
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Workshop, sponsored by the Planning Department and presented by PHRC staff; and
- Whole Home Repairs Program and Application Walkthrough Webinar, sponsored by DCED.



#### **LOOKING AHEAD to 2023**

#### Complete PEP's Marketing Plan

It is anticipated that staff will work with the PEP Marketing Committee to develop a marketing strategy to promote a positive image of Huntingdon County to visitors, business investors and business employees, and residents.

#### Implement PEP's Strategic Plan

PEP will continue implementation of their Strategic Priorities by working with identified priority chairs and stakeholders; and will continue to integrate efforts by the Strategic Alliance for Economic Growth (SAEG).

#### Implement Alleghenies Ahead

Each member of the SAP&DC Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) will continue to implement *Alleghenies Ahead*.

# Identify Projects for the Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

Continue to investigate future projects and to find ways to collaborate with stakeholders and municipal leaders.

#### Complete the Active Transportation Plan

Administer the \$25,000 WalkWorks Grant and coordinate with the The EADS Group consulting team to prepare and complete a Huntingdon County Active Transportation Plan for County Commissioner adoption by September 30, 2023.

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

A complete plan update for Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties will continue with the assistance of consultant Barton & Loguidice.

### ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (cont...)

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

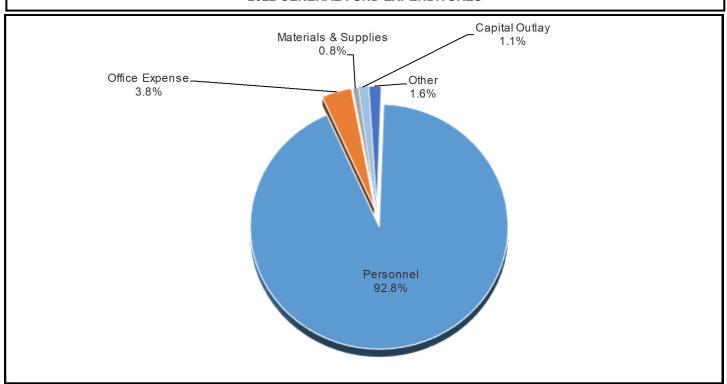
The Department is funded by the County General Fund's Planning and Zoning, Planning Grants (Community Development Block Grant or CDBG) and Solid Waste and Recycling Line Items. For 2023, the total of these General Fund budgets is 3.7% more than it was in 2022. Below are detailed budget reports for 2022 and 2023.

#### **GENERAL FUND TOTALS**

2022 Budget	2022 Expenditures	2023 Budget		
\$221,037.00	\$177,666.42	\$229,250.00		

Planning and Zoning Budget Report	2022 Budget	2022 Expenditures	2023 Budget	Planning Grants and Recycling Budget Reports	2022 Budget	2022 Expenditures	2023 Budget
Personnel	\$101,477.00	\$101.477.00	\$106,500,00	Personnel	\$102,500.00	\$63,355.57	\$107,500.00
Office Expenses	\$7,200.00	\$6,006.01	\$6,500.00	Office Expenses	\$2,360.00	\$674.26	\$2,000.00
Materials and Supplies	\$800.00	\$1,163.11	\$600.00	Materials and Supplies	\$900.00	\$195.57	\$550.00
Other	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,500.00	Other	\$1,300.00	\$294.90	\$100.00
Capital Outlay	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00				
Total	\$113,977.00	\$113,146.10	\$119,100.00	Total	\$107,060.00	\$64,520.30	\$110,150.00

#### **2022 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**



#### **HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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

#### PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS\*

Ron Rabena, Chairman

Larry Mutti, Vice Chairman

Lawrence Biemiller, Secretary

Patrick Reeder

Wendy Melius

Philip Cahill

Bryan Yingling

\*two vacancies on this nine-member board

#### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF\*\*

James P. Lettiere, AICP, Planning Director

Jennifer Bellis, Community Development Administrator

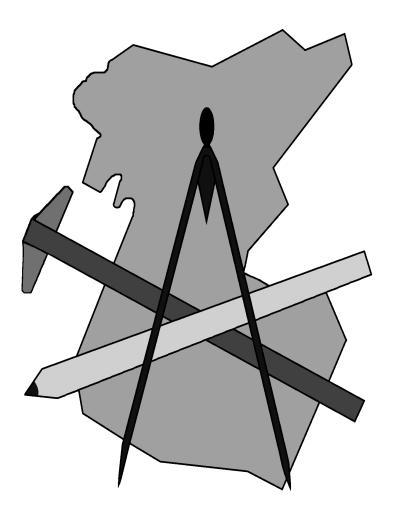
Jayme Reck, Assistant Community Development Administrator

Laurie Nearhood, Office Manager/Secretary

\*\*Reflects Staffing as of March 9, 2023

### Huntingdon County Planning Commission

### Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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