

2019 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 subdivision activity occurring within Huntingdon County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services.

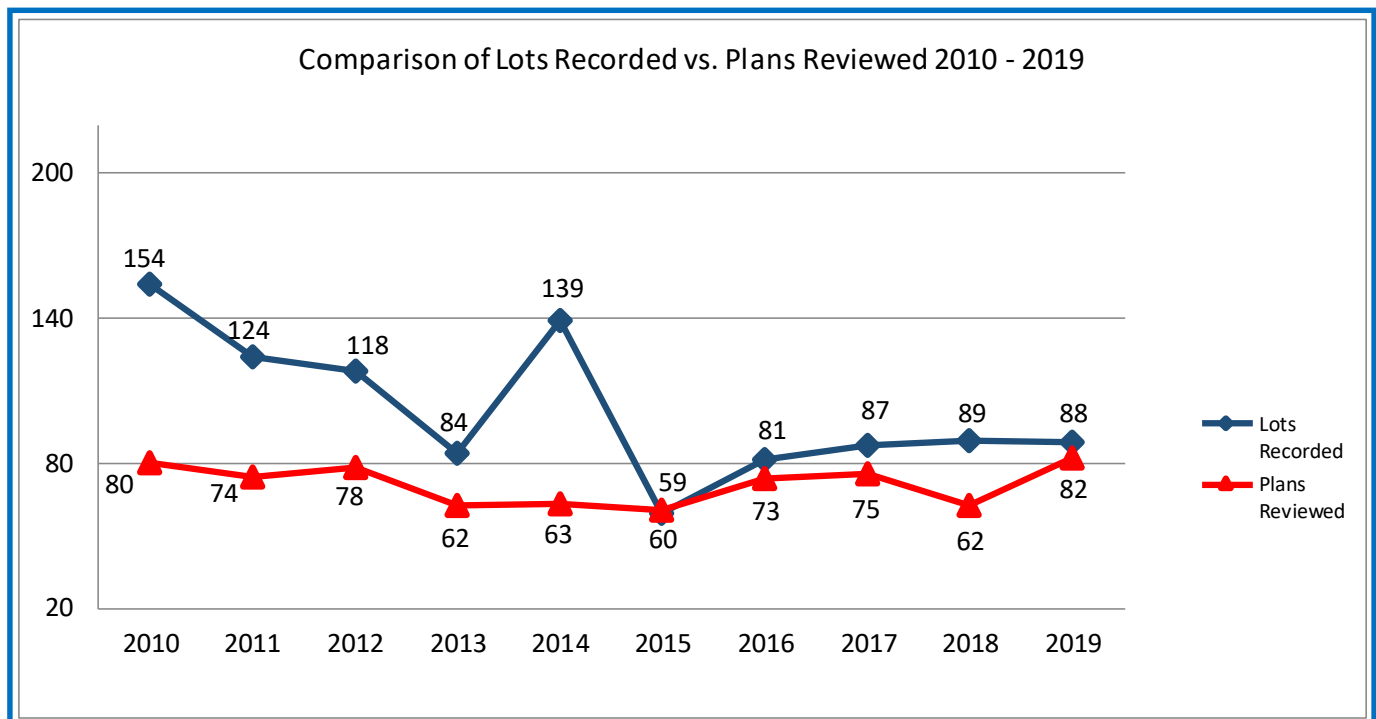
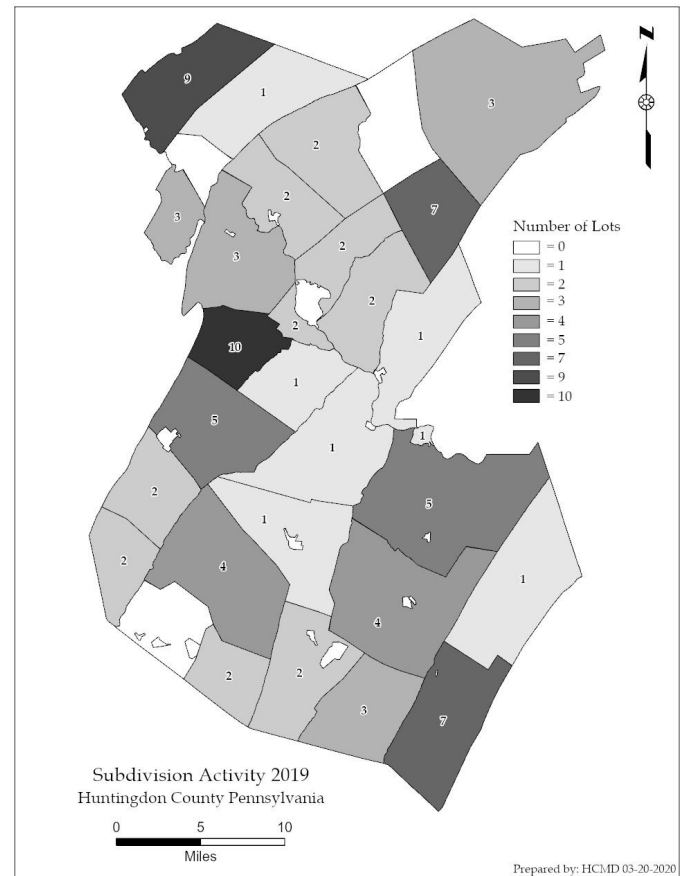
Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots, which is through the act of subdivision recordation.

During 2019, 88 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is a decrease of 1% from the 89 lots recorded in 2018.

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 2019, the municipalities with the highest levels of recorded lots were:

- Walker Township, ten new lots;
- Warriors Mark Township, nine new lots each;
- Dublin and Miller Townships, seven new lots each; and
- Penn and Shirley Townships, five new lots each



