



# 50 YEARS OF PLANNING PROGRESS (1962 - 2012)

## Huntingdon County Planning Commission

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November 2012

### 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.**

### PLANNING COMMISSION MARKS ANNIVERSARY

Fifty years ago community leaders in Huntingdon County were concerned that the impending development of Raystown Dam might have negative impacts on the County. This concern led to the formation of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

During the late 1950's, the staff of the Huntingdon County Cooperative Extension had become worried that farmers needed some kind of planning protection in light of plans for Raystown Dam and the acquisition of thousands of acres of private property for the project. Many meetings were held with both public and private community leaders. In 1961, the County Commissioners and Agricultural Extension representatives traveled to Warren County to discuss the Kinzua Project with their planning director. Following a series of more formal meetings, the County Commissioners formed the Huntingdon County Planning Commission on November 13, 1962. The Commissioners in office at the time were: Gordon Haverstock, Donald Broadbent and Charles Klingler.

After a year of getting organized, the Planning Commission suspended its meetings for a year when it appeared that the Raystown Project might not become a reality. Later, they again met regularly and

began to consider the idea of a comprehensive plan for the County. After securing grant funding and evaluating four consultant proposals, the County hired the firm of Wilson, Polakowski, Heine & Simpson to develop the plan. The Comprehensive Plan, titled "Continuity Through Conservation," took two and a half years to complete, with the two-volume study being completed in 1967. The Comprehensive Plan was adopted in March 1971 following extensive public involvement.

During the 1960's, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acquired 29,300 acres of land, relocated hundreds of homes and began construction of Raystown Dam in 1968. The completed Dam was dedicated by Vice President Gerald R. Ford on June 6, 1974.

As predicted, the Raystown Project has been the catalyst for considerable growth and development over the past forty years. The Huntingdon County Planning Commission and the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department have provided strong leadership and support to both County and municipal governments to plan for and manage the changes brought about, at least in part, by Raystown Lake.

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# Planning Commission Continues Tradition

Sixty-two people have served on the Planning Commission since its creation. Current members of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission include: Ron Rabena, Union Township, Chairman; Larry Mutti, Porter Township, Vice Chairman; Ginny Gill, Huntingdon Borough, Secretary; Ann Kyper Reynolds, Walker Township; Earl Martin, Penn Township; Horace Mower, West Township; Bryan Yingling, Clay Township; Todd Griest, Dublin Township and Paul Politza, Warriors Mark Township.

Two members of the Planning Commission, Ann Reynolds and Ginny Gill, have over twenty years' service each.

Fifty years ago the Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission met for the first time on November 13th and on November 15th the County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 62-1, creating the Planning Commission. The initial members of the nine-member board were: Dr. Morley Mays, Hiram Reynolds, Ed Harry, Ira

Shaffer, William Hicks, Horace Ross, A. Lynn Corcelius, Ed Harry, and C. Roy Wilburn. County Commissioners at the time were Gordon Haverstock, Donald Broadbent and Charles Kingler.

The first Planning Director, James Lodge, was hired in 1971. He was succeeded by Harry Knudson, who served from 1977 until 1980. Current Planning Director, Richard Stahl, was hired in 1980. Fifty-two people have served in various staff capacities since 1962. An additional 65 people have served as short-term planning interns.

## PLANNING COMMISSION HISTORY

- ◆ County Commissioners formed the Huntingdon County Planning Commission on November 13, 1962.
  - ◆ Commissioners were Gordon Haverstock, Donald Broadbent, Charles Klingler.
  - ◆ First appointed Planning Commission members were Dr. Morley J. Mays, Hiram P. Reynolds, Ira R. Shafer, William H. Hicks, Horace R. Ross, William R. Shaffer, A. Lynn Corcelius, Edward F. Harry, C. Roy Wilburn.
  - ◆ Wilson, Polakowski, Heine & Simpson were hired to develop the first County Comprehensive Plan, "Continuity Through Conservation".
    - ◆ two-volume study completed in 1967
    - ◆ adopted in March 1971
  - ◆ Planning Commission instrumental in:
    - ◆ Formation of the Huntingdon Area Council of Governments
    - ◆ Preparation and assistance in the adoption of municipal subdivision and zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans
  - ◆ Implementation of post Agnes urban renewal projects in Mount Union, Huntingdon and Smithfield
  - ◆ Certification of the National Flood Insurance Program for numerous municipalities
  - ◆ Preparation of a Disaster Relief Study
  - ◆ Application for and administration of millions of dollars in State and Federal grant programs, including Community Development Block Grants
  - ◆ Preparation of Comprehensive Plan Updates and various planning reports
  - ◆ Analysis of development activity, including subdivision and housing statistics
  - ◆ Implementation of planning recommendations with many agencies and units of government
- ◆ Review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals
  - ◆ Submission of transportation projects for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program
  - ◆ Coordination of seminars and workshops for municipal officials
  - ◆ Creation of Leadership Huntingdon County in partnership with the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Cooperative Extension
  - ◆ Creation of Community Improvement Awards in partnership with the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
  - ◆ Creation and management of the Huntingdon County website, [www.huntingdoncounty.net](http://www.huntingdoncounty.net), and assistance in the creation and maintenance of websites for four municipalities

