

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

2020 Annual Report



Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue - Linear Park
Corridor Retaining Wall, Phase 2



Aerial of Portions of Raystown Lake



Huntingdon County Courthouse
Penn Street, Huntingdon Borough



Shirley Home For The Aged, Inc.
Freezer/Cooler Project

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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HUNTINGDON COUNTY

(814) 643-5091

PLANNING COMMISSION

Court House - Huntingdon, Pennsylvania 16652

April 15, 2021

Huntingdon County Board of Commissioners
Bailey Building
233 Penn Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Dear County Commissioners:

For over 57 years, the Huntingdon County Planning Commission has been actively involved with planning and community development projects within the County and the surrounding Southern Alleghenies region. With the adoption in 2018 of the comprehensive plan *Alleghenies Ahead: Shared Strategies for A Stronger Region*, the Planning Commission has and continues to work toward furthering the goals and objectives of the County's five action plan priorities, as identified in the plan.

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code Act of 1968, P.L. 805, No.247, as reenacted and amended, (Article II Section 207. (a)), the Huntingdon County Planning Commission shall keep a full record of its business and annually make a written report each year of its activities to the governing body.

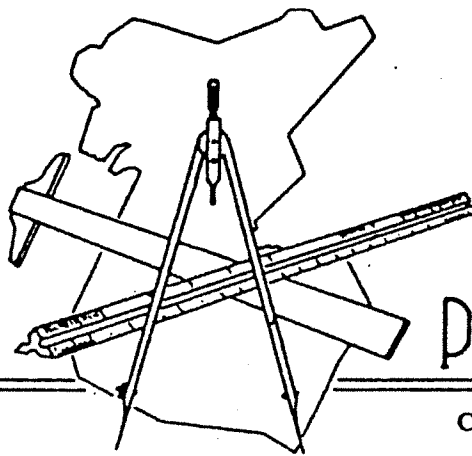
With gratitude and pleasure, the Huntingdon County Planning Commission presents to you our 2020 Annual Report. We thank the Huntingdon County Commissioners for your continued support and assistance.

Sincerely



Ronald Rabena, Chairman

C: Planning Commission



HUNTINGDON COUNTY

PLANNING COMMISSION

(814) 643-5091

Court House - Huntingdon, Pennsylvania 16652

April 15, 2021

Huntingdon County Residents:

The year 2020 will be remembered as the year the novel COVID-19 virus enveloped our neighborhoods, homes, hospitals, work environments, the County and our nation. During this unprecedented time, we all had to adjust to a different way of life, an anomaly to our existing day to day activities. My first day in the office as the newly hired Planning Director was March 9, 2020. Unbeknownst to me, the remaining year would present significant challenges and rewarding successes.

Because of the virus, two staff members Stacia-Fé Gillen, Community Development Administrator and Taylor Pollicino, Assistant Community Development Administrator were laid off for the entirety of April. Additionally, two part time employees from Associates for Training and Development left due to the virus and were not able to return to the office. The annual dinner was cancelled for 2020 and all County buildings were closed to the public. I spent a significant amount of time with Laurie Nearhood, Office Manager/Secretary, who has historical knowledge of the Planning Department, since she began working here in 1994. With her wealth of information, I quickly got up to speed with major projects, standard operating procedures and the history of the Planning Department and the Community Development Block Grant program.

Upon Stacia-Fé's and Taylor's return, a voluminous quantity of work was completed and tasks that needed attention were being done in a timely manner. One of the main priorities for the Department was the continuation and timely completion of the Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Retaining Wall Phase 2 project. This multi-faceted funded project consists of 2.8 million dollars to enhance a multi-modal transportation improvement project, primarily consisting of the demolition of an existing dilapidated retaining wall and the construction of a state of the art, concrete retaining wall with steel railings, along a section of Pennsylvania Avenue in Mount Union Borough. Negotiations between the Pennsylvania Department of Community Economic Development, Mount Union Borough Officials, Keller Engineering and our office took center stage. The negotiations involved seeking an extension to the completion deadline for the project. In short PA-DCED granted the time extension request based on the unforeseen consequences from the virus until July 31, 2021.

The Huntingdon County Planning Commission held several in person meetings, however, for the majority of the months succeeding the onslaught of the virus, all meetings were held virtually. The Huntingdon County Planning Commission, the Planning and Development Department staff and the support of the Huntingdon County Commissioners allowed for the furthering of the goals, objectives and mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission. We look forward to a prosperous and healthy 2021.

Sincerely,


James P. Lettiere, AICP
Planning Director

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.

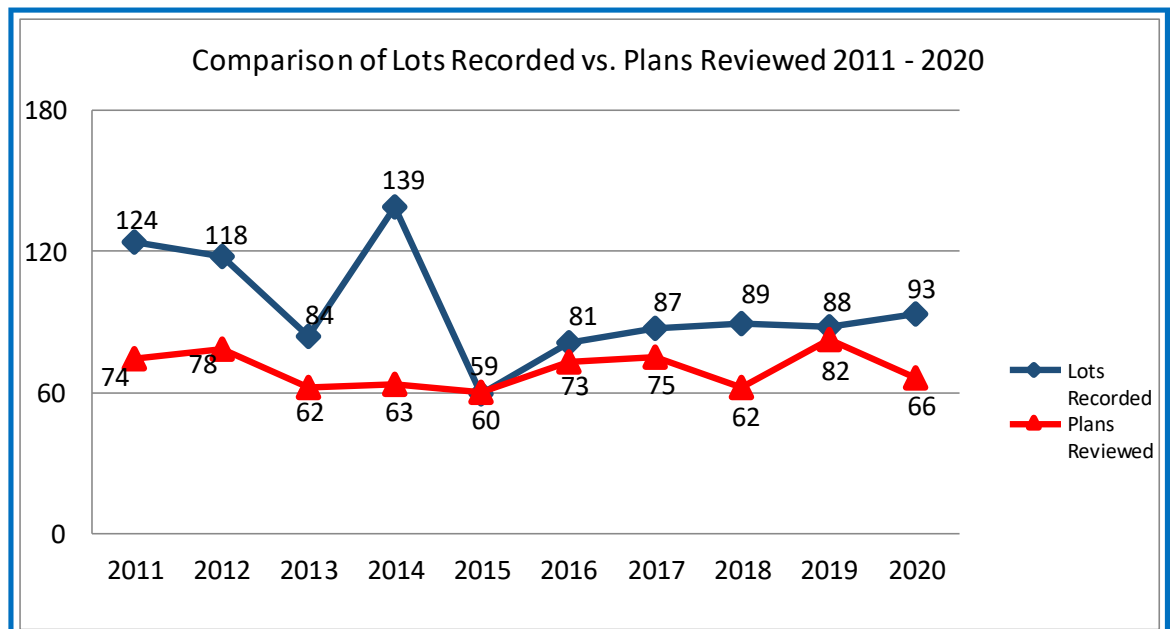
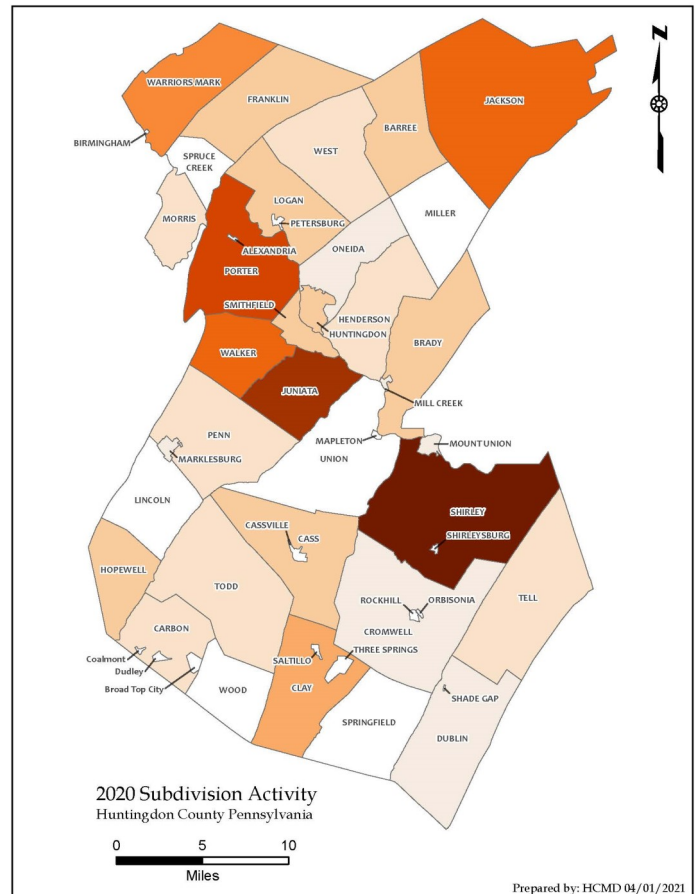
The act of subdivision is the division or redivision of a lot, tract or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels or other divisions of land, including changes to existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of lease, partition by the court for the distribution to heirs or devisees, transfer of ownership or building or lot development.