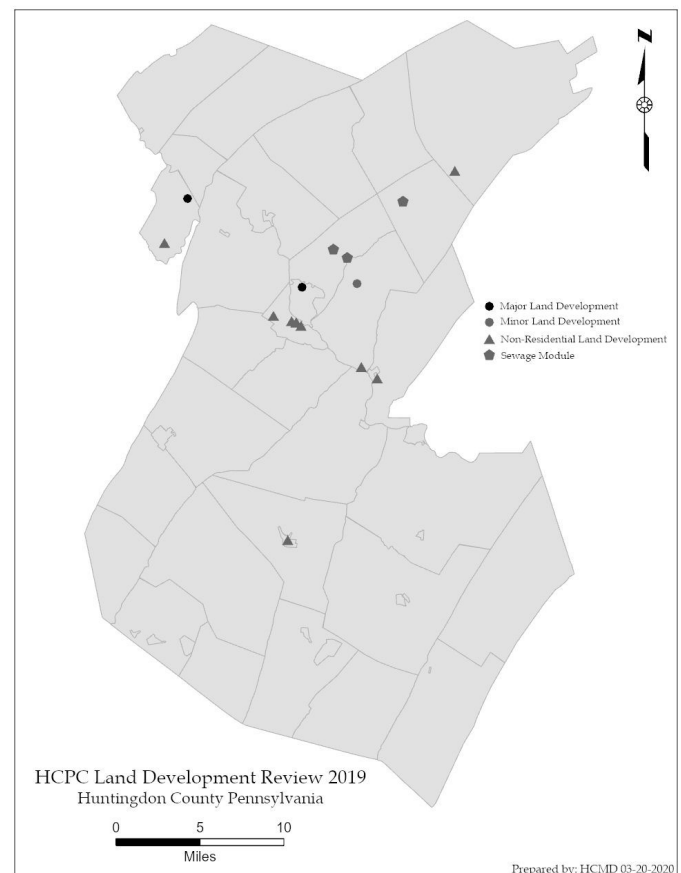
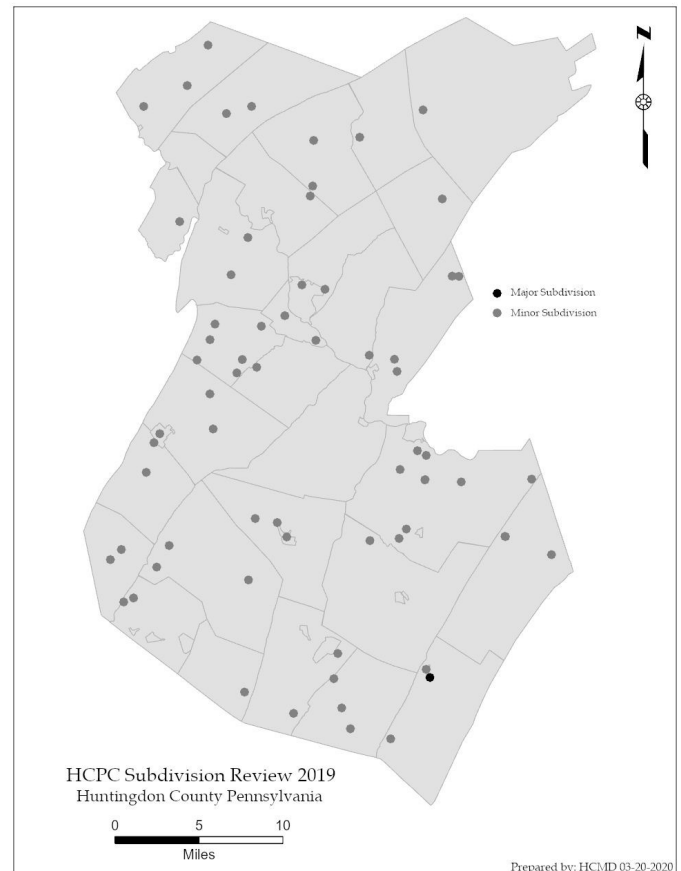
SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

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 82 submissions in 31 municipalities during 2019, up by 20 from the 62 reviewed during 2018. The 2019 reviews included: two major residential land developments; one major subdivision; nine non-residential land developments; 66 minor subdivisions; one minor residential land development; two small flow treatment facilities; and one sewage facilities planning module. These projects encompassed a total of 79 lots and 1,756 acres. The maps on this page illustrate the distribution of these proposals. Details for the major residential land developments, the non-residential land developments and the major subdivision are provided below:

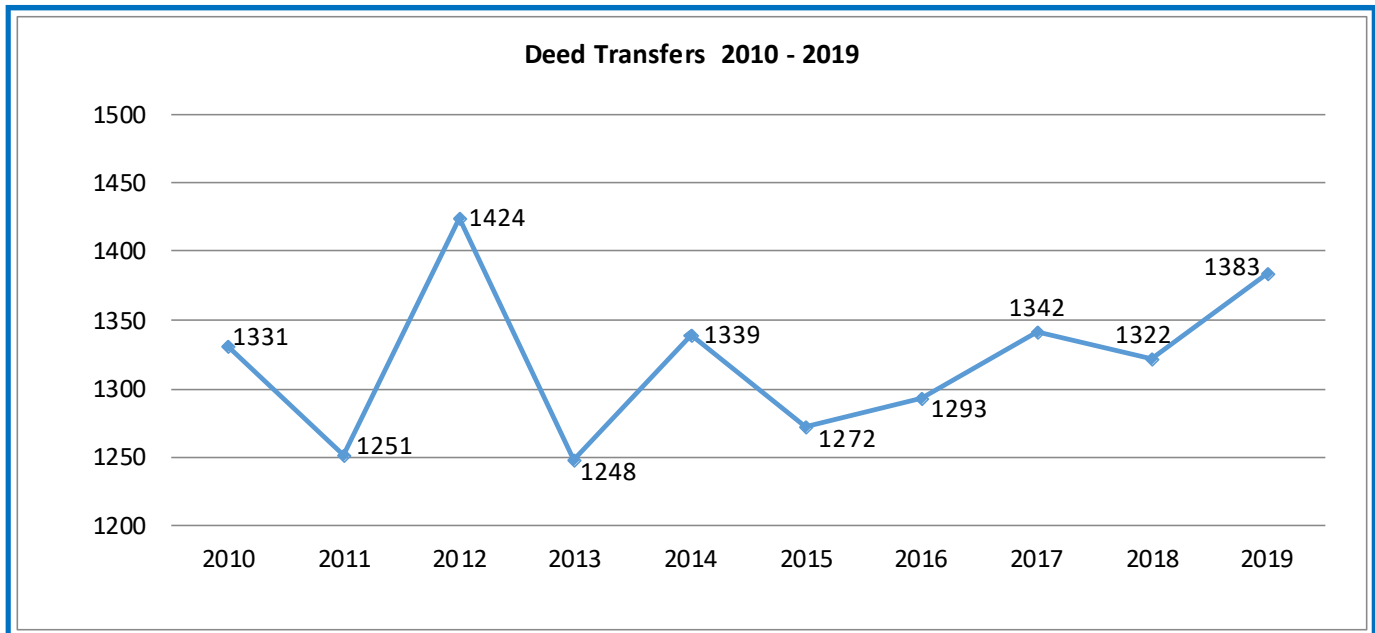
- Westminster Place at Huntingdon, Huntingdon Borough, construction of a 14,375 square foot 48-unit senior apartment building;
- Emily Estates (Final Plan), Morris Township, construction of 81 senior cottages and a 14,560 square foot clubhouse;
- Martin R. and Lisa A. Parsons, Dublin Township, nine residential lots;
- Huntingdon County Career & Technology Center Transportation Center, Brady Township, construction of a 12,500 square foot transportation center;
- Price Motor Sales Maintenance Garage, Cassville Borough, construction of a 5,500 square foot garage;
- Dollar General - Mill Creek, Henderson Township, construction of a 9,100 square foot store;
- AT&T Mobility Telecommunications Tower (Ennisville), Jackson Township, construction of a 285' self-supporting tower;
- Penelec Transmission, LLC, Morris Township, construction of a 9,520 square foot garage;
- SPE Federal Credit Union, Smithfield Township, construction of a 3,867 square foot office;
- Time to Shine Car Wash, Smithfield Township, conversion of a vacant garage to an automatic car wash and construction of a 250 square foot building addition;
- ACE Hardware Building Addition, Smithfield Township, construction of two building additions totaling 4,664 square feet; and
- Sheetz Store #215 Building Addition, Smithfield Township, construction of a 332 square foot building addition



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 recorded in 2019, both existing and new, showed a 4.6% increase from 1,322 in 2018 to 1,383 in 2019.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

For 2019, 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 40 electrical permits in 19 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing. The Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 88 residential addresses in 31 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing. Twelve addresses were for seasonal housing and 76 were for permanent housing.