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**20+ Years**

Ann Kyper Reynolds  
Larry Pruss  
Ginny Gill

**16 to 20 Years**

Mildred Rockwell  
Larry W. Irvin  
Dr. Robert H. Washburn

**10 to 15 Years**

Horace R. Ross  
Harry Gensimore  
Hiram Reynolds  
Edward F. Harry  
Francis Kemp  
Leroy Koch  
Ron Rabena  
John Remek  
Larry Mutti

**1 to 9 Years**

S. Horace Mowrer  
Guy Marcocci  
Herb Cole  
Paul Politza  
Duncan Robb  
Janet Dore  
Harold Estep  
Linda Greenland  
James Ott  
Harry Houck  
Nancy Weller  
Robert L. Fisher

**1 to 9 Years**

James R. McDonald  
Joseph Stever  
Marion Crum  
Rodney Walters  
William D. Wilson  
C. Roy Wilburn  
Charles E. Burket  
S. Dean Montgomery  
W. Ralph Weller  
Francis Paul Crum  
G. Allen Hoover  
Martin Brown  
C. James Love  
Richard Gummo  
David K. Goodman  
John F. Boyer, Jr.  
David Frederick  
Ira R. Shafer  
William R. Shaffer  
A. Lynn Corcelius  
Bryan Yingling  
Carl Jaymes  
Todd Griest  
Pam Filson  
Gregory Schneider  
James Dell  
Albert H. Miller  
Galen Goshorn  
Charles Jamison  
Margaret Magliere  
William H. Hicks  
Clarence James  
Morley J. Mays  
Paul Knepp  
Earl Martin

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF**

Beth Morningstar	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Carol E. Simparosa	Secretary/Research Assistant
Cheryl Long	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Cindy (Roland) McConaughy	Secretary
Cinnamon L. Bair	Addressing Technician
D. Brian Young	Planner/GIS Technician
Deb (Holmberg) Whitaker	Secretary
Deborah Wykoff	Secretary's Assistant
Delma Wilt	Secretary/Planning Technician
Ellen Walter	Block Grant Coordinator
Eugene (Bud) Scharf	Project Coordinator
Geoffrey Astles	Planning Technician
George J. Drobnock	Planner/Grant Administrator
Harry A. Knudsen, Jr.	Planning Director
James C. Lodge	Planning Director
Jayne Gifford	Secretary's Assistant
John R. Lawrence	Assistant Planner
Judy Beck	911 Coordinator
Julia Covert	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Justina Hall	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Laurie J. (Corbin) Nearhood *	Secretary
Linda Benner	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Lou Ann (Wilson) Shontz *	Recycling Coordinator
Lynn B. Jones	Secretary/Research Assistant
Marie McClain	Addressing Technician
Marsha (Davis) Kemp	Secretary/Research Assistant
Mary A. Bolinger	Secretary/Research Assistant
Mary Jones	Secretary
Maureen H. (McElligott) Safko *	Recycling Coordinator/Grant Administrator
Nelson S. Whitsel	Draftsman
Norma Jean Knable	Clerical Assistant/Planning Technician
Pam Filson	Project Coordinator
Peggy Ann (Walker) Wilson *	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Penny (Chilcote) Fleming	Addressing Technician
Renee R. Magee	Assistant Planner
Richard E. Stahl *	Planning Director
Richard M. Wolfe	Assistant Planner
Rory Peachey	Planner
Rose Rahman	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Sabrina Thompson	Addressing Technician
Sally Ann States *	Planning Technician
Sandy Cresswell	Secretary
Sara H. Zabriskie	Secretary/Research Assistant
Sarah Endriss	Heritage Planner
Scott Williams	Addressing Technician
Shari (Brode) Mitchell	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Sharon M. McMonigal	Secretary
Sherri Cramer	Secretary/Research Assistant
Stephen J. Peoples	Planning Technician
Steven D. Fleck	Draftsman
Tammy Dysard	Secretary
Timothy J. Nabozny	Addressing Technician