Subsequent to subdividing land a deed is prepared demonstrating the new metes and bounds for the lot; and, after the deed is recorded at the Recorder of Deeds office, the new lot is officially created. In many instances, lots may have been created by subdivision; however, if a deed is not created, then the lot is not officially created.

During 2020, 93 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is an increase of 5.7% from the 88 lots recorded in 2019. 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 2020, the municipalities with the highest levels of recorded lots were:

- Shirley Township, 13 lots;
- Juniata Township, 8 lots;
- Porter Township, 7 lots; and
- Jackson and Walker Townships, 6 lots each.



SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

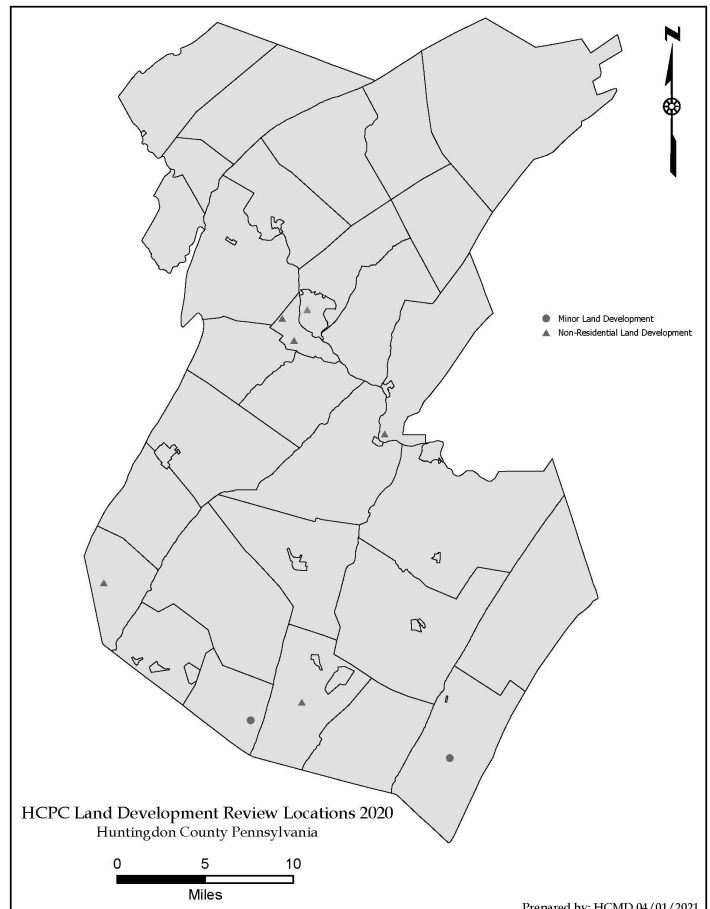
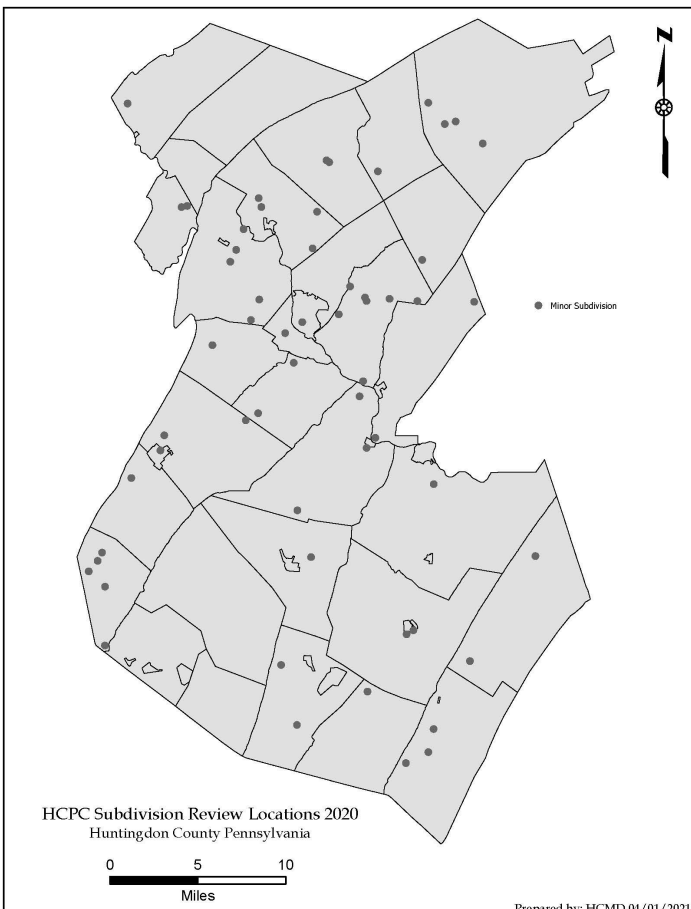
Article V Section 502 (b) of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code* gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities having their own adopted subdivision and land development ordinances. The Commission also comments on consistency with *Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act*.

The Planning Commission reviewed a total of 66 submissions in 28 municipalities during 2020, down by 16 from the 82 reviewed during 2019. The 2020 reviews included six non-residential land developments; 58 minor subdivisions; and two minor residential land developments. These projects encompassed a total of 60 new lots and 1,670.9 acres. The maps on this page illustrate the distribution of these proposals. The six non-residential land developments submitted included the following:

- Pennsylvania Game Commission, Smithfield Township: demolition of existing office building and construction of a 15,250 square foot office building -

located on the north side of William Penn Highway immediately at the Walnut Terrace Road intersection;

