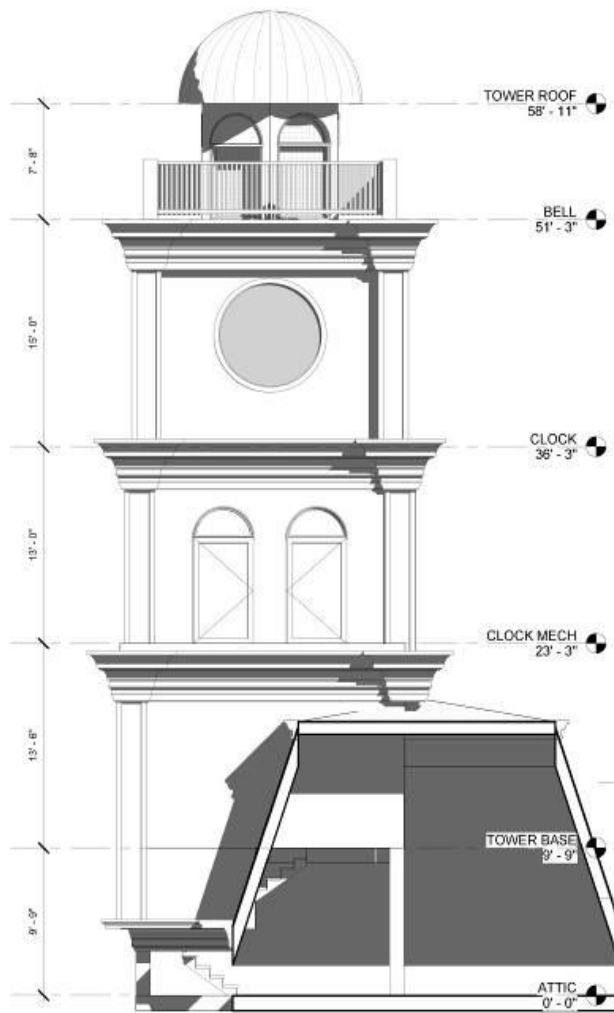


# 2015 Annual Report



1 East  
3/16" = 1'-0"



Huntingdon County Planning Commission

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

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

## SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY (LOTS SOLD)

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

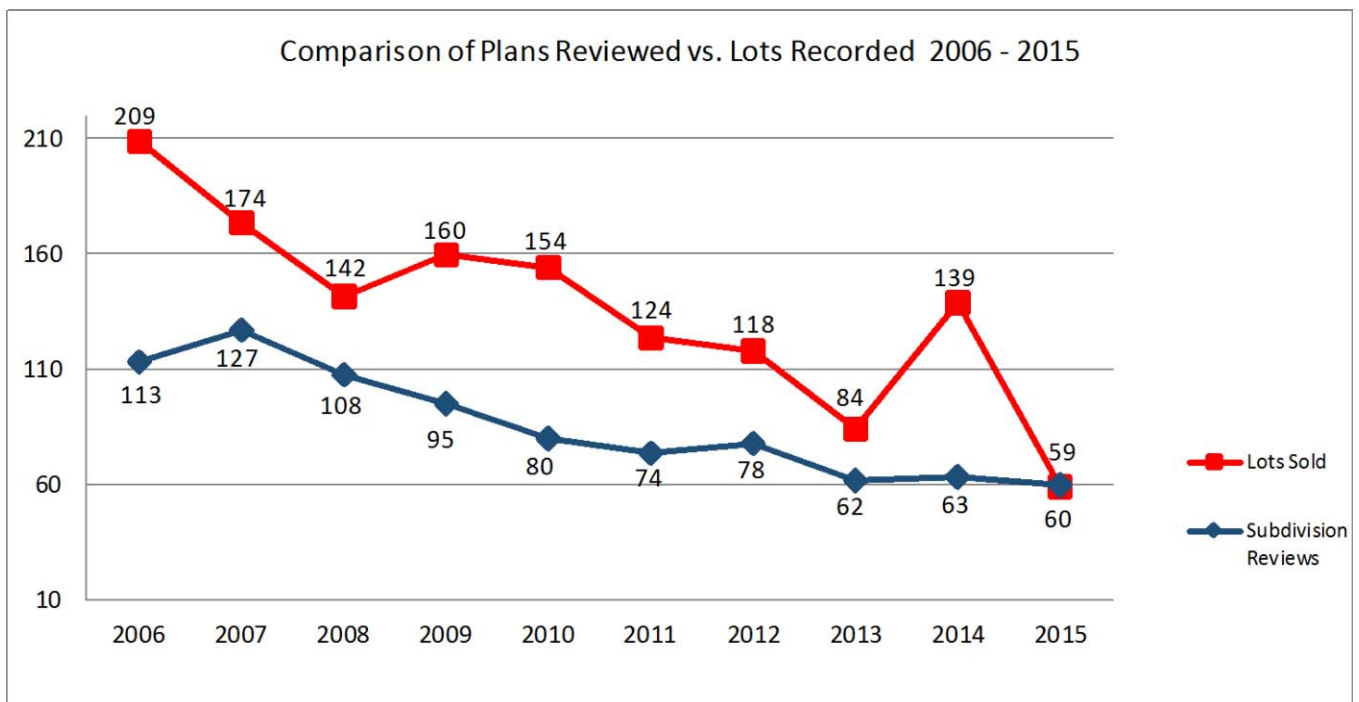
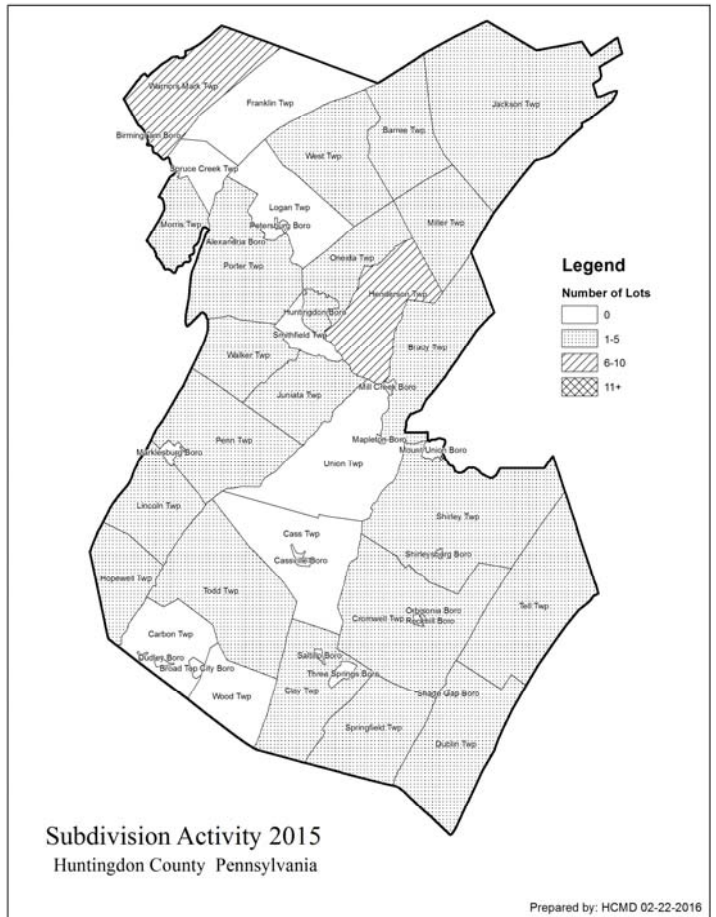
Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots referenced on page 2.

During 2015, 59 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is a decrease of 57.5% from the 139 lots created in 2014.

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 2015.

In 2015, the municipalities with the highest levels of activity are:

- Henderson Township, 7 new lots;
- Warriors Mark Township, 6 new lots; and
- Shirley Township, 5 new lots





## SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

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

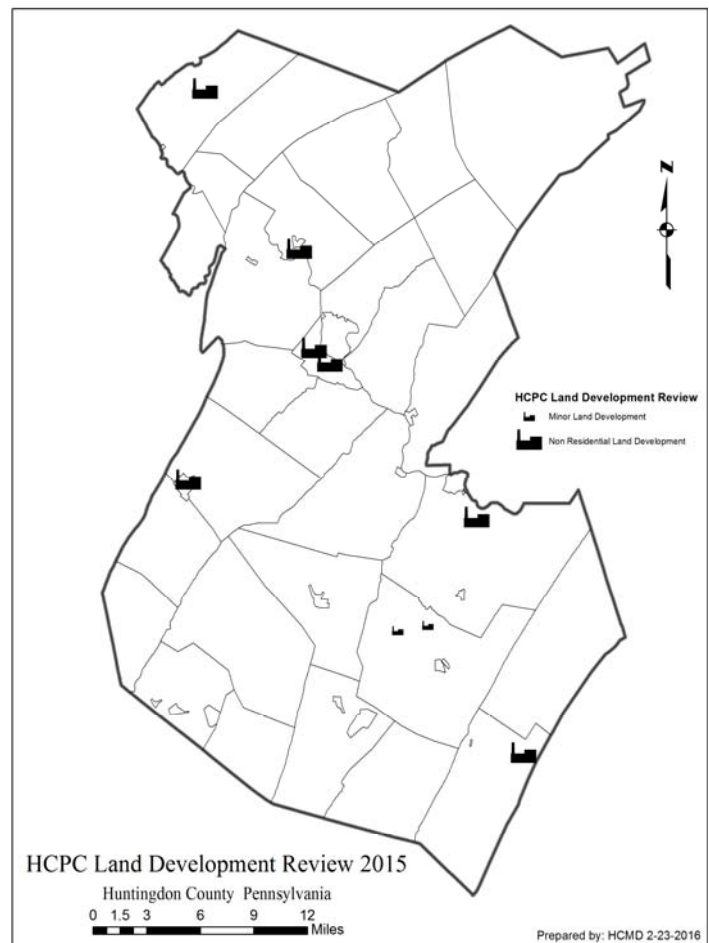
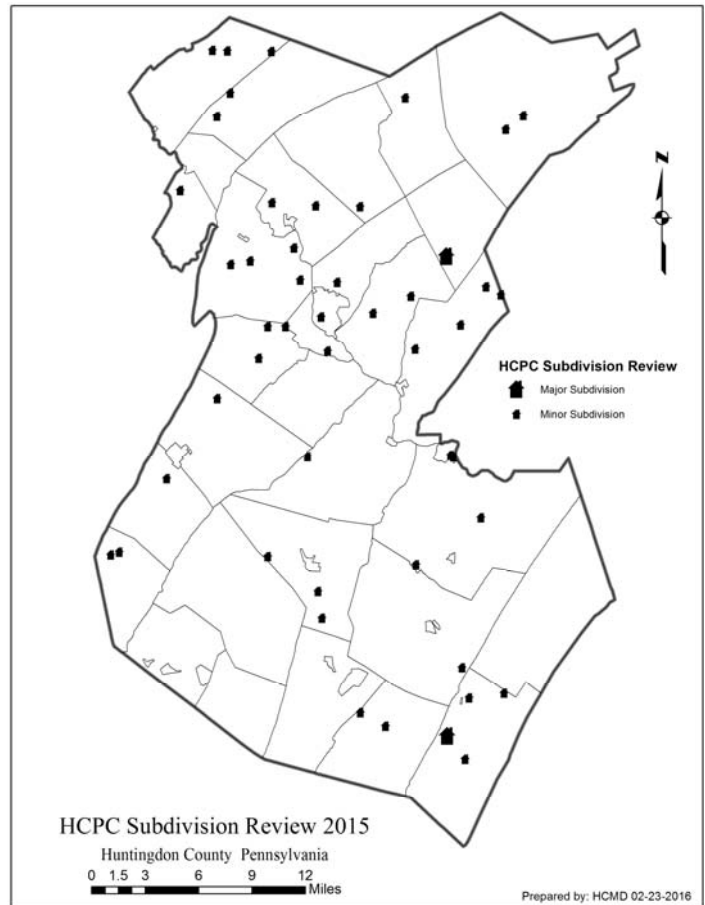
The Planning Commission reviewed 60 subdivisions and land developments in 26 municipalities in 2015, down by 3 since 2014. These included 2 major subdivisions, 9 non-residential land developments, 47 minor subdivisions, and 2 minor land developments encompassing 74 lots and 6,128 acres. The maps on this page illustrate distribution of these proposals.