The highest total number of new seasonal addresses (two) were issued in both Cass and Springfield Townships, while the highest number of new addresses for permanent housing (11) were issued in Huntingdon Borough.

The table to the right illustrates the highest concentrations of new addresses and new electrical permits issued in 2019. The new-home data from these sources includes conventional, modular, and mobile homes.

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY ADDRESSES	VREC ELECTRICAL PERMITS
Cass Township	4	1
Clay Township	4	0
Cromwell Township	5	4
Dublin Township	2	1
Henderson Township	4	2
Hopewell Township	2	2
Huntingdon Borough	11	0
Jackson Township	4	1
Juniata Township	3	2
Logan Township	2	2
Morris Township	1	2
Mount Union Borough	2	0
Oneida Township	3	0
Penn Township	2	4
Porter Township	2	0
Shirley Township	4	3
Smithfield Township	4	0
Springfield Township	5	4
Tell Township	1	2
Todd Township	5	3
Union Township	2	2
Walker Township	4	1
Warriors Mark Township	3	1
West Township	2	2

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL

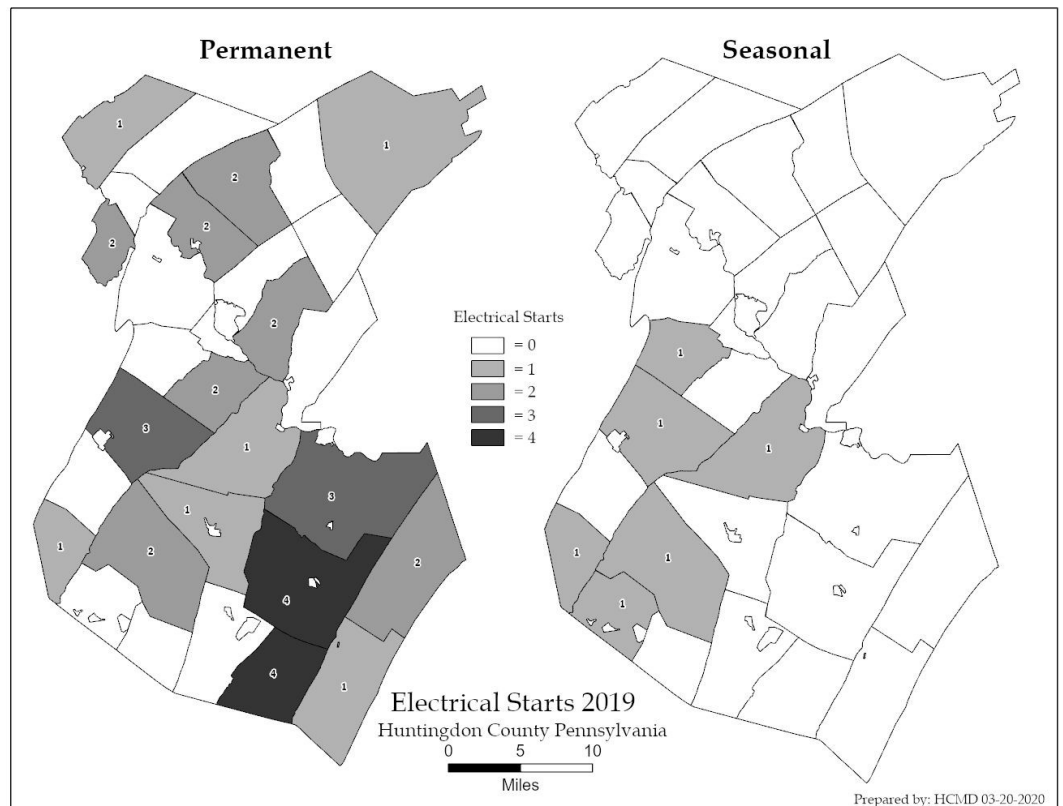
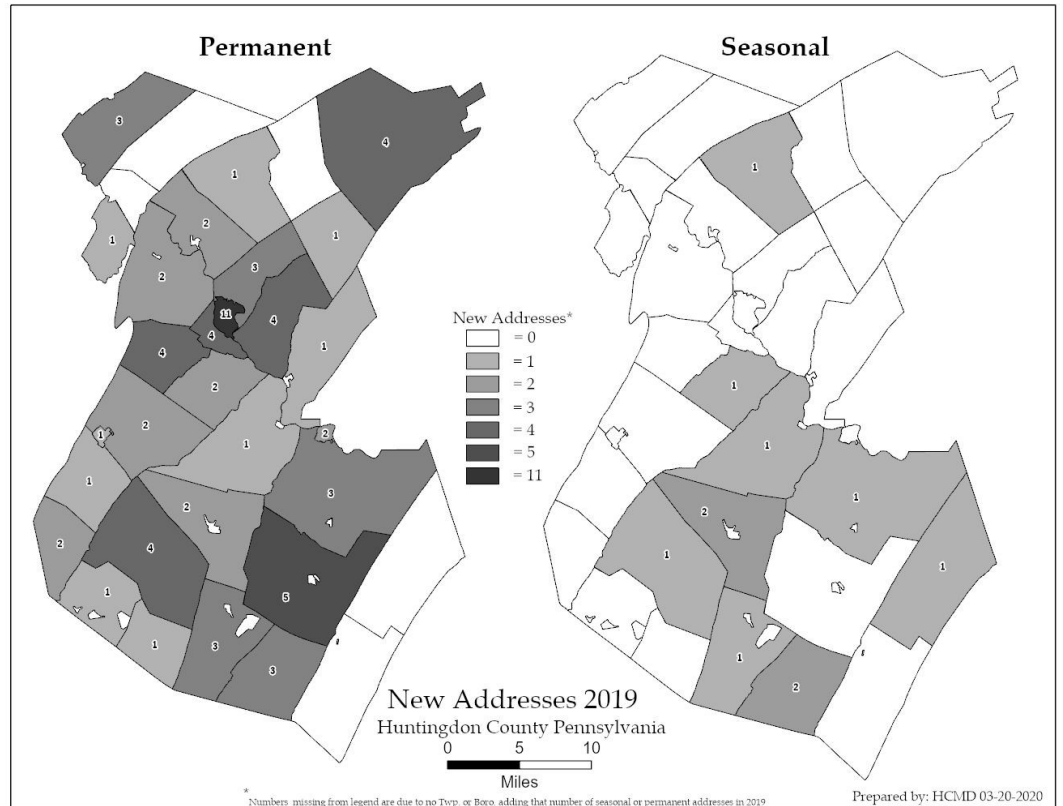
Valley Rural Electrical Cooperative (VREC) issued six electrical permits for seasonal housing, including two conventional homes and four mobile homes.

Four permits for permanent housing were issued in both Cromwell and Springfield Townships followed by Penn and Shirley Townships with three permits each for permanent housing.

The most electrical permits, permanent and seasonal combined, were issued in Penn Township. Of the four permits issued in Penn Township, three were for permanent conventional housing and one was for a seasonal mobile home.

A total of three permits each were issued in Shirley and Todd Townships:

- Shirley Township - three for permanent conventional housing;
- Todd Township - two for permanent conventional housing and one for seasonal conventional housing.