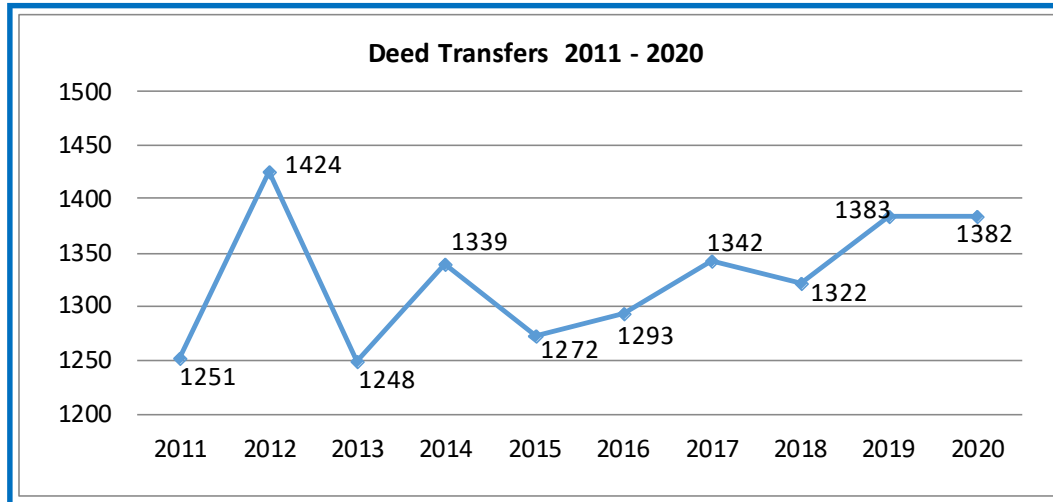
- Strickler's Self-Storage, Smithfield Township: construction of one 4,000 square foot storage shed - located on the south side of Fairgrounds Road approximately 364' east of the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds;
- Ka-Ne Ventures Storage Sheds, Brady Township: construction of four storage sheds totaling 13,500 square feet - located on the north side of William Penn Highway on the site of the former Motel 22;
- Juniata College Library (Learning Commons), Huntingdon Borough: construction of a 4,320 square foot building addition - located on the east side of Moore Street and north of the 18th Street/Moore Street intersection;
- Jackie D. Lemond, Clay Township: construction of a 2,000 square foot building for dog grooming - located on the south side of Waterfall Road and east of the Waterfall Road/Waterfall Hill Road intersection; and
- Raystown Ridge Campground, Hopewell Township: construction of a 91-site campground - located on the west side of Lower Ridge Road and north of the Pine Ridge Road/Lower Ridge Road intersection



SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds created and transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well-being of the County. The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds recorded in 2020, both existing and new, showed a slight decrease - from 1,383 in 2019 to 1,382 in 2020.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

For 2020, 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 50 electrical permits in 22 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing - 18 permits for seasonal housing and 32 permits for permanent housing. The Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 168 residential addresses in 24 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing - 19 addresses for seasonal housing and 149 for permanent housing.

The highest total number of new seasonal addresses (three) were issued in Cromwell, Shirley and Union Townships, while the highest number of new addresses for permanent housing (81) were issued in Morris Township. The 81 addresses issued in Morris Township are for the Emily Estates aka Graystone Cottage Community major residential land development and subdivision project. This project consists of 81 senior cottages and a 14,560 square foot club house on a 71.62 acre parcel on the west side of Spruce Creek Road (SR 45).

The table to the right illustrates the concentrations of new addresses and new electrical permits issued in 2020. The new-home data from these sources includes conventional, modular, and mobile homes.

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY ADDRESSES	VREC ELECTRICAL PERMITS
Barree Township	0	1
Brady Township	4	2
Cass Township	3	4
Clay Township	4	0
Cromwell Township	7	4
Dublin Township	5	3
Franklin Township	1	0
Henderson Township	0	1
Hopewell Township	7	3
Huntingdon Borough	1	0
Jackson Township	7	4
Juniata Township	3	4
Lincoln Township	3	0
Logan Township	1	1
Miller Township	0	1
Morris Township	81	2
Oneida Township	0	2
Penn Township	3	1
Porter Township	6	0
Shirley Township	10	6
Springfield Township	1	2
Tell Township	1	1
Todd Township	3	2
Union Township	4	2
Walker Township	2	1
Warriors Mark Township	8	1
West Township	3	2

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL

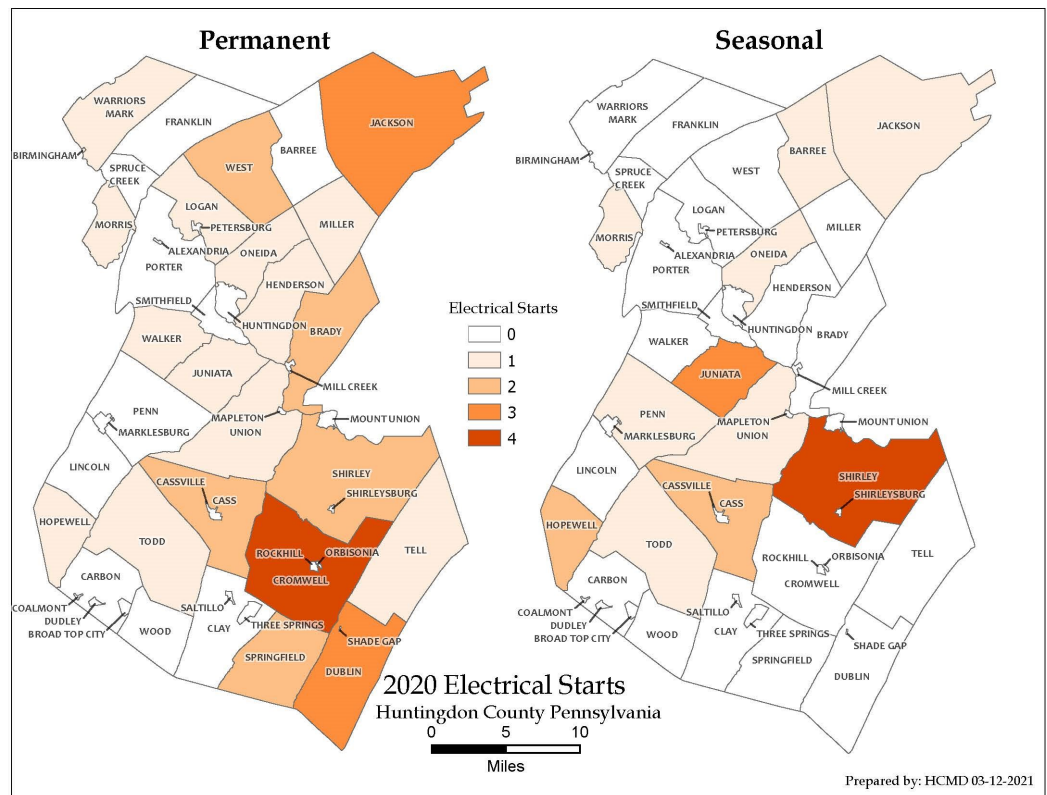
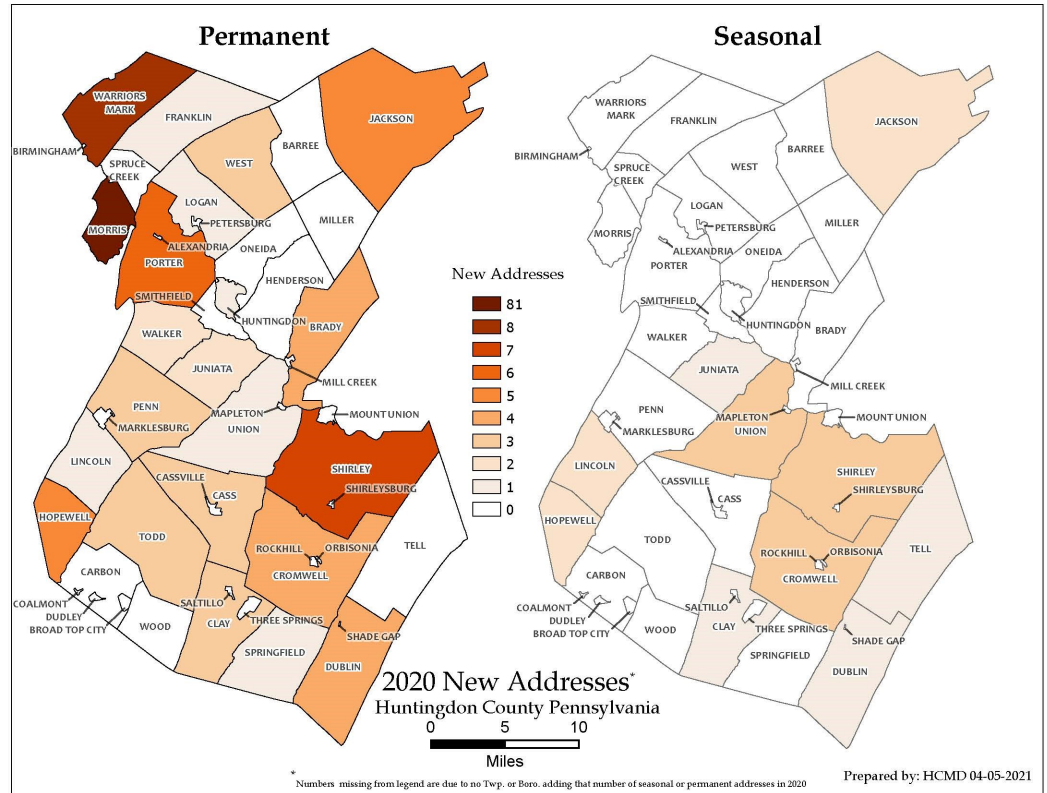
Valley Rural Electrical Cooperative (VREC) issued 18 electrical permits for seasonal housing, including 15 conventional homes and three mobile homes.