The two major subdivision reviews conducted in 2015 included:

- Scott L. Kelley Subdivision, Dublin Township - 7 lots, 202.95 acres; and
- Lick Ridge Lane, LLC, Miller Township - 6 lots, 103.952 acres

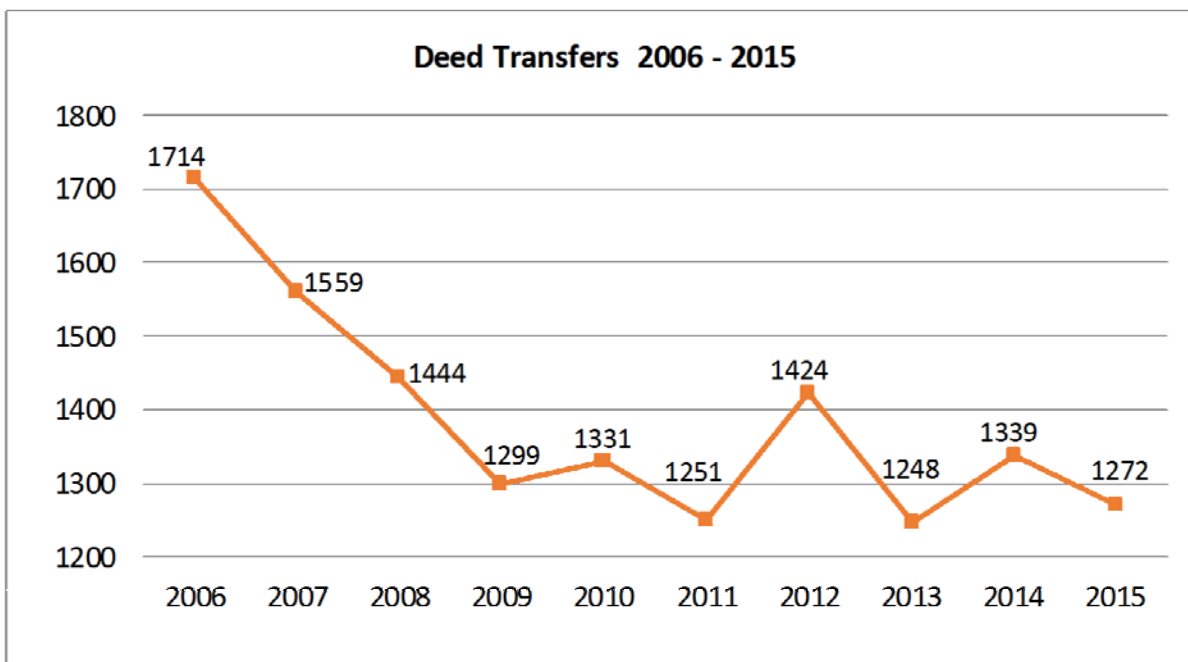
The nine non-residential land development reviews conducted in 2015 included:

- Petersburg Borough Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements, Logan Township - construction and upgrades;
- Marklesburg Volunteer Fire Company, Marklesburg Borough - 5.96 acres, construction of a rain cistern and pervious parking area;
- Mount Union Dollar General Store, Mount Union Borough - 0.92 acres, construction of a 9,100 sq. ft. store and associated parking;
- Helena Chemical Company, Warriors Mark Township - 7.74 acres, construction of a 100,000 sq. ft. warehouse, a 1,800 sq. ft. office, and a gravel parking lot;
- Tyler Snider, Dublin Township - 124.52 acres, construction of a 40,426 sq. ft. hog barn;
- Sheetz Store #10, Huntingdon Borough - 0.8610 acres, demolition of existing store and construction of a 4,722 sq. ft. store;
- IFC Services, Inc., Shirley Township - 1.66 acres, construction of a 6,323 sq. ft. office building;
- Taco Bell, Smithfield Township - 0.560 acres, demolition of Kentucky Fried Chicken store and construction of a 2,527 sq. ft. store; and
- Bumgardner & Flasher Oil, Inc., Smithfield Township - 0.7430 acres, demolition of existing storage buildings and construction of a 3,216 sq. ft. truck storage building



## DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well being of the County. The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2015, both existing and new, showed a 5% decrease from 1,339 in 2014 to 1,272 in 2015.



## BUILDING ACTIVITY

The Department uses electrical permits from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (VREC), building permits from municipal permitting agencies, and new addresses issued by the County Mapping Department to determine new housing starts.

In 2015, Bureau Veritas issued a total of 45 building permits in 18 municipalities for new homes, and the Pennsylvania Municipal Code Alliance issued a total of 4 permits in 3 municipalities for new homes.

Building permits submitted to the County Tax Assessment Office in 2015 show that 16 municipalities issued permits for a total of 36 new homes, 8 new mobile homes, and 10 seasonal homes.

Valley Rural Electric issued a total of 50 electric permits in 20 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing, while the Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 78 addresses in 24 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing.

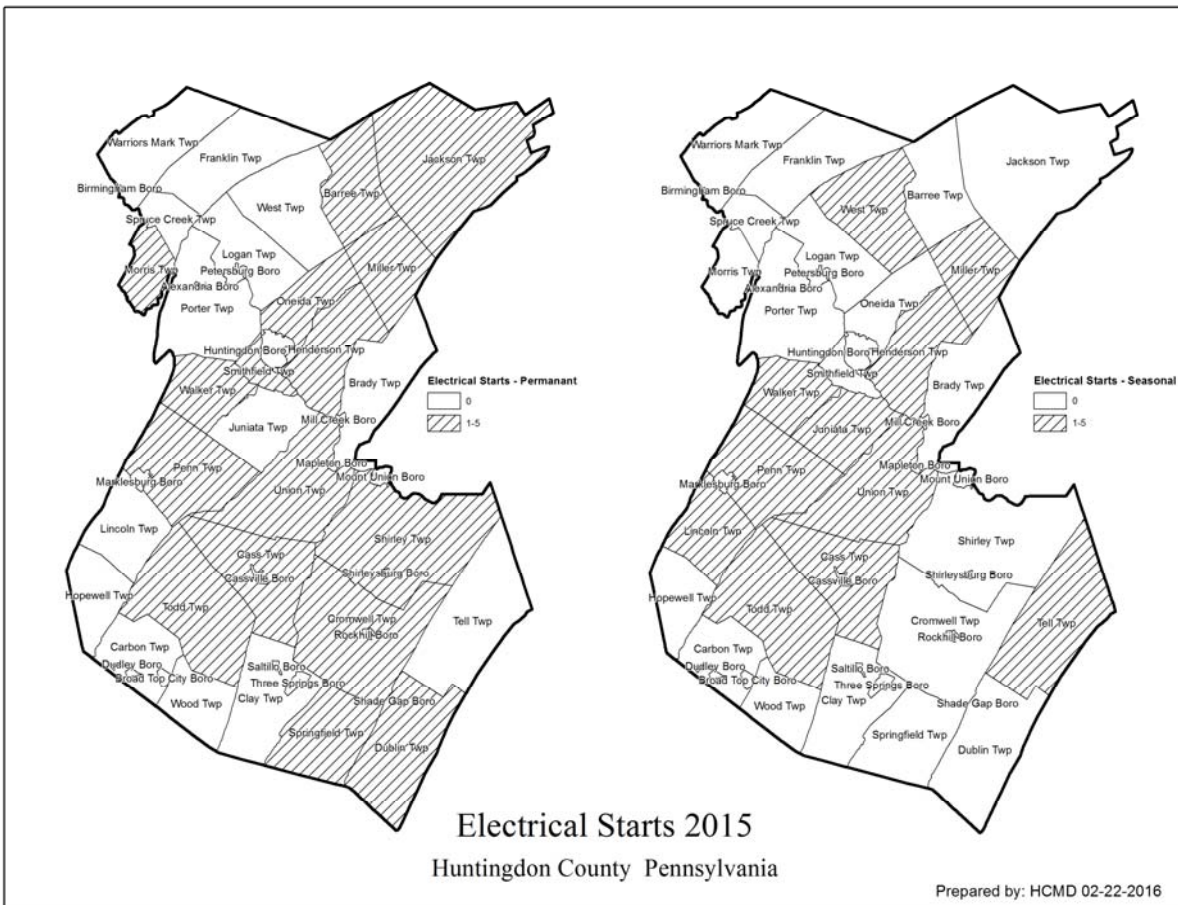
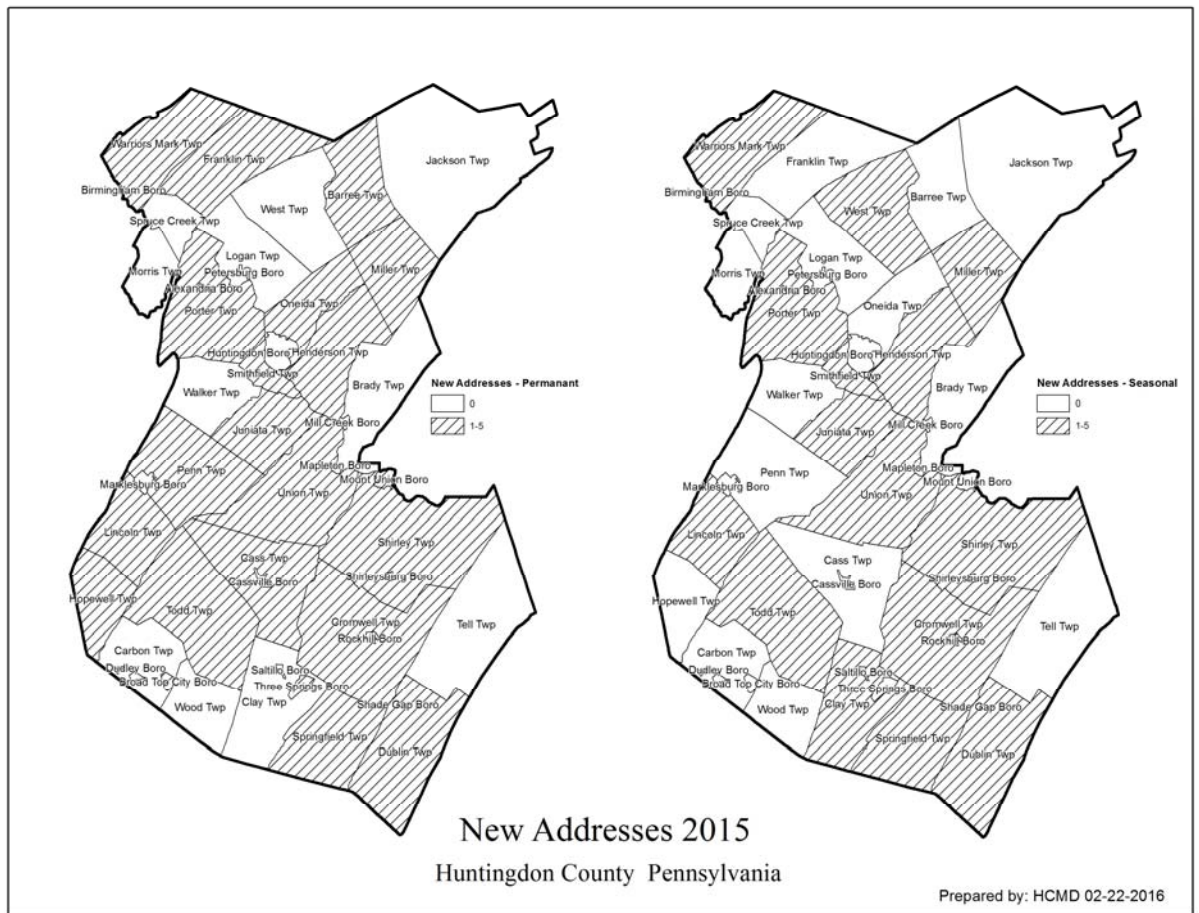
The new home data from building permit and electrical permit sources includes conventional, modular and mobile homes.