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 six projects in 2019: Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority Water and Wastewater Plant Improvements, Birmingham Waterline Replacement, Mapleton Line Looping, Spruce Creek Demolition, Phase 2 of the Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Sewer System project, and Phase 2 of the Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall project. The Wood-Broad Top-Wells and Mapleton projects were funded through CDBG competitive and entitlement contracts.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In addition to working on CDBG competitive and entitlement funded activities in 2019, Department 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 two-day on-site HOME Program monitoring in May and in a five-day on-site CDBG Program monitoring in June. Both on-site monitoring were with program-specific PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) grant managers.

The FY 2019 CDBG Entitlement Application for Huntingdon County and on behalf of Huntingdon Borough and Smithfield Township was submitted to DCED on November 21st. This \$460,092.00 application included \$244,495.00 for Huntingdon County, \$121,404.00 for Huntingdon Borough and \$94,193.00 for Smithfield Township.

HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT (HPG)

The fully-executed contract for this USDA Housing Preservation Grant was received mid-March 2019. During 2019, several conversations were held with representatives of Weatherization, Inc., Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity and the Center for Community Action regarding agency cooperation to assist as many very low- to low-income homeowners as possible with emergency minor housing rehabilitation needs aimed at addressing acute (minor) home repairs for residents within Huntingdon County’s 48 municipalities.

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.

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-2020.

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

This project included 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.

Construction for this project was funded almost entirely by \$1,235,120.00 in Huntingdon County CDBG entitlement and competitive funding and Bedford County CDBG entitlement funding. This water and sewer project concluded in late March 2019.

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE LINEAR PARK CORRIDOR RETAINING WALL, PHASE 2

In 2014, a competitive Community Development Block Grant was received to relocate water and sewer lines serving 16 houses along Pennsylvania Avenue in Mount Union Borough and to fund a sub-surface investigation to determine the suitability of designing and constructing a new retaining wall.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

The infrastructure replacement portion of this project (Phase 1) was completed in October 2015.

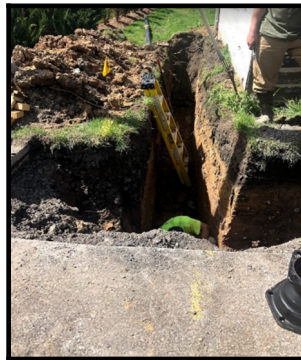
Department staff have continued to seek the additional funding needed to rebuild the failed retaining wall that separates the road from the former Pennsylvania Railroad and East Broad Top Railroad line.

In February 2019, \$1.2M from the PennDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Fund (MTF) was awarded, and, in November 2019, \$500,000.00 in DCED MTF was also awarded. Combined with CDBG FY 2019 entitlement funding, Southern Alleghenies grant funding and Mount Union Borough financial contributions, these MTF awards fully funded the project.

It is anticipated that this project will be bid in March 2020 and completed by March 2021.

MAPLETON WATER LINE LOOPING

Because Mapleton Borough's 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. A study conducted in 2014 identified five locations in priority order for new line construction: Ridge to Hill Street, Hill to Grant Street, Vine to Main Street, Gayton to McHugh Street and Callowhill to Campbell Street.



Employees of the Mapleton Water Authority began work on this project in March 2019 and concluded in June 2019. Project funding included competitive and entitlement CDBG funds and Authority contributions.

SPRUCE CREEK DEMOLITION

This project consisted of the demolition of three residential structures, out buildings, a retaining wall, associated E&S controls, and seeding and mulching along Spruce Creek Road.



With the assistance of CES Engineering, LLC, the project went out for bid in September 2019. Bids were opened in October 2019 and on November 6th a notice of award was sent to G&R Excavating and



Demolition, Inc. of Tyrone, PA. The notice to proceed was issued on December 24th. As of April 2020, this project has been completed.

MT VERNON AVENUE STORM SEWER PHASE 2

The purpose of these improvements in the Village of Smithfield was to mitigate the localized flooding in warmer weather and the accumulation of ice in winter months along portions Mount Vernon Avenue, 8th Street and a portion of Juniata Avenue. Levine Engineering, LLC identified the project area as Mount Vernon Avenue from half way between 9th and 8th Streets to half way between 8th and 7th Streets; from the intersection of Mount Vernon Avenue, south along 8th street to approximately Juniata Avenue (if the same intersected 8th Street); and east through vacant land behind the private school to Juniata Avenue.

The project went out for bid in February 2019 and bids were opened in March 2019. The April 9th notice of award was sent to Antares Site Work, LLC of Alexandria, PA and the notice to proceed was issued on June 7th. After conducting a follow-up inspection on October 18th, Levine Engineering, LLC concluded that this project was complete.

BIRMINGHAM WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

Originally intended as part of a project completed using FY 2013 CDBG funding, the Market Street portion was removed due to budget limitations. FY 2016 CDBG funding allowed the completion of the Market Street portion of the project, which included the replacement of approximately 400 linear feet of water main along Market Street and approximately 225 linear feet of water main on Spring Hollow Drive.



This project went out to bid in December 2018. Bids were opened in January 2019 and the February 5th notice of award was sent to Lumadue Excavating, LLC of West Decatur, PA,

The notice to proceed was issued on March 25th and the project was completed on May 13th.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS		
Competitive CDBG	2013 - Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Water/Sewer Relocation, Phase 1; Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall, Phase 2	\$750,000
Competitive CDBG	2014 - Mapleton Water System Improvements	\$556,000
Competitive CDBG	2014 - Wood-Broad Top-Wells Water and Wastewater System Improvements	\$1M
Keystone Historic Preservation Grant	2016 - Courthouse Tower Phase II and Courthouse Doors	\$70,850
Housing Preservation Grant	2018 - Emergency Minor Housing Rehabilitation	\$71,718

ENTITLEMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS	
FY 2014	Amount
Mapleton Water Line Looping	\$164,296.00
County Courthouse Accessibility	26,000.00
Smithfield Mount Vernon Avenue Stormwater	12,740.00
Smithfield Levee Rehabilitation	57,173.00
Total	\$260,209.00
FY 2015	Amount
Wood Broad Top Wells Water/Sewer Ent	\$76,000.00
Spruce Creek and Countywide Blight	30,552.00
Mapleton Water Line Looping	82,000.00
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Water Phase 2	67,310.00
Smithfield Levee	2,238.00
Huntingdon Borough Curb Cuts	87,044.00
Total	\$345,144.00
FY 2016	Amount
Birmingham Water Line Replacement—Market Street	\$137,811.00
Mapleton Sidewalk Replacement	50,000.00
Huntingdon Borough Curb Cut Installation	25,853.00
Huntingdon Borough Housing Rehabilitation	63,000.00
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Water Phase 2	70,716.00
Total	\$347,380.00
FY 2017	Amount
Todd Township Municipal Building ADA Upgrades	\$41,763.00
Shade Gap Community Center Upgrade	84,000.00
Shirley Home Walk-In Cooler/Freezer Combo	30,000.00
Huntingdon County Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation	30,273.00
Huntingdon Borough—Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity	25,000.00
Huntingdon Borough-Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program	62,688.00
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Water Phase 2	69,896.00
Total	\$343,620.00
FY 2018	Amount
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - Hill Valley Sewer Improvements Project	\$87,000.00
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - West Water Street Waterline Replacement	60,000.00
Mapleton Reservoir Improvement Project	52,358.00
Huntingdon Borough-Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program	96,948.00
Smithfield Township Spot Blight	75,627.00
Total	\$371,933.00
FY 2019	Amount
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall Phase 2	\$200,486.00
Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization	99,552.00
Smithfield Township Flood Levee Improvements	77,239.00
Total	\$377,277.00

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 2019, members of PEP identified chairpersons and stakeholders for each of their five key goals. These chairpersons are to report on the progress of each goal at the group’s quarterly meetings.