Four VREC electrical permits for permanent housing were issued in Cromwell Township, and three electrical permits each were issued in Dublin and Jackson Townships.

The highest number of electrical permits, permanent and seasonal combined, were issued in Shirley Township. Of the six permits issued in Shirley Township, two were for permanent conventional housing, three were for seasonal conventional housing and one was for a seasonal mobile home.

A total of four permits each were issued in Cass, Cromwell, Jackson and Juniata Townships.

- Cass Township - two for permanent conventional housing and two for seasonal conventional housing;
- Cromwell Township - four for permanent conventional housing;
- Jackson Township - three for permanent conventional housing and one for seasonal conventional housing; and
- Juniata Township - one for permanent conventional housing and three 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 responsible entity for environmental reviews.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

This last year was one of change and challenges, for both our nation, as it battled the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020, and for our Planning Department as there were several staffing changes.

Stacia-Fé Gillen joined the department as Community Development Administrator on January 21st. James Lettiere started his role as Planning Director on March 9th. COVID-19 restrictions in late March forced both Stacia-Fé and Taylor Pollicino to be laid off for the entire month of April, but both returned to the office in May.

Further restrictions included the locking of county buildings, which meant the Department could receive visitors by appointment only. Also, all PA DCED staff, including the County's DCED Grant Manager, transitioned to remote, work-from-home status. This year was also cause for celebration as Taylor began maternity leave in late December. Despite these changes, the Planning Department made significant progress in administering the CDBG program and in successfully completing four projects.

Additionally, Stacia-Fé submitted the FY 2020 Application to DCED on October 28th. Sarah Gulick, DCED Grant Manager, reached out on January 7, 2021 to request very minor revisions, which were immediately addressed. Receipt of the fully executed FY 2020 contract totaling \$470,240.00 is expected in April 2021. This contract contains allocations for Huntingdon County (\$249,208.00), Huntingdon Borough (\$124,761.00) and Smithfield Township (\$96,271.00).

Spruce Creek Blight Demolition

This County project entailed the demolition of three blighted buildings, out structures, and a retaining wall located along Route 45 in Spruce Creek Township.

The notice to proceed was issued on December 24, 2019, and the certificate of substantial completion was issued on March 1, 2020.



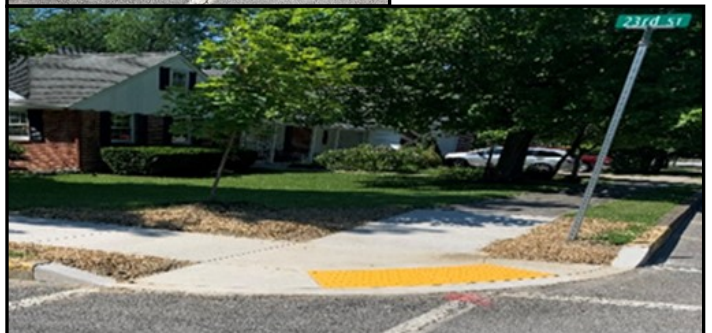
The Township Supervisors have agreed to maintain the greenspace in perpetuity. In total, \$30,552 in FY 2015 CDBG dollars were used for this project.

Huntingdon Borough Curb Cuts

This project entailed retrofitting existing curbs for ADA compliance. In total, 37 ADA curb cuts were completed in the Borough. The notice to proceed was



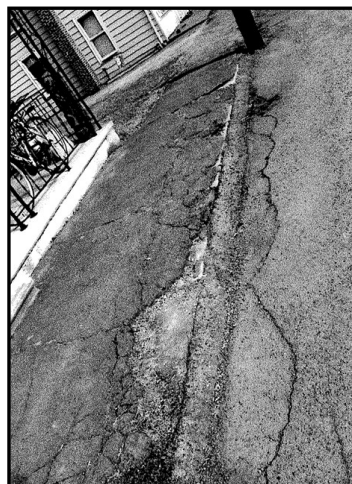
issued on February 28th and the certificate of substantial completion was issued on June 27th. A total of \$112,897 in FY 2015 & 2016 CDBG dollars were used for this project.



Mapleton Sidewalk Replacement

This County project entailed removal and replacement of existing sidewalks on Church, Reservoir, and Hill Streets in Mapleton Borough. The notice to proceed was issued on July 21st and the certificate of substantial completion was issued on August 14th. A total of \$88,243.92 in FY 2015 & 2016 CDBG dollars

were used for this project.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

Shirley Home Walk-In Cooler/Freezer Combo

This County project added a commercial grade walk-in cooler/freezer combo to the existing Shirley Home for the Aged in Shirley Township. This addition freed up space in the existing kitchen for meal prep for the elderly residents and also increased the facility's capacity to store food for longer periods of time. The notice to proceed was issued on July 28th and construction of this project concluded on November 2nd. A total of \$81,267.70 in FY 2017 CDBG dollars were used for this project.



Competitive CDBG funding and FY 2019 Entitlement CDBG funding. The notice to proceed was issued on July 27th, and demolition, excavation and reconstruction of Wall 2, between Division and Jefferson Streets, was completed by December 21st. Demolition of Wall 1 began on March 1, 2021. Substantial completion of this project will be obtained by July 24, 2021 with all work to be completed by July 31, 2021.



ONGOING CDBG CONTRACTS & ACTIVITIES

Huntingdon Borough Sidewalks Replacement

This FY 2016 & 2017 project entailed replacing 10 sidewalks of low to moderate income homeowners within the borough. The notice to proceed was issued on October 27th. Four sidewalks were completed by December 31st. Substantial completion of this project took place on March 15, 2021.



HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT (HPG)

These funds totaling \$71,718.23 will provide assistance for the most urgent needs of homeowners, such as 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. An approved contract extension allows completion of this project by September 30, 2021.

An agreement between Huntingdon County and the Center for Community Action was fully executed on August 20th. Under this agreement, the Center for Community Action will conduct initial home inspections, determine applicant eligibility, and conduct audit and final home inspections.