Data for building activity in all 48 municipalities is available in the Planning Department.

Municipality	Bureau Veritas Building Permits	County Assessment Building Permits	VREC Electrical Permits	County Addresses
Todd Township	0	6	8	6
Penn Township	7	5	5	4
Juniata Township	5	4	1	7
Cass Township	2	0	4	2
Jackson Township	2	4	4	0
Shirley Township	1	0	4	6
Warriors Mark Township	4	1	0	6
Henderson Township	3	0	3	6
Union Township	0	1	3	4
Springfield Township	0	7	2	6
Cromwell Township	0	2	2	5
Clay Township	3	1	0	4
Porter Township	3	5	0	3

## BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL

The Mapping Department issued 34 addresses for seasonal housing, including 1 mobile home. The highest total number of addresses (7) were issued in Juniata Township, while the highest number of new addresses for permanent housing (5) were issued in Warriors Mark Township. Clay, Juniata, Shirley and Springfield Townships were each issued the highest number for seasonal housing (4 each). Of the 6 new



addresses issued in Todd Township, 3 were for permanent housing and 3 for seasonal housing.

Valley Rural Electrical Cooperative (VREC) issued 15 electrical permits for seasonal housing, including 9 conventional and 6 mobile homes. Todd Township had the highest number of permits for permanent conventional housing, 5, and the highest number for seasonal conventional housing, 3.



# 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.

## GRANT ASSISTANCE

Community Development Block Grant project implementation focused on three projects in 2015: Mapleton Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation, Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Utility Line Relocation and Dudley Area Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation. These three activities were funded through separate Pennsylvania Competitive Community Development Block Grants.

## GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) instituted changes in CDBG Program administration designed to improve program regulatory compliance.

The PA DCED introduced the Monitoring Activity Progress Review (MAPR) System, a new electronic compliance monitoring tool through which grantees upload documentation of 23 compliance steps for each CDBG-funded activity. Huntingdon County participated in a test of this system for the four activities funded through the FY 2011 CDBG Entitlement Contract for Huntingdon County and on behalf of Smithfield Township.

In another effort to improve regulatory compliance, the PA DCED hired KPMG International, LLC, a professional auditing firm, to create another electronic performance review tool, and to conduct on-site review of CDBG records. KPMG monitored the FY 2009, 2010, and 2011 CDBG Entitlement Contracts for Huntingdon County and Smithfield Township, as well as the FY 2007 Competitive CDBG contract for the Penn Township Sewer Project. Results are pending.

PA DCED streamlined the network of CDBG Administrators that must be trained and monitored by mandating that counties administer CDBG funds on behalf of entitlement communities having populations of less than 10,000 people. Huntingdon County complied with this mandate by entering into an agreement with Huntingdon Borough for administration of the Borough's CDBG funds from FY 2015 forward. Additionally, Planning and Development Department staff agreed to coach Huntingdon Borough staff for up to 2 hours per week at no cost.

Huntingdon County submitted two Competitive CDBG applications in 2015. A request for \$750,000 was submitted for water and sewer treatment plant rehabilitations for the Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority. The second application, submitted on behalf of the Mapleton Borough Water Authority, requested \$556,000 for water tank installation and water line looping.

## DUDLEY-CARBON-COALMONT JOINT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY (DCCJMA) WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

While the construction of a water main replacement along Route 913 was completed under this Competitive CDBG contract in 2014, system improvements were continued throughout 2015, as staff of the DCCJMA installed \$48,734 worth of equipment that was purchased through CDBG funding. Use of a force labor account saved thousands in labor costs and accomplished much more than would otherwise be affordable through this grant.



Above is a picture of the state of the existing corroded pipe.



Old pumps, at left, could no longer be rebuilt. CDBG funds purchased new energy efficient pumps, at right, which were installed by plant operators.

## MAPLETON AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REHABILITATION

In 2015, Competitive and Entitlement CDBG funds were used to assist the Mapleton Area Joint Municipal Authority (MAJMA) to resolve NPDES permit compliance issues. The problem of removing solids from the wastewater treatment plant was addressed by installing a fine screen in the headworks of the plant designed to remove “rags” and other untreatable materials before they enter the treatment plant. Additionally, the activity installed two new ultra-violet treatment units in order to achieve proper disinfection of effluent.



Newly installed fine screen helps the MAJMA Wastewater Treatment Plant meet NPDES permit requirements by removing untreatable solids in pre-treatment process.



Water quality of the Mapleton Area wastewater treatment plant effluent improves with installation of two new ultra-violet disinfection units.

## APA-PA CONFERENCE PRESENTATION ON THE ABC'S OF THE CDBG PROGRAM

On October 18, 2015, Mark Colussy, Maureen Safko, and Mifflin County's CDBG Administrator Jim Lettiere teamed up to give a presentation at the Pennsylvania Chapter of the America Planning Association's 2015 Annual Conference. The session was entitled 'The ABC's of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.' The presentation was listed in the program as:

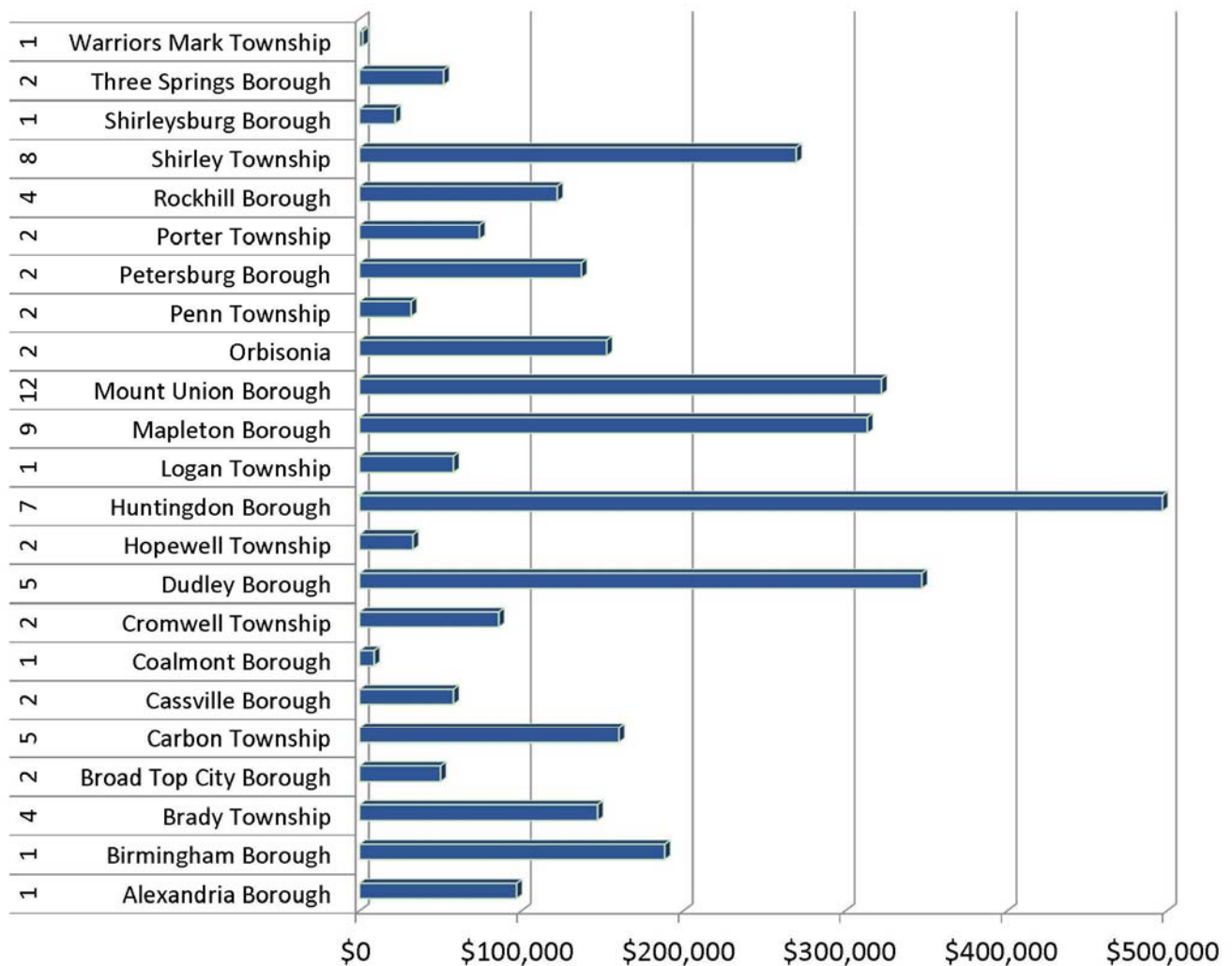
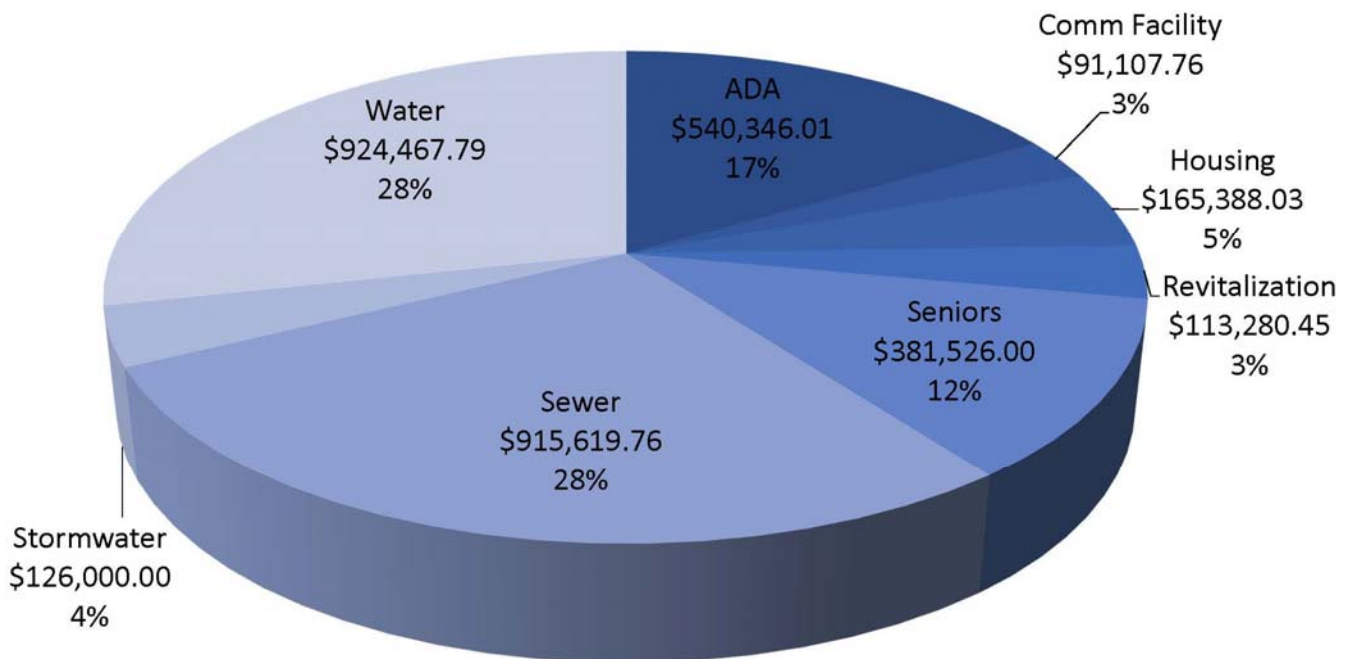
“The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was created by the passage of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Pennsylvania CDBG funds, through the Department of Community and Economic Development, is governed through Act No. 179 of 1984 and Federal legislation. The focus of this session will demonstrate how this funding source has enabled both Mifflin and Huntingdon Counties to implement portions of their three (3) year Community Development Plan and certain sections of each County's Comprehensive Plans goals and objectives. A secondary focus will be on the general framework of how the grant program functions and the processes involved for successfully obtaining grant funds.”

Being chosen to do the presentation is a great honor, as not all presentations are selected. In addition to being selected, this session was one of a handful of sessions suggested to new planners. The presentation was broken down into three major sections, with the first section being devoted towards the enabling federal legislation for the CDBG program, including several requirements of the program. The first section was presented by Lettiere. The second section, presented by Safko, was devoted to using the three year plan as a strategy for best being able to operate within the guidelines of the CDBG program. The third section, presented by Colussy, was focused on how the Three Year Plan and the CDBG program can be used to implement the County Comprehensive Plan. A Q&A capped the presentation, allowing attendees to get a more robust understanding of the program and express gratitude for the presentation.

Part of the preparation for this presentation included a detailed analysis of the entitlement funds spent in Huntingdon County between 1998 and 2015. As illustrated by the pie chart and bar chart on page 7, projects were grouped by major category, as well as by municipality based upon funding levels over the prior 18 years. The data is for Huntingdon County only and does not include the separate entitlement communities of Huntingdon Borough and Smithfield Township. According to this data, \$3.26 Million was spent on ADA, Housing, Sewer, Revitalization, Community Facilities, and Senior projects. Note that this figure does NOT include competitive funds.



From 1998 to 2015, Huntingdon County funded 79 projects out of CDBG Entitlement funds, spending a total of \$3,257,736 in 23 municipalities.



## MOUNT UNION PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE PROJECT

The comprehensive and multi-faceted revitalization of a central corridor through the center of Mount Union Borough is designed to address blight, provide safe passage for a job-producing rail line, improve water and sewer service reliability, create a beautified recreational space, rehabilitate housing, and spur additional community investment. Like many large and costly visions, the Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Project involves many partners and phases.



The failed street and wall lean precariously toward rail cars that once again run on the EBT Railroad tracks.

In 2015, many joined in this effort. Mount Union Borough funded the service of professionals at Keller Engineers, Inc. to design and oversee phase one of the street and wall reconstruction project, which relocated water and sewer lines. This step was



A complex network of water, sewer and stormwater lines crisscross under Pennsylvania Avenue.

necessary to ensure continued services when the wall is demolished or should collapse. A \$500,000 Competitive Community Development Block Grant

secured by the County Planning and Development Department in October of 2014, and supplemented by \$250,000 in 2015, funded this phase. D.J. Wisor & Sons, Inc. completed the project on schedule and under budget for \$327,839. Mount Union used a portion of the CDBG grant for Keller Engineers to conduct exploratory core borings needed to refine construction design and to oversee the balance of the project.

The Director of The East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Association, Inc., Larry Salone, transformed the pot hole and

weed covered railroad property into the first phase of the Linear Park as envisioned in Mount Union's Development Strategy of 1989. Railroad cars appeared on newly rehabilitated rail lines; a paved walking path was created; and fresh sod created a "Clean and Green" space through the center of town. The Mount Union Area Volunteer Fire Company and Mount Union Area Municipal Authority supported the effort by watering the new sod.

Collaborating agencies filed four additional grant applications in 2015 that have not yet resulted in funding

awards. The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission filed a pre-application for Appalachian Regional Commission funds for \$600,000 for street and wall reconstruction. The County Planning and Development Department requested an additional \$600,000 from PennDOT's Automated Red Light Enforcement grant. These two applications would have provided an additional \$1.2 million dollars toward the street and wall reconstruction project, estimated to cost approximately \$2.3 million. The Center for Community Action requested a \$350,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh for housing rehabilitation in Mount Union, Mapleton and Shirley Township. Huntingdon County also filed a request for \$250,000 in Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grants to continue the linear park improvements safely across the public streets, and to redevelop the Mount Union Area Historical Society's pocket park located adjacent to the Linear Park.

Concerted efforts will continue throughout the next several years until the final phases of this project are complete.



Newly constructed sewer lines located under temporarily paved sidewalks and street. A paved lip against the face of the wall prevents stormwater from causing further damage.



Before & After East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Association, Inc. Investment

# Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

Miscellaneous Grants		
HOME Investment Partnership Program	2013 - Wood Township Housing Rehabilitation	\$350,000
Emergency Shelter Grant	2014 - Huntingdon House & Center for Community Action	\$75,737
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2014 - Entitlement CDBG	\$84,913
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2012 - Mapleton Area Sewer Plant Rehabilitation	\$375,224
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2012 - Dudley Area Water System Rehabilitation	\$500,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2013 - Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Water & Sewer	\$750,000
Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant	2015 - Huntingdon County Heritage Plan Update	\$50,000

Community Development Block Grants			
Activity	2012	2013	2014
Mount Union Borough Building Accessibility**	\$9,500	\$0	\$0
Orbisonia-Rockhill Water **	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
Bricktown Senior Center**	\$72,000	\$0	\$0
Cromwell Sewer Laterals**	\$82,000	\$0	\$0
Birmingham Borough Water Line Replacement**	\$0	\$188,462	\$0
Smithfield Township Mt. Vernon Avenue Stormwater **	\$68,063	\$68,497	\$12,740
Smithfield Township Levee Rehabilitation	0	\$0	\$57,173
Mapleton Water Line Looping	\$0	\$0	\$81,296
Petersburg & Other Spot Blight Elimination	\$0	\$0	\$45,000
Mount Union PA Avenue Water & Sewer Relocation	\$0	\$0	\$38,000
County Courthouse Accessibility	\$0	\$0	\$26,000
Past Three Years Budgeted	\$256,563	\$256,959	\$260,209

\* activity underway      \*\* activity complete

Activity	2015	2016	2017
Wood-Broad Top-Wells Water System Control Panel Replacement	\$76,000	\$0	\$0
Mapleton Reservoir Improvements	\$47,000	\$0	\$0
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
Spruce Creek and Countywide Blight Remediation	\$25,552	\$0	\$0
Marklesburg Sewage Treatment Plant	\$0	\$140,000	\$0
Alexandria Water Intake Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$90,000
Mapleton Sidewalk Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Next Three Years Budgeted	\$188,552	\$140,000	\$140,000



# 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 Department Staff fulfill this responsibility.

## STUDENT OUTREACH

Mark Colussy and Amy Wise continued to meet with professor Tim Kelsey of the new Penn State Scholarship, Sustainability & Civic Engagement Program (SSCEP) in anticipation of Huntingdon County's participation in this program.