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. In 2019, the Committee focused on development of a media kit based on each of the five main videos created by CGI Communications in 2018: Welcome, Live Here, Work Here, Play Here, Grow Here, and Learn Here. These videos are available on the County’s webpage at www.huntingdoncounty.net.

ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

One of the major tenets of this project is to create a group of established entrepreneurs to provide feedback on what services, opportunities, and assistance are and are not available to a new business. This information would assist with determining whether or not a community is entrepreneurial-friendly.

The project became a team effort among Mark Colussy, County Planning Director; Terry Anderson, Director at the Juniata College Sill Business Incubator and Bob Reitman, Executive Director of HCBI. After outreach to Don Macke of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and Judy Chambers with PSU Extension, a plan of action was developed. This plan included working with local entrepreneurs to gather some of the needed data, while Chambers would facilitate some

meetings and workshops, and Macke would conduct some deeper economic data analysis. Although the PSU Extension Office and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship provided a formal cost proposal to Huntingdon County in 2017, work could not start without available funding. Unfortunately, when funding became available in 2019, neither Macke nor Anderson were available to assist with the project.

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, the Chamber of Commerce, Huntingdon County Business and Industry, the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, and the County Planning Commission. While the intent was for the members to meet monthly to discuss collaboration opportunities and ways to move economic progress forward in Huntingdon County, this group met infrequently during 2019.

RAYSTOWN LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION

The Raystown Lake Master Plan guides the comprehensive management and development of all recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the lake. Since master plans have an effective lifespan of 15 to 25 years and the current Master Plan was completed in 1994, the Army Corps of Engineers began a revision process in 2018. The primary goals of the revisions included prescribing an overall land-use management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts for the Raystown Lake Project.

After holding a series of public meetings and acceptance of public comments, the Army Corps of Engineers released the draft Master Plan on October 23, 2019 with a 45-day public comment period ending December 7, 2019. Two open houses were held in November 2019 to discuss specifics of the plan and to answer public questions.

According to the plan overview, two significant study efforts, the biological inventory and the boating carrying capacity study, were conducted to obtain the necessary information to guide revision decisions and future management of Raystown Lake. Release of the final Master Plan is anticipated in 2020.

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 2019, the Planning and Development Department published the *2018 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 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

Planning Director Mark Colussy provided Planning and Development Department updates at the County Conservation District's May 17, 2019 Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Road Program Informational Dinner.

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, distributed recycling information at the Huntingdon County Fair and Huntingdon Borough's Mayfest, and she presented information at Westminster Woods.

PMPEI COURSE IN SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

In 2019, Planning Director Mark Colussy coordinated co-sponsorship of the Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review with Huntingdon County and the Council of Governments (COG). This training was held on May 30th, June 6th and June 13th.

Participants learned the principles of subdivision and land development regulation, ordinance standards and review procedures in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PA-MPC), and project design techniques including flexible design concepts and options. Colussy co-taught the course with longtime instructor Stan Lembeck.

The 16 registrants in this course included members of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, municipal representatives and attorneys.

FAIR HOUSING AWARENESS

Department staff coordinated with the Recycling Coordinator to co-host a booth during the August 2019 Huntingdon County Fair. Planning staff hung colorful fair housing brochures and flyers on an eye-level display board to attract the attention of fair attendees. The fair housing literature available to the public included the following items:

- Fair Housing Quiz - Fair Housing Act Design & Construction Requirements - Test how much you know about the Fair Housing Act's Accessibility Requirements (10 question quiz from HUD and the National Fair Housing Alliance)
- Know Your Discrimination Facts - Provided examples of discrimination and defined helpful terms - from the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC)
- Fair Housing Is Your Right - tri-fold brochure from the PHRC
- El Acceso Justo a la Vivienda es Su Derecho - tri-fold brochure from the PHRC
- How to File a Discrimination Complaint - tri-fold brochure from the PHRC
- Pennsylvania's Fair Housing, "Finding a New Home" coloring book - from the PHRC
- Huntingdon County's Notice of Fair Housing Officer and Complaint Process
- Fair Housing Awareness business cards - printed with "Call HUD" with the Fair Housing Awareness ribbon and the HUD phone and TTY numbers and website

Outreach tools printed from the HUD website and hung on the display board included:

- Nowhere on a Rental Application Does it Say You Must be a White Man with No Kids and No Disabilities.
- Call HUD Because Sexual Harassment in Housing is Illegal.
- You + Fair Housing = A Better Community - Fair Housing Is Your Right. Use It.
- You have a nice set of wheels but can't find a place to park them.
- Live Free - Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity For All
- We detect smokescreens. Housing discrimination isn't always obvious.

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 2019:

Alexandria Borough

Staff attended the September 2019 Alexandria Borough Council meeting to discuss assistance available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE). It was explained that, at no cost to the Borough, the USACE will complete a flood mitigation study for the Juniata River. This 18-month study will update the existing flood modeling and flood hazard mapping, assess the damages associated with floods of different recurrence intervals, and develop alternatives for both riverine and stormwater flooding.

Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended meetings with Borough staff and Council to discuss CDBG projects and CDBG program administration.

Staff attended the November 2019 Huntingdon Borough Council meeting to announce that assistance is available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) for revising floodplain mapping for Muddy Run to accurately depict the flood risk based upon present day hydrologic and hydraulic conditions. This 12-month study will be completed using the best available data and would be completed in a manner that is compliant with FEMA's guidelines and specifications for flood mapping partners.

Mount Union Borough

Staff attended meetings of the Mount Union Borough Council 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. The website Planning Department staff created for the Township went live in May 2019.

Warriors Mark and Franklin Townships

With coordination between Planning Department staff and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff, the *Dry Hollow Run Flood Study for Warriors Mark and Franklin Townships* was completed in September 2019.

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).

In 2019, staff completed an ERR for four properties within Mount Union Borough, with a total of nine activities projected to be funded through the FY 2019 - 2023 Capital Fund Program. The properties included in this review were Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village, and Taylor Apartments.

A second ERR was completed for a fifth public housing complex located at 711 Church Street in Huntingdon Borough, with two activities projected to be funded through the FY 2019 - 2023 Capital Fund Program.

A third ERR, for the five properties mentioned above, was completed for activities projected to be funded through the FY 2019 - 2023 Operating Subsidy Fund Program.

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.

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 held 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 hosted the collaborative town hall to receive community input on projects planned throughout 2019.

MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)

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.”



Lower Trail Surface Rehabilitation,
Morris Township, March 2016

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. Six percent of each award is retained for administrative expenses.