CDBG-CV

In April, DCED announced a new CDBG grant program utilizing Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. This funding is to be used for housing rehabilitation, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvement, development and planning that prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. In May, DCED released the CDBG-CV allocations and opened the online application portal.

On August 31st, Stacia-Fé successfully submitted a \$235,153.00 application on behalf of Huntingdon County (\$166,152.00) and Huntingdon Borough (\$69,001.00). Smithfield Township was not included as they officially opted out of their \$61,760.00 allocation. The fully-executed grant contract was received on November 19th.

The Center for Community Action will use these funds to assist LMI-qualified residents with rental and mortgage payments and utility payments (electric and other eligible utility assistance as designated by DCED).

Todd Township Municipal Building - ADA Upgrades

This FY 2016 & 2017 County project entailed changes to the municipal building for ADA compliance, including rehabilitation of the existing basement, replacement of the existing door and doorway, and installation of an ADA parking area. The notice to proceed was issued on December 22nd. This project was substantially completed March 15, 2021.

Mount Union PA Ave Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall, Phase 2

This County project entails replacing a structurally unsound retaining wall located in Mount Union Borough. This phase of the project leverages over \$2.8 million, including partial funding through FY 2013

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	\$750,000.00
Housing Preservation Grant	2018 - Emergency Minor Housing Rehabilitation	\$71,718.23
CDBG-CV	2020 - COVID-19 Prevention and Housing and Utility Assistance	\$235,153.00

ENTITLEMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS	
FY 2015	Amount
Wood Broad Top Wells Water/Sewer—completed, 2019	\$76,000.00
Spruce Creek and Countywide Blight—completed, 2020	30,552.00
Mapleton Water Line Looping—completed, 2019	35,850.05
Mapleton Sidewalk Replacement—completed, 2020	46,149.95
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Water Phase 2—completed, 2019	67,310.00
Smithfield Levee—completed, 2016	2,238.00
Huntingdon Borough Curb Cuts—completed, 2020	87,044.00
Total	\$345,144.00
FY 2016	Amount
Birmingham Water Line Replacement—Market Street—completed, 2019	\$130,345.00
Mapleton Sidewalk Replacement—completed, 2020	42,093.97
Todd Township Municipal Building ADA Upgrades—started, December 2020	15,372.03
Huntingdon Borough Curb Cut Installation—completed, 2020	25,853.00
Huntingdon Borough Sidewalk Rehabilitation—started, October 2020	63,000.00
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Water Phase 2—completed, 2019	70,716.00
Total	\$347,380.00
FY 2017	Amount
Todd Township Municipal Building ADA Upgrades—started, December 2020	\$52,268.30
Shade Gap Community Center Upgrade—project canceled; funds reallocated in 2021	0.00
Shirley Home Walk-In Cooler/Freezer Combo—completed, 2020	81,267.70
Huntingdon County Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation—canceled June 2020; funds reallocated	0.00
19 S. Jefferson Street—Demolition—Spot Blight	52,500.00
Huntingdon Borough—Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity (\$25,000.00)—deleted to fund 912 Washington Street Acquisition and Rehabilitation	72,090.00
Huntingdon Borough-Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program—started, October 2020	15,598.00
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Water Phase 2—completed, 2019	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 Housing Rehabilitation	96,948.00
Smithfield Township Spot Blight (913 Pike Street)	75,627.00
Total	\$371,933.00
FY 2019	Amount
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall Phase 2—started July 2020	\$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 2020, the members of PEP finalized their identification of chairpersons and stakeholders for each of their five key goals.

PEP MARKETING

One long-standing committee of PEP is the Marketing Committee. The PEP Marketing Committee is engaged in marketing the County and its economic possibilities. While the Committee planned to focus on development of media kits based on the Live Here, Work Here, Play Here, Grow Here, and Learn Here videos, no activity took place in 2020.

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.

Members had planned to meet regularly in 2020 to discuss collaboration opportunities and ways to move economic progress forward in Huntingdon County, but no meetings were held due to major staffing changes at three of the participating agencies and due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, Baltimore District began a revision process in 2018. The draft of the Master Plan was released on October 23, 2019. The primary goals of the plan revisions included prescribing an overall land-use management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts for the Raystown Lake Project.

Initially, release of the final Master Plan was anticipated in early 2020. After this process was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, an April 2020 stakeholder update from the Army Corps of Engineers indicated an anticipated release by the end of July 2020.

A November 2020 stakeholder update explained initial review efforts were delayed to prioritize the health and safety of the District’s workforce and visitors. Although the November updated anticipated release of the final Plan by February 2021, the final Plan was officially released on March 18, 2021.



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 2020, the Planning and Development Department published the *2019 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.

FAIR HOUSING AWARENESS

Department staff conducted two activities that met the requirements of Fair Housing Substantial Activities for 2020. In partnership with the Center for Community Action (CCA), staff participated in one free Zoom webinar and jointly advertised a second offered through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services Fair Housing Law Center located in Washington, PA. The Fair Housing Law Center serves 28 counties in western Pennsylvania and four counties in West Virginia.

Stacia-Fé and Laurie participated in the first webinar offered on September 28th for Department and CCA staff. Topics included the history of the Fair Housing Act; a description of each protected class; an

explanation that the act applies to both housing providers and tenants; descriptions of common scenarios for each protected class; an explanation of reasonable accommodations and reasonable modification requests for people with disabilities; five examples of court cases and settlements resulting from Fair Housing Act violations; and a question and answer period.

The second webinar was offered to Huntingdon County and Bedford County landlords on October 8th. Department staff shared this opportunity widely online and through email to individuals and organizations, including the Huntingdon County Board of Realtors, the Huntingdon County Housing Authority, and municipal officials. Two Huntingdon County landlords participated in this free training.



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION AND MODIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Reasonable

- Cannot cause the housing provider an undue financial **AND** administrative burden
- Cannot fundamentally alter the nature of the provider's operation

Necessary

- There must be a disability-related need for the accommodation

Fair Housing Law Center slide from the September 28th training

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 2020:

Alexandria Borough and Porter Township

Staff attended March meetings with Alexandria Borough and Porter Township officials, staff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), and a representative from Gannett Fleming, Inc. to discuss the flood mitigation studies for the Juniata River prior to the start of field work.

The purpose of the Porter Township Flood Mitigation Study is to provide assistance in completing a flood mitigation to update the existing flood modeling and flood hazard mapping, assess the damages associated with floods of different recurrence and intervals and develop alternatives for both riverine and stormwater flooding. The approximate cost of this study funded by the USACE is \$150,000.00.

Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended meetings with Borough staff and Council to discuss current and future entitlement CDBG projects and to finalize a cooperation agreement for the Department's administration of Borough CDBG funds.

Staff also attended a meeting in March with Huntingdon Borough officials and USACE Baltimore District staff to discuss the Muddy Run floodplain mapping project prior to the start of field work. This flood mapping project is to provide assistance in completing revised floodplain mapping for Muddy Run in the Borough of Huntingdon to accurately depict the flood risk based upon present day hydrologic and hydraulic conditions. The approximate cost for this study funded by the USACE is \$70,000.00.

Mount Union Borough

Staff participated in a variety of meetings and conference calls with Borough staff, Borough Council, Borough Solicitor and the Engineer of record to coordinate the construction and financial administration of the Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Retaining Wall project.