## PUBLICATIONS

In 2015, the Planning and Development Department published several documents, including the *2014 HCPC Annual Report* and the updated *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan*.

## HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Microsoft Sharepoint software conversion and a comprehensive web page update were undertaken in 2014. A decision was made to create a completely new site utilizing the features of the upgraded software. After months of conversion and several staff training sessions, the new site became live during spring 2015. Afterward, Department staff continued to maintain the web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mark Colussy, Planning Director, participated in the Education Session for Y.O.U., Inc. (Youth Leadership). He also helped coordinate a meeting to kick-off Entrepreneurial Communities Week, and he participated in an Entrepreneur's roundtable at the Sill Business Incubator.

Mark Colussy and Maureen Safko collaborated with Jim Lettiere of Mifflin County on a presentation for a session at the American Planning Association-Pennsylvania Chapter Conference.

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

## TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mark Colussy presented a ten step subdivision review process to those in attendance at the Annual Conference. This ten step process is an outline for municipal officials to follow when a subdivision is

submitted for consideration.

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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



# MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

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

## INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Department staff worked directly with the following municipalities in 2015:

### Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended meetings with Borough Staff and the Community Development Committee to discuss CDBG administration. Staff also provided assistance with updates to the Borough's website.

### Juniata Township

Staff met with Township Supervisors to discuss Township Ordinances.

### Mount Union Borough

Staff attended meetings to assist with implementation of the Borough's Strategic Plan.

### Shirley Township

Staff attended a Township meeting to provide an update on the Blueprint Communities project.

### Warriors Mark Township

Staff provided assistance with Township website updates.

## ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

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

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

On September 3, 2013, the County Commissioners established a grant process that made a total of \$30,000 available to any of the County's municipalities, with a maximum award of \$10,000

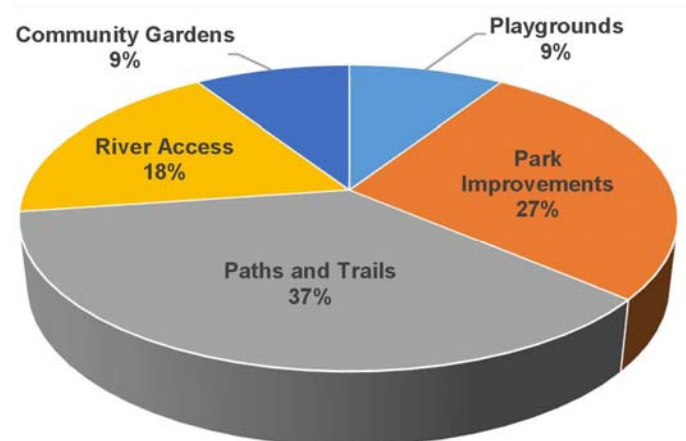
per municipality. The Commissioners appointed the Planning Commission to accept applications, review them, and make recommendations similar to the way the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process operates. This process was recreated in 2014 and 2015.

In 2015, five applications totaling \$41,594.00 were received and reviewed by the Planning Commission. Recommendations were forwarded to the County Commissioners, who approved these five projects at a total cost of \$35,094.00. The additional \$5,094 was approved from the unspent balance of the 2014 allocation. The 2015 approved projects included:

- Playground Rehab/Rebuild, Cassville Borough - \$10,000;
- Storage Addition to Park Pavilion, Broad Top City Borough - \$6,500;
- Lower Trail Surface Rehabilitation, Morris Township - \$6,000;
- Riverside Park Improvements, Smithfield Township - \$5,094; and
- 911 National Memorial Trail Feasibility Study, Huntingdon County - \$7,500

Of the \$78,345.53 approved for eligible municipal projects since 2013, \$29,272.46 has been spent. Projects have been approved in the following municipalities: Alexandria Borough, Broad Top City Borough, Cassville Borough, Huntingdon Borough, Mount Union Borough, Morris Township, Porter Township, and Smithfield Township.

**Distribution of Act 13 Legacy Funds  
2013 - 2015**



## BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES

The second year that Mapleton and Mount Union Boroughs and Shirley Township participated in the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Pittsburgh's Blueprint Communities program proved to be fruitful. The Blueprint Communities designation for Huntingdon County was given the official name of Juniata River Blueprint Communities (JRBC). The Core Team graduated from the rigorous training schedule conducted by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PADC) and Penn State Extension on March 4, 2015. The Core Team consisted of the following members, their employers and the sector they represent:

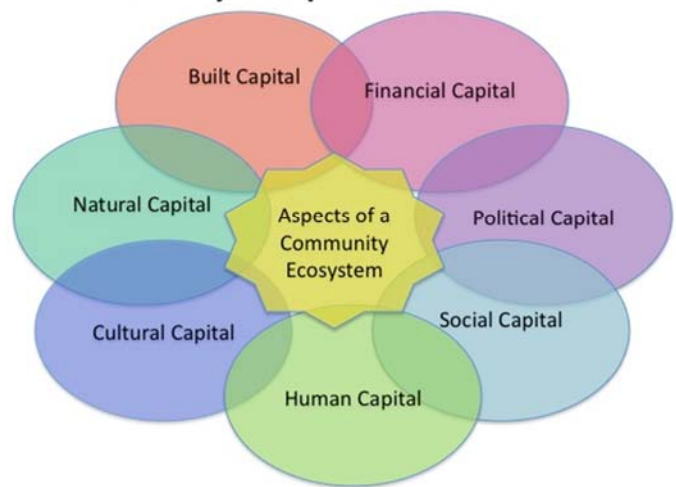
- Bruce Richards, Mapleton Borough Council
- Jerry Dunkle, Mount Union Borough Council
- Andrea Zilch, Mt. Union H.S., Shirley Township
- Amy Wise, HCBI, Economic Development
- Kathy Armillei, United Way, Human Services
- Wendy Melius, CCA, Housing Representative
- Michael Keating, Juniata College, Higher Ed
- Larry Burger, Kish Bank, FHLB Participant
- Robb Ritchey, J. C. Blair Hospital Board, Health
- Melissa Foster, D&F Realty, Local Business Rep
- Ilona Ballreich, Arts Council, Cultural Rep
- Matt Price, Visitors Bureau, Rec & Tourism
- Mark Colussy, County Planning & Development
- Maureen Safko, County Planning & Development



In addition to the training, members of the Core Team organized a series of public meetings to determine the most pressing needs and concerns of the community. The techniques learned in the PADC's trainings assisted the Core Team with a strategy to present concepts such as the Community Capitals Framework. This concept pointed to the fact that anything you either have or want to do in the community affects a certain part of the community. You then can begin to understand your community's assets by looking at which Community

Capitals are strengths in your community. Over the course of a year and a half, more than twenty pages of comments was provided by the community and sorted by the Core Team. The Core Team then

## Community Capitals Framework

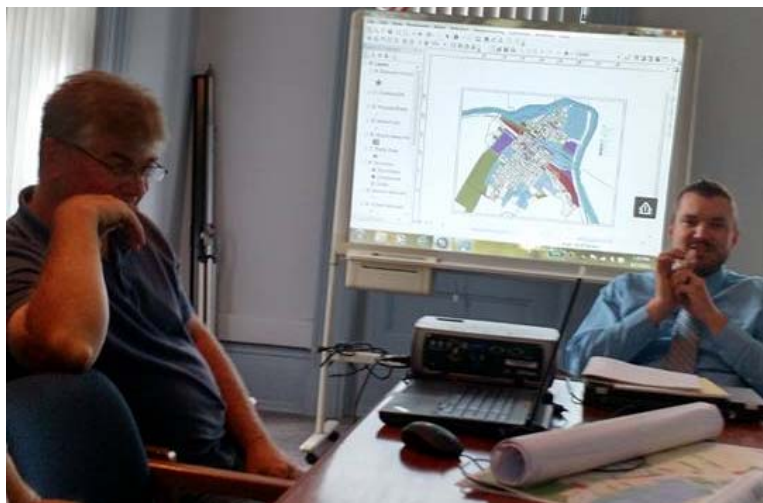


presented the compiled results back to the Community to understand if this is what they were looking for. After receiving confirmation from the Community that everyone was on the same page, the Core Team then reached out to stakeholders and partners to develop a series of Goals and Objectives to implement the Communities most pressing needs and desires. The JRBC now had a 5-Year Strategy to determine ways to implement.

The JRBC's 5-Year Strategy built on the Goals and Objectives collaborating with the Outcomes the Community desired. A major component of the PADC's training was to urge the participating communities in the Blueprint Communities process to truly develop an implementable plan by assigning measurable indices to each outcome. The individual objectives outlined in the 5-Year Strategy prescribe very specific outcomes that the partners needed to implement the project - the funds and funding sources needed to pay for the project and a timeline to complete the project. The completion of the 5-Year Strategy was the crowning activity of the training and final graduation requirement of the FHLB. Once the Core Team graduated and presented the 5-Year Strategy to the community, it was really time to get to work on implementation. There were multiple levels of accountability built into the 5-Year Strategy. Not only will a detailed plan help self-police itself by making it easy to monitor progress, but a facilitator from Penn State Extension was assigned to assist where needed. On top of that, the FHLB will continue to conduct yearly progress assessments of the communities to keep up to date with the Blueprint Communities.



One major project that was determined to commence in the first year after graduation and completion of the 5-Year Strategy was the Marketing Map, complete with Conceptual Renderings of other projects from the Strategy. A major benefit to becoming an official Blueprint Community was that the JRBC became eligible for a grant from the FHLB. After applying for funds to pay for the creation of Conceptual Renderings by the Penn State Hamer Center, the JRBC can develop a web presence with a Story Map. The County's Mapping Department was critical in the development of the Story Map, as well as other mapping efforts throughout the process.