\* 10 + years of service

# COUNTY PLANNING TIMELINE

## County Events

## Planning Activities

County Events	Planning Activities
<b>1962</b>	
1961 Huntingdon Industrial Park	1962 HCPC Formed
1965 New Westab Plant	1967 Continuity Through Conservation, First Comprehensive Plan
1968 Redevelopment Authority Formed	1970 Tuscarora Land Company, Proposed Major Subdivision
1968 Raystown Dam Construction Begun	1971 First Planning Director - James Lodge
	1971 Region IV Comprehensive Plan, Community Business District
	1971 Region IV Comprehensive Plan Part I
	1971 Region IV Comprehensive Plan Part II
<b>1972</b>	
1972 Tropical Storm Agnes	1972 Huntingdon Borough Zoning Ordinance Adopted
1972 Redevelopment Plan, Huntingdon, Mount Union and Smithfield	1973 Smithfield Township Zoning Ordinance Adopted
1972 Grant City Plaza	1974 Alexandria Borough Zoning Ordinance Adopted
1972 J. C. Blair Hospital Expansion	1975 Raystown Impact Study Phase I
1974 Raystown Dam Completed	1975 Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon County Solid Waste Authority Created
1975 McDonald's	1977 Raystown Impact Study Phase II
1977 New Portstown Arch, PA 26	1977 Second Planning Director - Harry Knduson
	1978 Hydropower Controversy, Proposed Pump Storage Facility
	1980 Third Planning Director - Richard Stahl
<b>1982</b>	
1983 Woodland Retirement Center	1983 Huntingdon Main Street Program Established
1984 Lake Raystown Resort	1987 Downtown Huntingdon Revitalization and Design Study
1987 Orbisonia Elderly Housing	1989 Walker Township Zoning Ordinance Adopted
1988 SCI Smithfield Completed	1989 Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon County Solid Waste Management Plan
1988 Raystown Hydroelectric Project William F. Matson Generating Station	
1989 The Highlands Subdivision	
1989 Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon County Landfill	
<b>1992</b>	
1992 Blair House Development	1989 Drop Off Recycling Started in Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties
1992 Westminster Woods	1991 The Broad Top Area Comprehensive Plan
1992 Major Courthouse Fire	1992 Comprehensive Plan developed for Huntingdon Borough
1994 Lake Raystown Shopping Center	1992 Warriors Mark Comprehensive Plan
1995 Riverview Business Center	1993 GIS Mapping Begun
1996 Sandy Ridge Station	1994 Oneida Township Comprehensive Plan
1996 Winter Flooding	1996 Comprehensive Plans developed for Orbisonia and Rockhill Boroughs
1996 Berg Electronics Opened	1996 Huntingdon County Heritage Plan
2001 Raystown Field Station, Shuster Hall	1997 Continuity Through Conservation II, Part I, Background Studies
	1999 Continuity Through Conservation II, Background Studies Supplement
	1999 Oneida Township Zoning Ordinance Adopted
	1999 Orbisonia Borough Zoning Ordinance Adopted
	2000 Continuity Through Conservation II, Part II, The Plan
	2001 Huntingdon County Intergovernmental Action Plan
	2001 9-1-1 Addressing Started
	2001 Walker Township Comprehensive Plan
<b>2002</b>	
2000 VonLiebig Center for Science, Juniata College	2003 A Comprehensive Economic Analysis for Huntingdon County
2003 Valley Rural Electric Office, Dublin Township	2004 Huntingdon County Natural Heritage Inventory
2004 Flooding - Hurricane Ivan	2004 Warriors Mark Township Comprehensive Plan Update
2005 Smithfield Towne Center	2004 Comprehensive Economic Analysis
2006 Mutual Benefit Expansion	2005 Warriors Mark Township Zoning Ordinance Update
2006 Lake Raystown Resort, Conference Center	2007 9-1-1 Addressing Completed
2009 Allegrippis Trail	2007 Huntingdon Borough Zoning Ordinance Update
	2007 Continuity Through Conservation II, 2007 Supplement
	2007 Infrastructure Investment Strategy and Water Supply Plan
	2007 Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan
<b>2012</b>	