Smithfield Township

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

Three Springs Borough

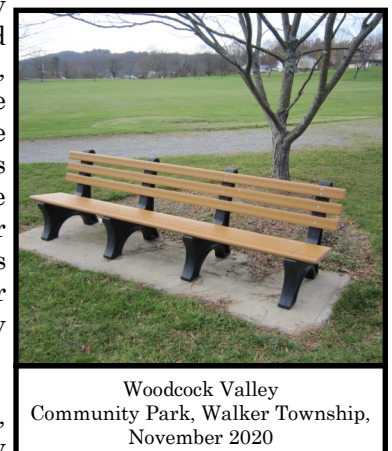
Staff worked extensively with Borough staff and officials to conduct an income survey to determine eligibility for a project at the Borough's water reservoir. While the project was CDBG eligible, the income survey determined the customers of the water system did not meet CDBG low-moderate income requirements.

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."

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.

On August 20, 2020, the Huntingdon County Planning Commission reviewed eight applications totaling \$67,485.66. Their recommendations were forwarded to the Huntingdon County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$30,000.00 to four projects on August 25, 2020. The 2020 Act 13 Legacy Fund awards include:



Woodcock Valley
Community Park, Walker Township,
November 2020

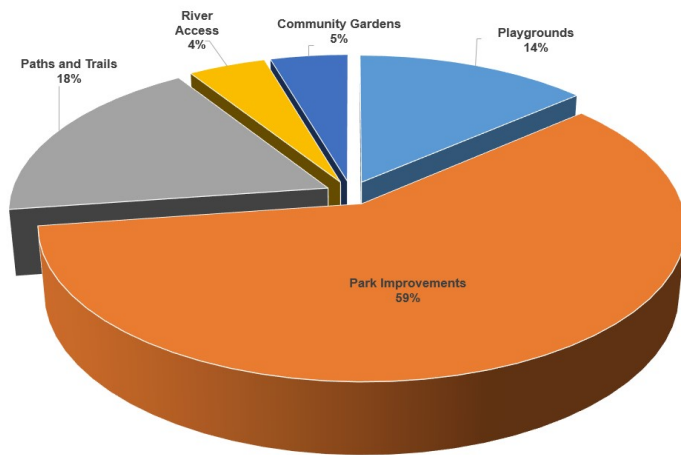
MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)

- \$10,000.00 toward development of Bryant Park in Huntingdon Borough;
- \$9,000.00 to create a community garden in Mount Union Borough;
- \$7,000.00 toward playground improvements at the Veterans Memorial Park Playground in Mapleton Borough; and
- \$4,000.00 to replace and update park benches at the Woodcock Valley Community Park in Walker Township

Of the \$203,945.53 in Act 13 Legacy Funds awarded for 26 eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$132,858.26 was spent by the end of 2020 - \$125,968.91 for project costs and \$6,889.35 for program administration. Also by the end of 2020, \$35,047.27 of the total funds awarded were assigned for reallocation because four projects were no longer viable and four projects did not utilize their entire award.

Since 2013, the projects utilizing awarded Act 13 Legacy funds are located in the following municipalities: 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 summarized by category is detailed in the chart below:



**2013 - 2020 Huntingdon County
Distribution of Act 13 Legacy Funds**

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.

During 2020, the JRBC received an anchor grant through the Federal Home Loan Bank. This grant was earmarked for the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) Course in Community Planning, which was to be offered to interested municipal official countywide. Due to COVID-19 restrictions all in-person PMPEI instruction was discontinued. Only several virtual instruction sessions were available through PMPEI.

Kyle Bailey with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center was retained to assist with a perception survey of Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough and Shirley Township as part of a public visioning component for the JRBC.

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

Kellie Benson was hired as the County's Recycling Coordinator in January.

During 2020, Kellie prepared and submitted DEP reports and grant applications and participated in the update of the solid waste management plan for Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties.



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 Borough;
- Park's Garbage Service, Shirley Township;
- Fairgrounds Road, Smithfield Township;
- Porter Township Building; and
- Wood Mizer (Shade Gap), Dublin Township

SOLID WASTE PLAN UPDATE

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 Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton 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.

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

Under Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP) regulations the SCCSWA must update their Solid Waste Management Plan every 10 years in order to be compliant. In 2019, a planning consultant, Barton and Loguidice, was hired through a competitive process to update the plan for the period from 2021—2030. As of December 2020 the plan was 95% completed.

The SCCSWA has been subsidizing the operation of 10 drop-off recycling locations (under a contract with Parks Garbage) in the three counties at a cost of about \$85,000 yearly. There are four locations in Huntingdon County (costing about \$35,290 yearly); four in Fulton County and two in Bedford County. In addition to these 10 drop-off locations, there are 10 additional drop-off locations under contract with the Sandy Run Landfill that are not in jeopardy of closing and will remain open.

For the residents of Huntingdon County, the three locations under the Sandy Run Landfill contract are Smithfield Township, James Creek Post Office (Marklesburg Borough) and Parks Garbage Service (Shirley Township). The four locations in Huntingdon County under contract with Parks Garbage via the SCCSWA are Porter Township, Jackson Township, Oneida Township and Wood Mizer (Shade Gap) in Dublin Township. The combined operating costs for these four locations is \$35,290 yearly.

The SCCSWA has been operating in the red the last three years, with a deficit of approximately \$60,000 for 2020. The financial loss is attributed to the lack of a dedicated funding source to sustain the operation. Global policies and restrictions China and other Asian Countries have placed on recycling have adversely impacted the United States market. For example. in 2014, SCCSWA recycling materials were paid out at \$40/ton, compared to 2020 where haulers must pay \$58/ton. Profitability has decreased due to lower labor costs.

COUNTY ASSISTANCE (cont...)

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Following February 10, 2020 approval of an agreement with technical consultant Michael Baker International, two kick off meetings were facilitated by Michael Baker International team members. These March 5th meetings addressed the project scope of work, schedule, roles and responsibilities, and overall requirements and outcomes.

According to the introduction portion of the *Huntingdon County 2020 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard mitigation Plan Update* “this Plan is an update of the 2015 *Huntingdon County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*. The 2015 plan was updated by Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania and the 48 jurisdictions within the County and was approved and adopted for implementation in 2015.

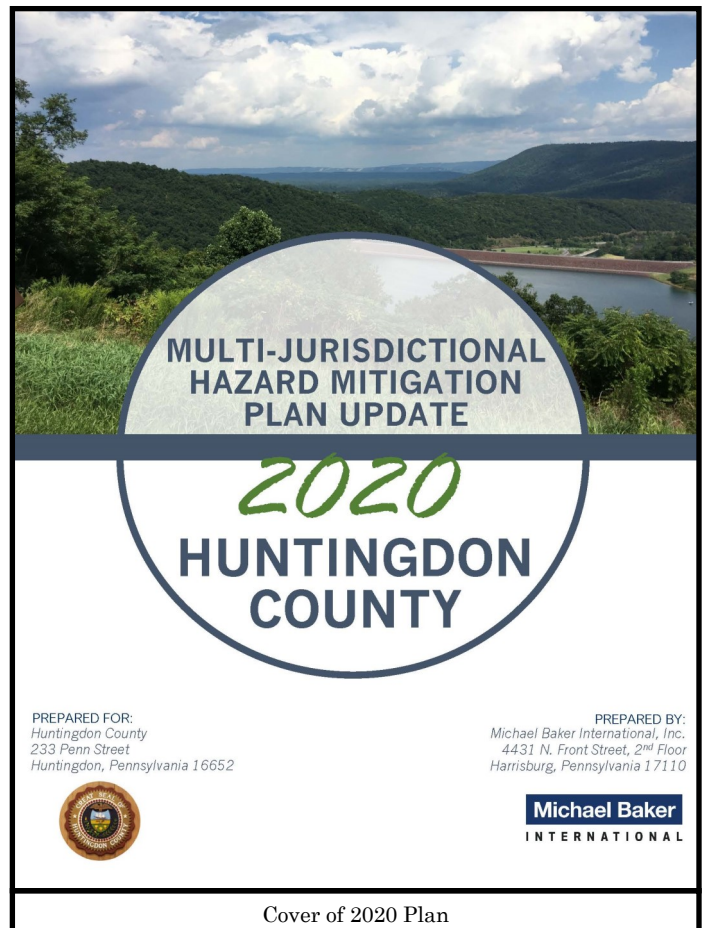
Huntingdon County is at-risk of damage from a variety of hazards: drought; extreme temperatures; flood, flash flood, and ice jams; hailstorm; hurricane, tropical storm, and nor’easter; invasive species; landslide; pandemic and infectious disease; subsidence and sinkhole; tornado and windstorm; wildfire; winter storm; civil disturbance; cyber terrorism; dam failure; environmental hazards; terrorism; transportation accidents; urban fire and explosion; and utility interruption. This Plan explains a rigorous analysis of the potential impacts of these natural and human-made hazards on people, structures, and infrastructure within Huntingdon County and proposes hazard mitigation measures to reduce the risk of a natural or human-made hazard leading to a disaster with property loss, business disruption, or even loss of life.