The following are all the Goals developed under each Theme in the original 5-Year Strategy:

#### Theme A: Business and Economy

- Goal A1: Have places to do business
- Goal A2: Cultivated Business-Friendly Political Climate
- Goal A3: Retain and Grow Business Base
- Goal A4: Become a Community that supports and embraces Entrepreneurship
- Goal A5: Attract New Companies

#### Theme B: Housing and Neighborhoods

- Goal B1: Implement Safe, Clean and Green Initiative
- Goal B2: Housing of all types and values is available for all segments of the population
- Goal B3: Capitalize on historical and cultural character of region
- Goal B4: Revitalize Pennsylvania Avenue Neighborhood

#### Theme C: Image and Identity

- Goal C1: Continue to nurture and foster community pride to improve identity
- Goal C2: Improve community image

#### Theme D: Quality of Life

- Goal D1: Enhance ability to use and understand natural, historical and cultural assets
- Goal D2: Improve aesthetic quality of community
- Goal D3: Encourage healthy lifestyles through environment and programs

#### Theme E: Workforce and Education

- Goal E1: Have a Work-ready workforce
- Goal E2: Align educational opportunities with workforce needs
- Goal E3: Improve communication with business, education and workforce

#### Theme F: Infrastructure

- Goal F1: Develop trails and other recreational accommodations
- Goal F2: Improve telecommunications services
- Goal F3: Optimize and improve capacity of community water and sewer systems

#### Theme G: Social and Political

- Goal G1: Encourage intergovernmental and non-profit organization cooperation

The key to success in implementing projects is to make sure key stakeholders in the community know about the project. The Core Team decided that it was critical that additional public meetings would continue to occur even after the 5-Year Strategy was developed. One public meeting held was focused on building a visual inventory of properties in the communities by analyzing maps of the communities so that strategies could be made to target improvements.

The Core Team realized that efforts moving forward are to activate stakeholders to take ownership of the completion of the projects in the 5-Year Strategy.



Photo courtesy of Kylie Hawn, *The Daily News*

# COUNTY ASSISTANCE

Many Department activities are Countywide in nature and benefit all municipalities equally while other activities assist the 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.

As of May 31, 2015, electronics recycling is no longer available in Huntingdon County.

During 2015, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, a 902 Grant for new recycling equipment, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2015 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon Counties Recycling Program.



The Tri-County Drop-Off recycling program marketed 1,118.07 tons of recyclables. Huntingdon County Drop Off sites collected 545.84 tons, 49% of the total. The Huntingdon County Voluntary Curbside recycling program collected 293.89 tons.

County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, with the fall collection resulting in 17,551 pounds or 8.76 tons. In addition, 14,705 pounds or 7.35 tons of office paper was recycled from various County offices.

The Recycling Coordinator continues to be an active member of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP), serving on their Educational Committee; and is an active member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS (PEP)

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

agency communication and coordination and promotion of a positive image of the County".

In fifteen years, the members became well established in creating an atmosphere of collaboration and a known forum for coordination.

Since there had been a few years without accomplishment of any of the items on the current list of goals, a need arose to establish an action-based strategy. A new focus on updating the group's Strategic Plan was spearheaded by the primary professional staffing, County Planning Director, Mark Colussy. Colussy led the group into the Strategic Planning process by pointing out that the goals and objectives needed updated since they were developed in 2009.

The Strategic Planning process kicked off with a very simple Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) Analysis. After discussing about the SWOT, the members of PEP realized that much could be discussed based upon assumptions and experience, but to truly get a holistic approach to developing a future strategy, data about the existing County economy would need to be compiled. The group agreed to analyze the County's major employment industries' economic producers by hearing separate presentations over a two-year period:

- Recreation and Tourism by Matt Price (4/15/14)
- Hospital and Healthcare by Lisa Mallon & Chris Gildea (7/15/14)
- Education by David Christopher (10/21/14)
- Business and Industry by Amy Wise (12/16/14)
- Agriculture by Matt Barnett (1/20/15)
- Corrections by Duane Black & Chris Linn (3/17/15)
- Insurance by Fran Vaughn (5/26/15)
- Banking by Larry Burger & Michael Bibak (7/21/15)

Once all eight presentations were made, a longer Strategic Planning Retreat was held to look back on the history of PEP, to help gauge the direction of the future of PEP. The next step was to look at some of the analysis that went into the 2009 Strategic Plan and to determine what has changed to give better direction to an organization that experienced a lot change in seven years. Strategic planning is expected to continue well into 2016.

## CJAB CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM STUDY

The Huntingdon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) operates with the vision “to enhance the safety and quality of life for the citizens of Huntingdon County.” CJAB’s 2013 strategic plan process identified their top fifteen priorities. Number one on the list was a study for a new prison, and number six on the list was a study for new prevention opportunities. This is the classic story where the “squeaky wheel gets the oil”.

With the growing need to conduct a study, CJAB reached out to Mark Colussy to assist them with understanding the study and planning process, and requested that he provide a presentation to them on the benefits of proper planning. CJAB then recommended that the County Commissioners hire an independent consultant to help with the planning process and to complete a comprehensive Criminal Justice System study.

Jim Robertson of VRJS, known for his development of the Facility Development Process, which breaks the Criminal Justice Study down into three major phases, gave a presentation to CJAB on December 12, 2014. On March 10, 2015, Robertson was hired to complete the first phase of the process, which consists of project recognition and completion of a needs assessment. Between each phase, the County will be given a major go/no go decision to decide whether to move forward with the project as defined in the study or to stop.

The project got underway over a three day timespan in the second week of July when Robertson came into town, and he and Colussy met with the key stakeholders identified as major players in the Huntingdon County Criminal Justice system. Individual stakeholder meetings were conducted with the Director of Probation, the Warden, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, the President Judge, the Sheriff, the Director of Children and Youth, and the Commissioners. CJAB also appointed a study committee consisting of all the members of CJAB. Since the Commissioners recused themselves from the process, they appointed two members of the public to replace them on the committee. The first Study Committee meeting, held on July 10, 2015, served as an introduction to the first phase of the process and offered a forum to understand the questions that members of CJAB wanted to have answered during the process.

Robertson then spent the rest of 2015 acquiring data from the County’s Criminal Justice system, particularly the Jail’s inmate database, to get a better understanding of who is in the Jail and for

how long. Once some basic data is acquired, more in depth analysis can be completed. The process is expected to extend through 2016 and into 2017.

## COUNTY SIGNAGE

Huntingdon County owns multiple buildings, spreading departments and offices in several locations. Sheriff’s deputies, that man the security station in the Courthouse, repeatedly noticed that members of the public are unaware where certain departments are located. This was confirmed by several other County employees who are repeatedly asked throughout the day where people need to go to take care of certain county business. This prompted the need for better signage throughout the County Building campus. The project consisted of the installation of better signage inside the Courthouse



and Bailey Building, and the installation of a sign Kiosk in front of the public parking lots. This work was completed by a local business, but installed by a student at the Career and Technology Center, who needed to complete his senior project. This

approach not only saved money, but provided a quality service-learning project to a student. Only one sign kiosk was installed in 2015, but a second one is planned to be installed in 2016.

## COURTHOUSE RESTROOM RENNOVATION

In 2013 and 2014, the Huntingdon County offices of the Prothonotary, Recorder of Deeds, and Register of Wills were renovated and expanded into the former footprints of the Treasurer’s office and the Assessment office on the first floor of the Courthouse. In order for the County to meet code and acquire its occupancy permit, the entirety of the First Floor will need to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Currently, neither the men’s nor women’s restrooms are compliant. The Borough’s building code inspectors worked with County officials to allow an extension of the building permit until the County was able to acquire the funds to design the needed upgrades to the restrooms, and to install the recommended upgrades. In 2014, the County successfully received a CCAP P-CoRP Loss Prevention Grant for the restroom analysis. CES Engineering of Petersburg was awarded the design contract on June 2, 2015. The project was designed through the end of 2015, and put out for bid in 2016. This project is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2016.



## HUNTINGDON COUNTY COURTHOUSE TOWER PRESERVATION

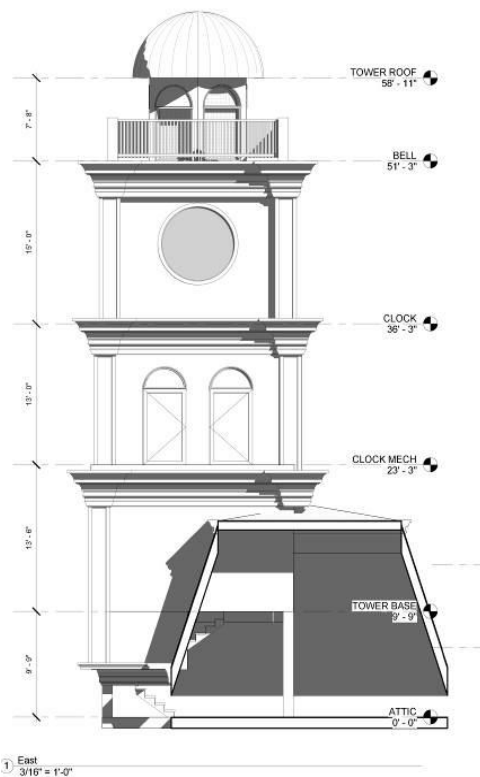
The Planning and Development Department is assisting the Huntingdon County Commissioners with their mission to preserve the Huntingdon County Courthouse tower through a multi-year effort.

In 2015, the Department secured a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to implement phase one of recommendations made by Architect, Ted Strosser, the conservation specialist who wrote the *Preservation Plan - Clock Tower - Huntingdon County Courthouse*, and who designed the preservation work in 2015. This work is to be undertaken in 2016.

The project funded by the PHMC and specified by Architect Strosser in 2015 includes:

1. replacement of rafters where the rear of the mansard base element meets with the main roof;
2. replacement of “rubber” (EPDM) roof membrane and all deteriorated wood at the bell level;
3. replacement of railing;
4. rehabilitation, flashing and painting of the bell enclosure; and
5. painting of the dome

All of this work is funded through the \$50,000 PHMC grant provided in 2015 and \$50,000 in matching funds from the Huntingdon County Commissioners.



The Huntingdon County Courthouse tower is a treasured symbol of Huntingdon County, worth preserving for many reasons.

The tower is an iconic image of Huntingdon County. Civic events are held in front of the stately tower. Families at nearby Blair Field rely on the bell and clock to meet for practices and games. The building is vital to Huntingdon Borough's Historic District.

Huntingdon County's tower is the only prominent tower designed by Architect Beebe that still stands in Pennsylvania. Cambria County's Courthouse was constructed with a similar tower that was severely truncated.

The tower houses significant historic County assets, including the clock mechanisms and bell. The



bell is dated 1844 and was likely housed in Huntingdon County's second Courthouse, constructed on the same site in 1842 and razed 40 years later to make room for the present day Courthouse built in 1883.

There is some mystery surrounding the tower. Many believe that the original tower was demolished and rebuilt circa 1935. However, no documentation of such an event has been found. A structural evaluation in 2013 indicates that “the remaining timber framing is consistent with technologies and methods expected in an 1883 structure.” It is believed that the structure's skin was replaced around 1935, but that the Tower structure itself is original.