In May 2019, four applications totaling \$31,590.84 were received and reviewed by the County Planning Commission. Recommendations were forwarded to

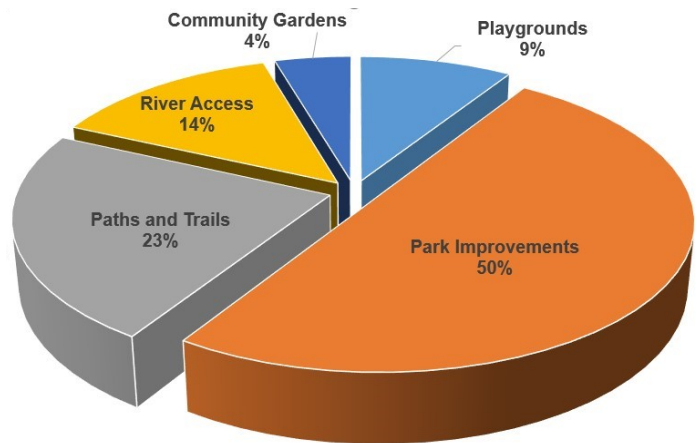
the County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$30,000.00 for the following three projects:

- \$10,000.00 toward construction of an ADA Accessible Play Park for Riverside Memorial Park in Mapleton Borough;
- \$10,000.00 for the Blairs Mills Sportsman's Association Renovation Project (Girls Softball Food Stand/Bathroom) in Tell Township; and
- \$10,000.00 toward the Riverside Park Food Truck, Supplemental Parking Addition and Security Project in Mount Union Borough

Of the \$175,345.53 approved for eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$111,718.26 was spent by the end of 2019 - \$108,158.91 for project costs and \$3,559.35 for program administration. At the end of 2019, \$30,523.03 of the funds approved were assigned for reallocation because four projects were no longer viable.

The 22 projects that have been awarded with Act 13 Legacy funds 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.

The distribution of Act 13 funds is outlined in the chart below:



2013 - 2019 Huntingdon County
Distribution of Act 13 Legacy Funds



Lower Municipal Park Pavilion, Mount Union Borough, May 2015

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 2019, 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 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon Counties Recycling Program.



In 2019, Huntingdon County drop off sites collected 669.01 tons and the Huntingdon County Voluntary Curbside Recycling Program collected 215.42 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

In 2019, special electronics recycling events were held at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds on May 18th, July 13th, September 28th and November 9th. These four events resulted in the collection of 131,503 pounds or 65.75 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.

Although Lou Ann Shontz retired at the end of 2018, she agreed to return to work part-time as Recycling Coordinator through the end of 2019.

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 expired in September 2019. Because of this September 2019 expiration date, the SCSWA authorized consultant Barton & Loguidice to begin work on the Solid Waste Plan in September 2018.

In January 2019, in accordance with State law which requires the formation of a solid waste advisory committee (SWAC) comprised of all classes of municipalities within the county, citizen organizations, industry, private solid waste industries operating within the county, private recycling or scrap material processing industries operating within the county, the county recycling coordinator and any other persons deemed appropriate by the county, Huntingdon County sent invitations to potentially-interested individuals and organizations to gauge their interest in participation in the SWAC.

In June 2019, the County Commissioners appointed eight individuals to the SWAC. Huntingdon County SWAC meetings were held on July 15th and October 28th.

Priority items identified by the Counties included maintaining the existing recycling drop-offs in all three Counties, establishing a sustainable funding source to support waste and recycling activities and administration of programs, and establishing ten year disposal capacity assurance contracts with waste disposal facilities, to ensure the proper disposal of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton County waste.

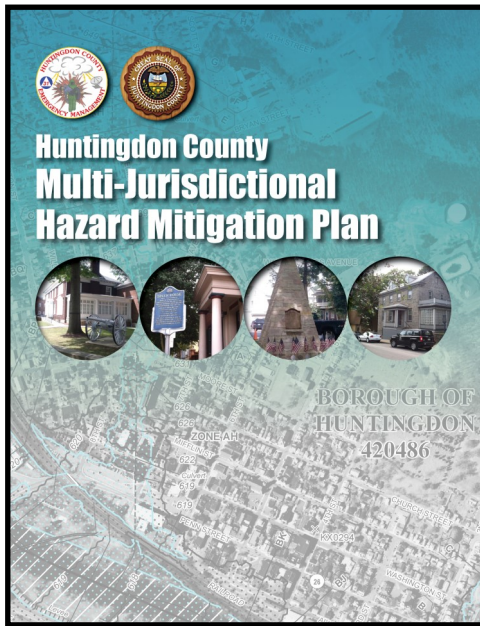
It is anticipated that work on the Solid Waste Plan will continue through 2020.

COUNTY ASSISTANCE (cont...)

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Since the current plan was adopted on March 20, 2015 and regulations require such plans to be updated every five years, the County Commissioners authorized releasing a Request for Information (RFI) in September 2019. The purpose of this RFI was to evaluate the feasibility and scope of work required to update the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). Responses to the RFI were evaluated by the County Commissioners and staff from the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the County Planning Department. After this group conducted two rounds of consultant interviews, Michael Baker International was chosen as the consultant to lead the planning process pending receipt of a Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) grant.

Also in September 2019, EMA and Planning Department staff coordinated to notify municipal officials, first responders and key stakeholders of the required plan update. The notification indicated that the County was applying for a grant from PEMA to hire a consultant to lead the plan update process over the next 18 months. It further noted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines Hazard Mitigation as the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Since mitigation is most effective when implemented under a comprehensive, long-term mitigation plan, state, county and local governments engage in hazard mitigation planning to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters, and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events.



Cover of March 2015 Plan

Since a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan is a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects, the notification was emphatic that municipal participation is vital.

On October 3rd, Huntingdon County hosted two workshops for key stakeholders, one at 1:30 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m., to discuss the planning process, expectations and tentative project timeline.

Receipt of the PEMA grant and approval of an agreement with Michael Baker International is anticipated in early 2020. The planning process is expected to take between seven and nine months.

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.

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.

The first set of doors were rehung on December 30, 2018. The second set of doors was delivered to SCI Rockview the first week of January 2019. The project was completed when County staff picked up the second set of refurbished doors and installed them on February 27, 2019.

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 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.

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, developed through several Steering Committee Meetings, an online survey, public outreach sessions, and key stakeholder interviews, was adopted by the Huntingdon County Commissioners on July 3, 2018.

The Huntingdon County Planning Commission has committed to a regular quarterly review of the Plan's progress as a way to maintain commitment to the *implementable plan* approach.

ALLEGHENIES AHEAD PODCAST

According to the Alleghenies Ahead Podcast portion of the AllegheniesAhead.com website, "urban planning and the allocation of local government resources can be a hidden process, especially in a region of the United States confronted with the legacy costs of a changing global economy.

The Alleghenies Ahead Podcast reveals the details of an extensive planning process unfolding in six southern Pennsylvania counties - Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset, collectively referred to as the Southern Alleghenies region.

Host Ethan Imhoff, Cambria County Planning Commission Executive Director and one of the leaders of the initiative,

interviews some of the Southern Alleghenies most energetic and inspiring people. Guests on the show



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (cont...)

detail their struggles to overcome the region's demographic and capacity challenges, but more importantly their successes in creating new economies, places and visions of the future.

The Alleghenies Ahead Podcast is developed in partnership with the Mount Aloysius College Communications Department."