The emergency management community, citizens, elected officials, and others in Huntingdon County recognize the potential impacts of hazards on their community and have developed this plan to mitigate potential damages and reduce future losses. Hazard mitigation actions reduce the potential for loss of life and destruction of property. Mitigation actions are taken in advance of the occurrence of a potential hazard and are essential for breaking the disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

Accordingly, the Huntingdon County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team (HMPT), composed of government leaders from Huntingdon County, in cooperation with elected officials of the County and its municipalities have prepared this Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The plan is the result of work by citizens

of the County to develop a pre-disaster, multi-hazard mitigation plan that will not only guide the County towards greater disaster resistance, but it will also respect the character and needs of the community.”

On February 16, 2021, the Huntingdon County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 4-2021, which officially adopts the Huntingdon County 2020 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. As of March 2021, each of the 48 municipalities in Huntingdon County have either adopted or are in the process of adopting the County’s Plan by resolution. A letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the final step to officially authorize each municipality’s formal adoption process.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The comprehensive plan has been the cornerstone of American planning theory and practice since the early 1900s. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act of 108 P.L. 805 No 247, as reenacted and amended, through 2017 (Article III Section 301.4) requires counties to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan. It contains the basic policies that will guide the future growth and development of the community. The plan is of a general nature, long-range in outlook, and includes all factors affecting growth and development. The comprehensive plan serves three principal functions: 1. it is a statement of goals, a listing of objectives, and a vision of what could be; 2. it is an educational tool, helping everyone who uses it understand the conditions, problems, and opportunities of the community through the provision of factual information; and 3. it serves as a guide to public and private decision-making, thus, shaping the future of the community.

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

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 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.

At the Huntingdon County Commissioner's September 17, 2020 meeting, James Lettiere discussed the Act 152 Program. He explained within the County's *Alleghenies Ahead* Comprehensive Plan, specifically the action plan, there are five priorities identified as Broadband and Cellular Service, Collaboration and Coordination, Business and Workforce Development, Housing and Blight, and Recreational Amenities and Natural Assets. Within each priority are written inputs, outputs and action items. To implement any action item, there is a need to identify and create a funding source, currently not budgeted within our Department's budget. Housing and Blight Action item #4 is entitled "capitalize a blight intervention program, by creating a funding stream for blight intervention". The parties identified in the action item include the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, the Huntingdon County Board of Realtors, and the Huntingdon County Commissioners.

The Planning Department, in coordination with the Huntingdon County Planning Commission (and other entities identified in the plan) are tasked with forwarding recommendations for implementing priorities identified with the Comprehensive Plan to the County Commissioners.

Act 152 adopted by the Pennsylvania legislature on November 4, 2016 allows for counties of the 6th class to authorize a special deed and mortgage recording fee to establish a county demolition fund. The action necessary for this to occur would be the adoption of either a resolution or ordinance by the County Commissioners authorizing the Recorder of Deeds Office to charge and collect an additional fee for all mortgages and deeds recorded in the County. The fee

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (cont...)

cannot exceed \$15 for each deed and mortgage. It is also acceptable to allow an administrative fee for costs associated with administering the demolition funds. This should amount around 10%-15% of total funds collected annually. The program would be administered by the County's Planning and Development Department.

In calendar year 2019, the Huntingdon County Recorder and Deeds Office recorded 1,697 mortgages and 1,436 deeds. If this quantity remains on or around this number in subsequent years, it would generate approximately \$46,995 annually as a result of charging an additional \$15 per deed and mortgage. Currently, the cost to record a deed is \$58.75 and to record a mortgage is \$58.75. If adopted at the \$15 level, this would increase the recording fees to \$73.75 per instrument accordingly.

The Act requires the filing of an annual report that includes simple information such as the location of the property, the municipality and the amount of Act 152 funds used towards the demolition. Also the Act shall expire 10 years from January 4, 2017. A process for accepting applications for funding would need to be established. The application process should include objective criteria which will serve as the basis for making recommendations to the County Commissioners from eligible municipalities for funding requests.

Due to COVID-19, the County Commissioners did not think an additional fee was warranted at the time of this September 2020 discussion. Chairman Sather noted that potential legislation through Senate Bill 362 would allow local taxing authorities to have tax incentives for construction in blighted areas.

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

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." Led by Chair, Commissioner Jeff Thomas, the Broadband Task Force is comprised of elected officials, representatives from the private sector, and other community leaders.

In September, the anticipated broadband studies for each participating county were released. These studies, prepared by Design Nine, a broadband planner from Blacksburg, VA, were finalized after meetings with stakeholders and interested parties, interviews and meetings with businesses and county officials and residential and business broadband surveys.

The 958 residential surveys from Huntingdon County resulted in several key findings:

- 95% of respondents are interested in faster and more reliable internet service;
- 94% of respondents believe local government should help facilitate better internet access;
- 72% of respondents report trouble using common internet services;
- 66% of residents are "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with current internet service;
- 63% of residents have five or more internet-connected devices in their homes; and
- 26% indicate broadband internet availability affects where they choose to live

The 62 businesses surveys received identified:

- 88% want better internet access;
- 96% indicated internet is important to success of their business;
- 5% were home-based businesses;
- 97% say local government should help facilitate better and more internet access;
- 35% are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with current internet service; and
- 75% need employees able to work from home

Huntingdon County's report outlines a county-wide fixed point wireless solution to provide an affordable network serving nearly 80% of households. The \$6,765,881 total cost to provide 25 Meg down and 3 Meg up broadband through the use of radios and microwave links is summarized for each of six regions.

BROADBAND IMPLEMENTATION

The Huntingdon County Commissioners received COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Approximately \$1 million of this allocation was allocated to broadband.

Planning and Development Department staff assisted with drafting a Request For Proposals (RFP) to provide reliable broadband internet service to certain unserved or underserved areas of Huntingdon County. The County received proposals from Paradise Energy Solutions, LLC also known as Upward Broadband and Rural Broadband Cooperative. Separate agreements in the amounts of approximately \$455,915 each between both entities were executed in October 2020. Funds to provide broadband to scattered sites throughout the County had to be expended and the projects had to have a receivable internet signal for completion by December 30, 2020.

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 makes up the first four years of the Twelve Year Program (TYP) and is developed in cooperation with Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties, PennDOT District 9-0, PennDOT Central Office, and SAP&DC. The RPO prioritizes, reviews, and approves the final TIP. The TIP is fiscally constrained by available funding identified by PennDOT, projects expected funding sources to fund the RPO's transportation projects, which include safety improvements, traditional roadway resurfacing and reconstruction projects, major construction projects of new facilities, and the bridge network.