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

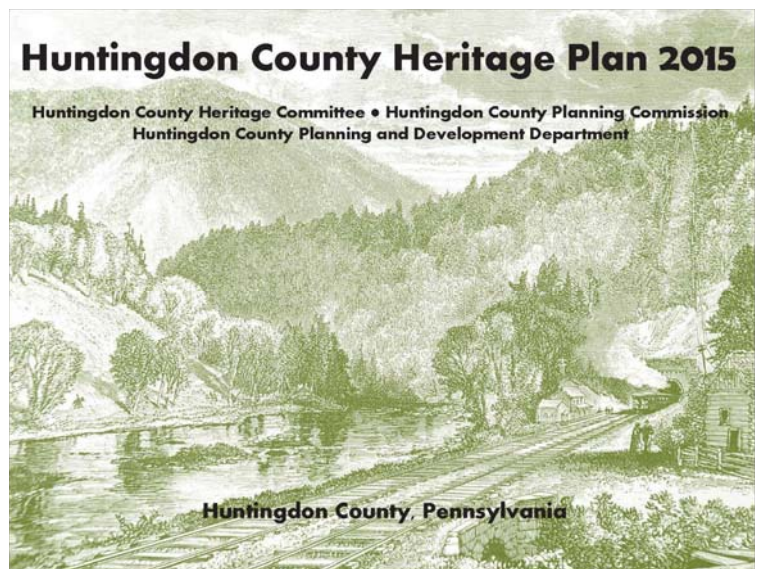
The comprehensive plan has been the cornerstone of American planning theory and practice since the early 1900s. Pennsylvania law requires counties to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan. It contains the basic policies that will guide the future growth and development of the community. The plan is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

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

*Continuity Through Conservation II, The Plan* is Huntingdon County's blueprint for the future, detailing the vision, goals, objectives, policies and plans for the next twenty years. It is our goal that Huntingdon County achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small-town living. The Plan was developed between 1996 and 2000 by a team of consultants and the staff of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department. The Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan 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*

The *2007 Supplement* updated the land use plan, developed an infrastructure investment strategy, developed a model zoning ordinance and developed an updated zoning ordinance for Huntingdon Borough.



## HERITAGE PLAN UPDATE

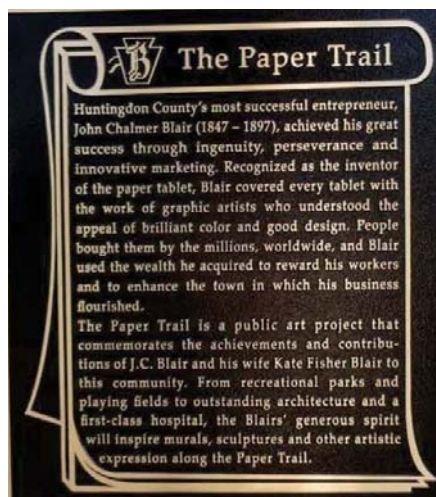
The *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan* was last updated in 1996. After securing a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) in 2013, the Planning Commission was tasked with updating this Plan. The Commissioners kept the PHMC Grant funds in the County by hiring local consulting services. The services of the Huntingdon County Historical Society (HCHS) and the Huntingdon County Arts Council (HCAC) were utilized for this project. Ilona Ballreich of the HCAC was contracted to be the primary consultant on the project. The majority of the research and Plan writing took place in 2014, while the final draft of the Plan was completed on March 23, 2015.

The update process engaged the recently reconvened Heritage Committee to evaluate the priorities of the existing Plan and add new priorities that have emerged since 1996. As can be expected, a





significant amount of change had happened to the structures identified in the 1996 Plan over the past 20 years. The thrust to update the Plan was not focused just on updating the 1996 Plan, but to building upon it. The Plan update includes a few significant new sections, including a cultural resource inventory - a collection of 'intangible' cultural heritage elements found throughout the County. Since the 1996 Plan had such a focus on the bricks and mortar structures that represented the County's heritage, the new Plan would provide some context to those places by understanding other major cultural heritage elements that made the robust community. Finally, the Plan update process also understood the need of the owners and admirers of heritage sites throughout the County to be equipped with more resources to help preserve their heritage sites well into the future. The owners and admirers of heritage sites include many community Historical Societies and similar organizations. This was furthered by developing a network of collaboration among stakeholders to foster preservation and investment in the County. Understanding the heritage and history of the County and region allows us to foresee where we are headed. Part of the update process involved capturing this inventory of organizations, historical societies, and museums. Once this inventory was compiled, each group was sent a Historic and Heritage Asset Survey. The goal was to find better ways for organizations to better work with technology, promotion, events, and education. After this data was compiled, it would be possible to better collaborate, work together, and learn



from each other. For example, it was determined that each organization might benefit from bringing in a speaker that could help them create a better web presence. A realization was made that a workshop could be held to help multiple people. The completion of the *2015 Huntingdon County Heritage Plan* provided a resource that can be used as a tool well into the future.

## LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

The Planning and Development Department and the Mapping Department teamed up to produce existing land use maps for a few of the County's municipalities. Considering that one of the projects in the Juniata River Blueprint Communities was to do a property inventory, the Core Team discussed using land use maps to use as a base map to help determine areas of need and possible project locations. The Planning Commission saw the value in these local workshops and tasked the Planning Department to continue to have the land use maps reviewed by the local communities in the County's eleven planning regions. Workshops are anticipated throughout 2016.

## MULTI-COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan, Continuity through Conservation II*, was adopted in 2000 and last given a through update in 2007. The Municipalities Planning Code, *Act of 1968, P.L.805, No.247* as reenacted and amended, is the enabling legislation for land use law in Pennsylvania. Under Article II - Comprehensive Plan, Section 302(d) states that "County comprehensive plans shall be updates at least every ten years." Given this timeline, a new Comprehensive Plan is needed in Huntingdon County. Since Planning Director Mark Colussy was the Chairman of the SAP&DC Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) in 2014, he brought up this need at a Committee meeting in an effort for possible coordination with neighboring counties. As it turns out, the majority of the counties in this six county region are in the same situation. After months of negotiation and discussion, SAP&DC staff was authorized by the board to investigate possible funding sources. The members and staff of the PAC first reached out to Denny Puko of DCED to see if he thought this would be a feasible project. He delightedly suggested applying for a MAP grant. In order to find an accurate budget number, staff of SAP&DC produced a Request for Information (ROI) for consultants to determine if the project could be done and for what estimated amount of money. After the results were in, all six boards of Commissioners in the Region approved supplying match funds for a grant to complete the project. This grant was submitted in 2016.



# AGENCY LIAISON AND COORDINATION

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

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

## COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

The County Planning Directors Association (CPDAP) is an affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. The CPDAP provides input on State policy on environmental and land use issues to both the County Commissioners of Pennsylvania and to the Commonwealth.

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

The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees - Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and 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.

## HUNTINGDON COUNTY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (HCB&I)

The Planning Director serves on the HCB&I Infrastructure Committee. Two principle goals of this Committee are development of the Riverview Business Center and completion of Appalachian Corridor M. The Planning Director also serves as an ex-officio member of the Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Committee.

## 2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP)

Every four years, Huntingdon County participates in the update to the region's TIP. The TIP is the first four years of the Twelve Year Plan (TWP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which is 20 years into the future. The TIP projects expected funding sources to fund the regions transportation projects, which include safety improvements, traditional roadway resurfacing and reconstruction projects, major construction projects of new facilities, and the bridge network.

The County appoints the Planning Director, Mark Colussy to the SAP&DC Rural Transportation

Technical Committee (RTTC) meetings to make recommendations to the Coordinating Committee on the TIP. SAP&DC relies on the County to solicit for Transportation Projects, which are reviewed bi-annually by the County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission votes on recommendations to the Commissioners regarding a list of prioritized projects to be forwarded to PennDOT for consideration and addition to the TIP.

The Planning Commission hosted a workshop on August 20, 2015 to hear public comment. The Planning Commission then approved a recommendation to the Commissioners on September 17, 2015. Colussy presented this recommendation to the Commissioners on September 25, 2015, and the recommendation was approved and forwarded to SAPDC and PennDOT. PennDOT then prepared a regional draft TIP for the RTCC on December 10, which was approved and forwarded to PennDOT's Central Office for insertion into the Statewide Plan. The TIP is reviewed every two years, making 2017 the next review period. It is critical that transportation needs be continually analyzed for future consideration.

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Presented at the Commission's Annual Meeting, 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 2015 Award categories were Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit.

The tenth annual Community Improvement Awards were presented at the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 26, 2015. Recipients of the 2014 awards were Stone Town Gallery & Cafe, Community Spirit; Huntingdon County Library, Preservation; and D & F Realty, Special Merit.

The Stone Town Gallery on Washington Street, a facility owned by Debra Tumlin and Caroline Gillich, is a location for musical events and "Open Mic"

Nights that provide a showcase of community talent that includes music, dance, poetry reading, and stand-up comedy. The Gallery also hosts a Winterfest Celebration each January to provide a break from the winter's isolation. The ice sculpting, sponsored by area businesses, attracts chainsaw artists from as close as Altoona and as far as the state of Washington.

All of the events held at the Gallery foster a feeling of community, whether through the free flowing communication throughout the space or at the large "community" table.



After three decades of minimal exterior upkeep to the historic McMurtrie mansion housing Huntingdon County's public library, paint was peeling, bare wood was exposed, and the front pillars and capitals were rotted. This rehabilitation project included replacing the pillars and capitals; and scraping, priming and repainting all wood and concrete structures using



America's Heritage Exterior Historic Colors from Sherwin Williams. In addition, the small roof structure over the outside back stairs was rebuilt and shingled to match the main building roof. Since the County Library serves as a community gathering

place and educational center, there is significant value in maintaining the building in a way that is befitting of such a facility. Maintaining and preserving the historic structure enhances the appearance and appeal of this significant historic structure prominently located in Huntingdon Borough's Historic District.

D & F Realty's improvement initiative includes four buildings on four separate lots fronting Route 22. The façade of the Cisney & O'Donnell property was improved and a new sign was installed. The buildings now housing Shear Impressions and Price Motors Pre-Owned Vehicle Outlet were completely renovated and feature updated exteriors and energy efficient heating and cooling systems.



While the Colonial Florist façade was updated several years earlier, the space was recently divided and a new entrance was added for the Love It consignment shop.

D&F Realty has made improving their properties a priority since Route 22 is a "gateway" for westbound travelers. Improvements to these properties support economic development and an entrepreneurial spirit. Through these efforts, Colonial Florist has been able to expand services, Price Motors has opened a second pre-owned car sales location, and Shear Impressions and Love It are new start-ups that have become flourishing businesses.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Awards, all prior Award winners were invited to attend the March 26, 2015 event. In addition, a "secret" Continuing Excellence category was developed. Accomplishments of prior Award winners were evaluated, but the recipient of this "secret" Award was not notified in advance. After the other Awards were presented, the Continuing Excellence Award was introduced and presented to the Standing Stone Coffee Company for their ongoing efforts and outstanding commitment to the community.