Beginning in April 2019, the following topics aired on the Podcast during 2019:

- A Brief History of the Alleghenies Ahead Planning Process;
- Rebirth of the Johnstown Inclined Plane Trails;
- Recreation and Workforce Development on Campus;
- What is Alleghenies Ahead?;
- The Impacts of Next Generation Leadership in Johnstown;
- Trail Development in Blair County Motivates Economic Development;
- Connecting with the Leaders of Tomorrow; and
- The Past and Future of the Abandoned Turnpike in Bedford and Fulton Counties

The Alleghenies Ahead Podcast is available online at <https://allegheniesahead.com/alleghenies-ahead-podcast>. It is also available for streaming on Anchor, Apple Podcasts, Breaker, Google Podcasts, Overcast, Pocket Casts, Radio Public, Stitcher and Spotify.

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

Since the *Alleghenies Ahead* planning process identified that the need for broadband stretches across the entire six-county Southern Alleghenies region, the Regional Broadband Task Force was created to help find a solution to provide residents, businesses, hospitals, and schools with faster, more reliable internet service.

The mission of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Broadband Task Force is "to create a comprehensive action plan that guides affordable, reliable network implementation for all businesses and residents in the six-county region."

The Broadband Task Force is led by Private Sector Co-Chair, Jason Weaver, and Public Sector Co-Chair, Commissioner Jeff Thomas. Membership is comprised of elected officials, representatives from the private sector, and other community leaders and includes four subcommittees—Outreach, Funding and Research, Technical Expertise, and Data and Mapping.

Following is a description of each subcommittee:

- Outreach—charged with educating elected officials and other groups on the issues important to broadband deployment in the region.
- Funding and Research—includes Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC) staff, county planners, and educators; and identifies funding opportunities, provides grant writing assistance, and researches models that have been successful in other rural parts of the country.
- Technical Expertise—comprised of telecom professionals who provide the necessary technical information and knowledge needed to advance connectivity in the region.
- Data and Mapping—researches existing broadband infrastructure and creates regional broadband maps and tools to assist the task force in making informed decisions.

Mark Colussy, Huntingdon County Planning Director, chaired the Data and Mapping subcommittee in 2019.



Aired April 22, 2019 - Left to Right: Ethan Imhoff, AICP, Cambria County Planning Commission Executive Director; Mark Colussy, Huntingdon County Planning Director; Katie Kinka, formerly *Alleghenies Ahead* Project Manager and currently AICP, Senior Planner, Cambria County Planning Commission

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 Rural Planning Organization (RPO) 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 (RPO) prioritizes, reviews, and approves the final TIP.

The TIP is the first four years of the Twelve Year Program (TYP) that contains project-specific information. The TIP, 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.

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 (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.

The 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!

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.

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

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. Planning Director Mark Colussy served as an at large Executive Board Member during 2019.

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). For 2019, Mark Colussy was elected Chairman of the PAC.

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 2018 Awards were New Construction, Community Spirit, and Special Merit. Six applications were received for consideration and

three awards were presented when the fourteenth annual Community Improvement Awards were announced during the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 28, 2019. Recipients of the 2018 Awards were the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center Expansion and Renovation project, New Construction; Jenkies Joint, Community Spirit; and Kiki's Boutique, Special Merit.

Operating out of the original lodge, the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center has served Penn State students and the surrounding communities since 1976. The Center's programs have grown exponentially over the years and this \$7.5 million expansion and renovation project will allow Shaver's Creek to continue providing educational services and community programs for all ages while creating a nationwide model for environmental centers.



This project preserved the heart of the old building and added improved visitor and staff space, two new classrooms and completely overhauled homes for their birds of prey, reptiles and amphibians.

Eric Jenkins was driven to rescue an abandoned laundromat in Orbisonia. It became the goal of Eric and his wife, Amanda, to transform this building into a hip café, coffee shop and laundromat. Working closely with Greg Anderson, owner of Standing Stone Coffee Company in Huntingdon, they were successful in bringing this innovative dual-purpose coffee shop and laundromat idea to Orbisonia.

Jenkies Joint opened to the public on December 17, 2018 and held their ribbon cutting ceremony January 11, 2019. Customers can enjoy a cup of coffee, soup or sandwich in a welcoming environment featuring the

AGENCY LIASION AND COORDINATION (cont...)



work of a local artist. This unique shop, open Monday through Saturday, meets the recognized need for modern cultural amenities in the southern part of the county to attract and keep talented young people.

Conveniently located in downtown Huntingdon, the 3,000 square foot space that the former Western Auto occupied for many years was in dire need of rehabilitation. Recognizing that the large windows running the length of the building were perfect for retail display, Kenzie Sharpless envisioned a store offering women appropriate and reasonably-priced new clothing in downtown Huntingdon within walking distance of many areas of the community.

The eye-catching blue building located on the corner of 7th and Washington Streets is the result of creative remodeling and repurposed retail displays.

The grand opening for Kiki's Boutique was held on August 31, 2018. This locally-owned shop is open weekly Wednesday through Saturday.



COUNTY - MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

Article III, 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, 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 2019, local government and state agencies submitted 15 projects for review and comment under Acts 67 and 68 and 17 projects for review under Act 127.

Twenty-Nine additional notifications submitted included two under Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act); three Section 106 filings; five blasting plans; one zoning ordinance amendment; one Act 537 Plan update; four for consumptive water usage; one PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit; and twelve Comprehensive Plan Consistency requests for grant applications - one for the Multi-Modal Transportation Fund, one for the Commonwealth Financing Authority; one for Growing Greener; one for the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program; two for the H2O PA Program, and six for the Pennsylvania Small Water and Wastewater 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 15 such notices in 2019.

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), 21 requests to the EPA were received in 2019 - 20 from the PA DEP and one from the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

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 2019, Department staff included Mark Colussy, Planning Director; Melody Mason, Community Development Administrator; Laurie Nearhood, Office Manager/ Secretary; and Taylor Pollicino, Community Development Assistant. Mason submitted her resignation in October with a November 7, 2019 effective date. Nearhood was then named Interim Community Development Administrator to provide program continuity until the vacancy is filled.

Following discussions with Associates for Training and Development (A4TD) and approval by the County Commissioners, two Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants were placed in the Department. Stan Willis started on May 6th and Razinah Rahman started on June 17th. Of interest, is that Rahman was a prior Department employee who retired in October 2015.

STAFF TRAINING

In 2019, Planning and Development staff training included:

- Pennsylvania Downtown Center Annual Conference;
- County Planning Directors Association of PA quarterly meetings;
- Southern Alleghenies Planning Advisory Committee bi-monthly meetings;
- Monitoring Activity Progress Report (MAPR) Webinar, presented by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED);
- Environmental Review Training (Mandatory), hosted by DCED; and
- Community Development & Housing Practitioners' Conference, co-hosted by (DCED) and the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA)

LOOKING AHEAD to 2020

Hire a Community Development Administrator
Filling this vacancy will be a top priority in 2020. It is anticipated that a hire for this important position will be made by February 2020.

Finish the Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Retaining Wall Project

With financial and administrative coordination among a number of organizations, this priority project will be completed by March 2021.

Complete PEP's Marketing Plan

It is anticipated that staff will continue to 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 Priority Chairs and stakeholders and will continue to integrate efforts by the Strategic Alliance for Economic Growth.

Implement *Alleghenies Ahead*

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

Identify Projects for the Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

The ATC will continue to seek guidance on future projects and to find ways to collaborate with stakeholders and municipal leaders.

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.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Staff will continue to work with the County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to update the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan with the assistance of Michael Baker International. It is anticipated that the Plan will be adopted by the County and all municipalities by the end of 2020.

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 2020, the total of these General Fund budgets is 7.735% more than it was in 2019. Detailed budget reports are provided on the following page.

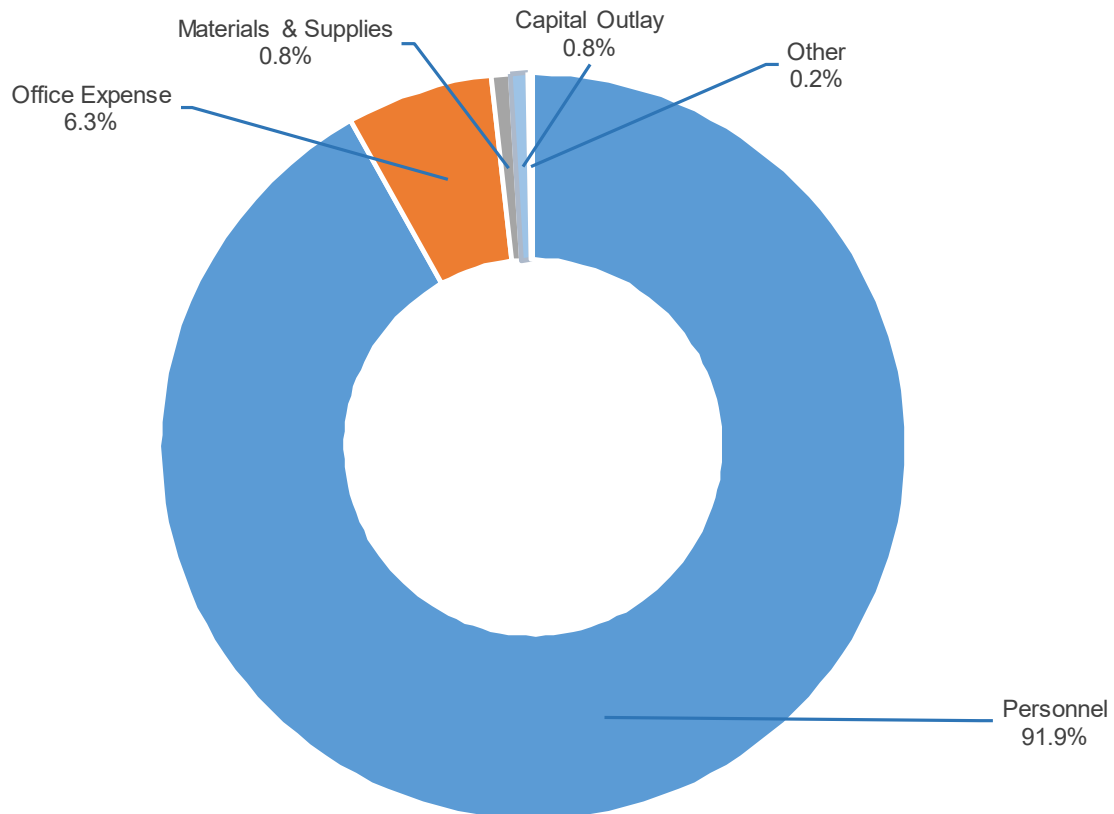
ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (cont...)

GENERAL FUND TOTALS

2019 Budget	2019 Expenditures	2020 Budget
\$194,864.00	\$199,990.66	\$209,937.00

Planning and Zoning Budget Report	2019 Budget	2019 Expenditures	2020 Budget	Planning Grants and Recycling Budget Reports	2019 Budget	2019 Expenditures	2020 Budget
Personnel	\$92,727.00	\$93,599.91	\$97,227.00	Personnel	\$84,527.00	\$90,060.83	\$94,550.00
Office Expenses	\$10,300.00	10,893.92	10,400.00	Office Expenses	2,060.00	1,777.55	2,060.00
Materials and Supplies	1,500.00	1,216.64	1,400.00	Materials and Supplies	950.00	392.07	1,100.00
Capital Outlay	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	Other	1,300.00	459.74	1,700.00
Total	\$106,027.00	\$107,210.47	\$110,527.00	Total	\$88,837.00	\$92,690.19	\$99,410.00

2019 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*

Raymond Barley, *Secretary*

Patrick Reeder

Wendy Melius

Philip Cahill

Bryan Yingling

Nancy MacNamara

*Robert Benson Resigned October 2019

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF *

James P. Lettiere, AICP, *Planning Director*

Stacia-Fé Gillen, *Community Development Administrator*

Taylor Pollicino, *Assistant Community Development Administrator*

Laurie Nearhood, *Office Manager/Secretary*

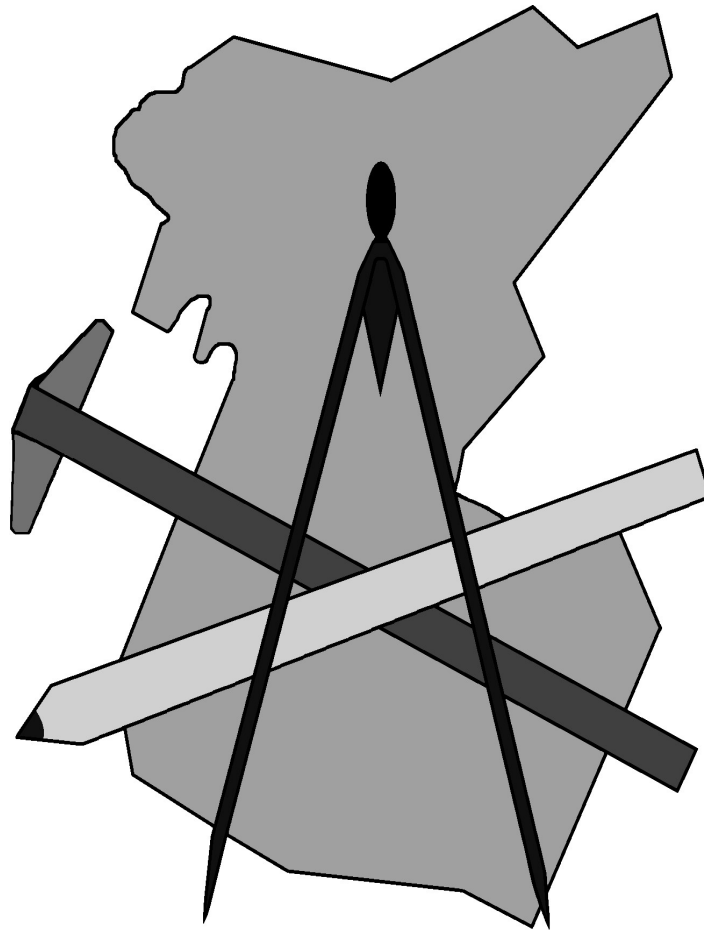
Stan Willis and Razinah Rahman, SCSEP Participants

*Reflects Current Staffing

Mark Colussy, prior Planning Director, resigned effective February 2020.
James Lettiere, current Planning Director, was hired effective March 2020

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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