## COUNTY - MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

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

Local government and State agencies submitted 21 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2015, including 5 DEP permit requests, 3 effects to historic property inquiries, 2 Growing Greener Grant consistency requests, 3 FCC Section 106 Filings, 2 bridge replacements, 1 Environmental Review request, 1 USDA Grant consistency request, 1 Sunoco Pipeline consistency request, 1 municipal subdivision and land development ordinance update, and 2 zoning amendments.

Additionally, 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 Commission received 13 State permit activity notices in 2015.

## 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 State-based Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), the Commission received 16 review requests in 2015.

# AGENCY ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first 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

From January through October, Planning and Development Department staff included Mark Colussy, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Planner/Grant Administrator; Laurie Nearhood, Secretary; and Rose Rahman, Bookkeeper/Secretary. Rose Rahman retired in October.

In February 2015, Barbara Foreman joined the Planning Department as an Experience Works participant. Barbara worked as an office assistant until February 2016. The Experience Works Program is a nonprofit organization funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. This Program allows eligible individuals to participate in paid community service assignments at local public and nonprofit organizations. Participants in the program also receive help accessing needed services, updating employment skills, and developing a job search plan.

In mid December 2015, Taylor Pollicino was hired as Bookkeeper/Secretary. The Planning Department was able to work with CareerLink to hire Taylor through the On-The-Job-Training Program (OJT), which allows a 50% reimbursement of her hours worked up to 800 hours while she trains “on the job”. The OJT program stipulates that only qualified individuals fill positions, be employed full time, and earn a self-sustaining wage for the region.

Also, in December 2015, the County Commissioners approved a recommendation changing Laurie’s job title from Secretary to Office Manager/Secretary.

Planning and Development staff attend workshops and seminars to stay current with the latest planning and community development trends. Training activities in 2015 included:

- Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association Annual Conference;
- County Planning Directors Association of PA quarterly meetings;
- Southern Alleghenies Planning Advisory Committee monthly meetings;
- Community Development and Housing Practitioners Conference, presented by the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA);
- Alphabet Soup of Water Regulations, presented at the APA-PA Spring Forum;

- Penn State University Landscape Architecture presentation on Riverview Business Park Conceptual Re-Design with Professor, students and Amy Wise;
- ESG Invoice Billing System, DCED Teleconference;
- Historic Preservation Webinar;
- EPA Residential Demolition Tools Available for Local Communities Webinar;
- Annual Reporting Requirements Webinar, presented by DCED;
- Environmental Review Training, presented by HUD;
- Leadership Huntingdon County, participation in the 2014/2015 Class;
- Penn State University SSCEP Internship Meeting with Professor and Amy Wise;
- Pennsylvania Downtown Center Quarterly Board Meetings and Conference Calls;
- Webpage Administrator Training and End-Users Training, presented by CCAP;
- County Voicemail Training, presented by Morefield
- Active Shooter and Intruder Training; and
- Mavis Beacon Typing Training

## 2016 WORK PLAN

### Continue to Seek Pennsylvania Avenue Funding

The Pennsylvania Avenue project in Mount Union Borough has already been partially funded and completed through 2015, but there is still a significant portion of the project unfunded. Searching for funds to meet all the moving parts, requirements, and wishes of the community is paramount to success in revitalizing a significant corridor through the heart of Mount Union.

### Update the Comprehensive Plan’s Existing Land Use and Future Land Use Maps

The mapping component of the Land Use Plan will continue into 2016. These updates will be done in cooperation with the County Mapping Department after a series of workshops are hosted in each of the 11 Planning Regions. Updating these Land Use Maps will better convey current conditions in the County, since the maps were developed in 2000.

### Implement Blueprint Communities Plan

Assist the Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) in implementing its 5-Year Strategy in Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, and Shirley Township.



## **2016 WORK PLAN CONTINUED**

### **Host Entrepreneurial Communities Workshop**

The Penn State Cooperative Extension's Entrepreneurial Communities program will commence in 2015. This program will piggyback off of the JRBC Five-Year Plan and provide the County with an understanding of what successful entrepreneurial communities do to make a thriving business start-up community.

### **Complete PEP's Marketing Plan**

Continue to work with the PEP Marketing Committee to develop a marketing strategy designed to promote a positive image for the county to Visitors, Business Investors, and Residents.

### **Finalize PEP's Strategic Plan**

The Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) will continue to finalize their Strategic Plan.

### **County Courthouse Renovations**

The Courthouse Restroom Renovations will be finalized in 2016, while work on the Clocktower will start in 2016 and continue into 2017.

### **Initiate SAP&DC's Multi-County Comprehensive Plan Update**

The SAP&DC staff was given approval by the Board to apply for grant funds to complete the Commonwealth's first six-county Comprehensive Plan. This innovative approach will not only be new due to the multi-county approach, but due to the fact that there is a major thrust to complete an implementable plan.

### **CJAB Criminal Justice System Analysis**

The Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) has formed a Steering Committee to analyze the entire Huntingdon County Criminal Justice System. The analysis will be done by Jim Robertson of VRJS, a jail-planning consultant with years of experience working with the Federal Department of Corrections. The study began in 2015 and will continue through 2016 and into 2017.

### **Competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-C) Projects**

Huntingdon County, for the first time, has received two CDBG-C contracts in one funding cycle aimed at building a new water tank and constructing connections of dead end water lines in Mapleton, and implementing needed upgrades to the water and wastewater treatment facilities in the Wood-Broad Top-Wells area.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

During 2015, the Planning Department was funded by the County General Fund - \$94,463.27 from the Planning and Zoning Line Item and a total of \$93,718.93 from the Solid Waste and Recycling and Planning Grants Line Items.

The 2016 General Fund budget has increased by 3% from 2015, but the 2016 budget for Grants and Special Projects remained the same. Overall, the 2016 budget is 1.5% more than it was in 2015.

### **Planning and Zoning Budget Report**

	<b>2015 Budget</b>	<b>2015 Expenditures</b>	<b>2016 Budget</b>
Personnel	\$79,244.00	\$82,309.90	\$81,244.00
Office Expenses	\$9,650.00	\$11,455.53	\$10,700.00
Materials & Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$697.84	\$1,200.00
Capital Outlay	\$500.00	\$0	\$500.00
Total	\$90,894.00	\$94,463.27	\$93,644.00

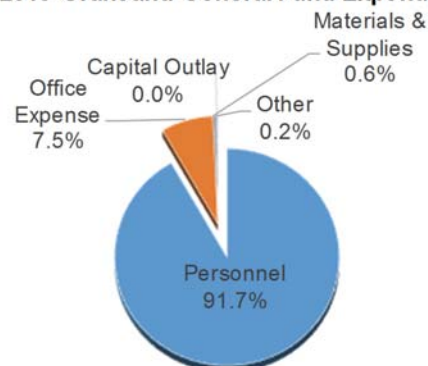
### **Solid Waste/Recycling & Planning Grants Budget Report**

	<b>2015 Budget</b>	<b>2015 Expenditures</b>	<b>2016 Budget</b>
Personnel	\$89,549.00	\$90,340.97	\$88,799.00
Office Expenses	\$2,400.00	\$2,667.16	\$3,000.00
Materials & Supplies	\$400.00	\$353.55	\$500.00
Other	\$500.00	\$357.25	\$550.00
Total	\$92,849.00	\$93,718.93	\$92,849.00

### **Grant and General Fund Totals**

<b>2015 Budget</b>	<b>2015 Expenditures</b>	<b>2016 Budget</b>
\$183,743.00	\$188,182.20	\$186,493.00

### **2015 Grant and General Fund Expenditures**



## **HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Mark A. Sather, *Chairman*

Scott Walls, *Vice Chairman*

Jeff Thomas, *Secretary*

Michelle Cerett, *Chief Clerk*

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Ron Rabena, *Chairman*

Larry Mutti, *Vice Chairman*

Ginny Gill, *Secretary*

Raymond Barley

Cindy Anderson

Jeremy Crouse

Wendy Melius

Ann Kyper Reynolds

Bryan Yingling

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF**

Mark Colussy, *Planning Director*

Maureen Safko, *Planner/Grant Administrator*

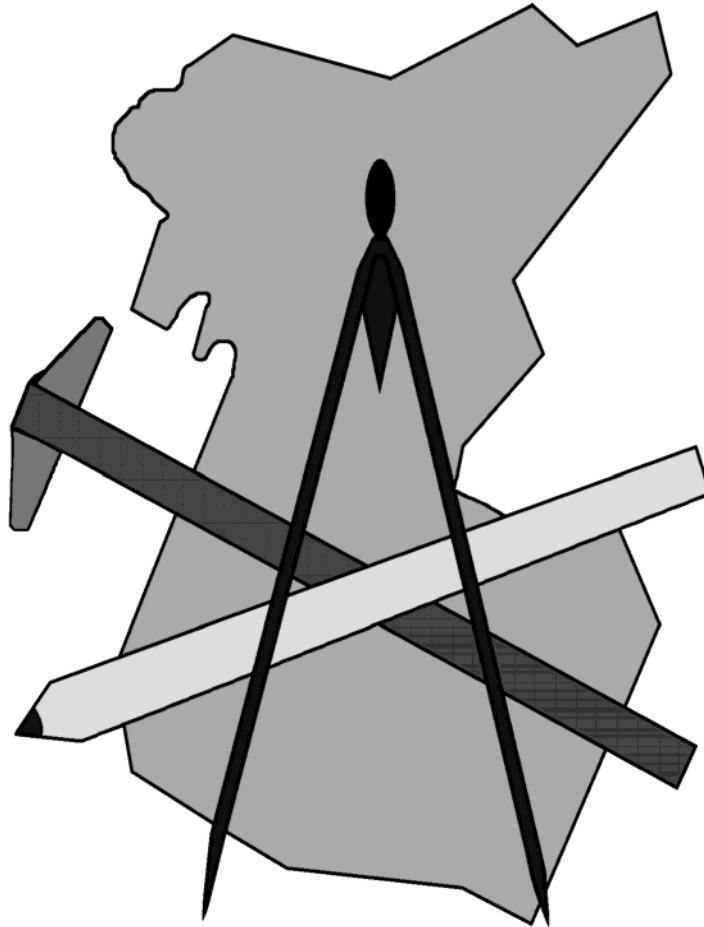
Taylor Pollicino, *Bookkeeper/Secretary*

Laurie Nearhood, *Office Manager/Secretary*

LouAnn Shontz, *Recycling Coordinator*

# Huntingdon County Planning Commission

## Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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