As County Planning Director, James Lettiere 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.

On September 17th, the HCPC recommended priorities for the 2023-2026 TIP to the County Commissioners. The following recommendations were approved by the County Commissioners on October 7th and submitted to the RPO:

Local Bridges

1. Bridge replacement, Davis Road Bridge in Jackson Township, on Township Road (T-517).
2. Bridge replacement, Globe Run, West Township, Township Road (T-521).

Major Projects

1. PA 522, Preliminary engineering, reconstruction of cartway to 24 foot, realign curves, eliminate blind spots, Dublin Township programmed for transportation study.

2. PA 453 Preliminary engineering, and reconstruction of cartway to 24 feet. Programmed for surface improvements.

Safety and Mobility

1. SR 1009 Intersection improvement of Cold Springs Road, and Standing Stone Road (PA-26)
2. SR 1009 Intersection improvement on Cold Springs Road and Petersburg Pike (SR 4007) near Huntingdon.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (ATC)

Formation of county Active Transportation Committees (ATCs) was a major recommendation of the Southern Alleghenies *Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* adopted by the RPO on July 20, 2016. On March 7, 2017, Huntingdon County was the first county to move forward with this recommendation by investigating the formation of an ATC. On November 28, 2017, the Huntingdon County Commissioners approved appointing 18 individuals to the ATC as voting members and four individuals as ex-officio members. The mission of the ATC is 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. Primary initiatives are:

- Improve Bikeability and Walkability of our Townships;
- 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

After shifting to a monthly meeting schedule in 2019, the ATC did not meet in 2020.

AGENCY LIAISON AND COORDINATION

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

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

COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

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). James Lettiere 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

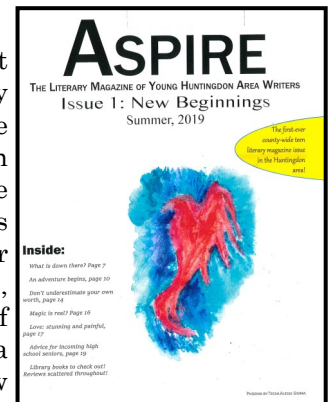
The Community Improvement Awards are sponsored by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, and Kish Bank. The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee jointly review nominees, with final selection made by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

The categories for the 2019 Awards were Community Spirit, Preservation and Special Merit. Nine applications were received and four awards were presented when the fifteenth annual Community

Improvement Awards were announced during the Planning Commission's August 20 meeting. Recipients of the 2019 Awards were Ronald Kyper for 211 5th Street, Preservation; Huntingdon County Library, Community Spirit; Diversity Huntingdon, Special Merit; and Bricktown Model Railroaders Museum, also Special Merit.

Beginning in 2018, the Huntingdon County Library developed programs and outreach services to become more involved in the community it serves and to fulfill the mission of the Huntingdon County Library System. Some of these efforts include visits to the Shirley Home and Westminster Woods, Sensory Store Time, Library-by-Mail, a "Maker Space", a monthly all-ages art club, STEM activities, a teen and young adult program, book clubs, yoga and jewelry-making classes, and crafting events. Additionally, transformation of a small outdoor space into a reading and storytelling garden has allowed for other outdoor programs, including a garden tea party and ice cream making.

The teen and young adult program successfully created and published the first county-wide teen literary magazine in the Huntingdon area. This publication in the Summer of 2019, was titled "Aspire, The Literary Magazine of Young Huntingdon Area Writers, Issue 1: New Beginnings." These increased programs and outreach efforts have led to tremendous growth in program attendance and print material circulation.



Work on the building at 211 5th Street in Huntingdon included the total renovation of three floors. The first floor is used as retail space while the second and third floors contain a three bedroom apartment. The store and apartment each utilize high efficiency gas forced air furnaces and central air units, and all appliances are Energy Star rated. The hardwood floors on the second floor were sanded and refinished and carpeting was installed in the third floor sleeping area. In the retail space, the ceiling was covered with

AGENCY LIASION AND COORDINATION (cont...)

metal panels to bring back the retro look. When the plywood window coverings were removed from both the inside and outside of the transom windows above the second floor windows, stained glass windows with the Star of David and the address number 211 were revealed! The owner focused on the metal and artistic aspects of the building's exterior in an effort to bring the extensive detail back to life and the painter took pride in his artistic workmanship.

After the Bricktown Model Railroaders Association purchased the historic property at 300 West Small Street in October 2017, they began an effort to turn the former warehouse into the Bricktown Museum - a state-of-the-art museum dedicated to the rich railroading and industrial history of the Mount Union area. In November 2019, they upgraded the entry stairs and added a concrete ramp to meet building code and ADA requirements. The goal of the Association is to improve the property by exceeding construction codes and completing projects in a sustainable manner.



Formed by Pat Hunter and Anthony Bullett in March 2018, Diversity Huntingdon—Everyone is Welcome Here! collaborated with a number of organizations, including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the Governor's Council on LGBTQ Affairs, Trans Advocacy Pennsylvania, the Huntingdon Borough Administrative Committee, the Huntingdon Borough Community Development Committee, and the Huntingdon Borough Council to develop an inclusive

anti-discrimination ordinance. This effort culminated on December 17, 2019 when Borough Council adopted an ordinance that applies to all groups not currently covered under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, not just those who are LGBTQ+. Passage of this anti-discrimination ordinance made Huntingdon Borough the first rural municipality to pass such an ordinance.

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 2020, local government and state agencies submitted six projects for review and comment under Acts 67 and 68 and three projects for review under Act 127.

Thirty-three additional notifications included one draft subdivision & land development ordinance; two Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) requests; two Section 106 SHPO/THPO notifications; three Section 106 filings; four blasting plans; one consumptive water usage for gas drilling; two surface mining reclamations utilizing biosolids; one surface mining bond release request; one PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit; one PennDOT Scoping Application and one revised Scoping Application; six comprehensive plan consistency requests; and eight letters of support for applications to funding sources that include CARES Act, PennVEST, DCNR, Multi-Modal Transportation Fund, GTRP, and Southern Alleghenies Mini-Grant.

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 13 such notices in 2020.

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), 16 requests to the EPA were received in 2020 - 14 from the PA DEP, one from the PA DCNR and one from the Pennsylvania State University.



Left to Right: Pat Hunter, Jean Collins, Councilmember John Hyde, Tammy Stuber, Anthony Bullett, Tory Smith, Councilmember Nicole Houck, Lisa McDaniels, Councilmember Sean Steeg, Pennsylvania Youth Congress Executive Director Jason Landau Goodman, and Alex Bressler

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first County Planning Director in 1971. The County Commissioners have directed the Planning Commission to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the County and to promote public interest in and understanding of planning and the *Comprehensive Plan*. Volunteers, staff, money and equipment are the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

STAFFING

The Department encountered several significant staffing changes during 2020. Taylor Pollicino's title changed from Community Development Assistant to Assistant Community Development Administrator. On January 21st, Stacia-Fé Gillen assumed the role of Community Development Administrator, an important position that had been vacant since November 2019. Mark Colussy resigned as County Planning Director effective February 10th and Laurie Nearhood, Office Manager, was named Interim Planning Director until James Lettiere assumed his duties as County Planning Director on March 9th.

Taylor and Stacia-Fé were laid off for the entire month of April as part of the County's response to COVID-19. At the end of March, Stan Willis and Razinah Rahman, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants, were recalled as part of the Associates for Training and Development's response to COVID-19. Neither returned to the Department during 2020.

James is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Service/Urban Planning and Management. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Through the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI), he is certified to teach courses in subdivision and land development review, community planning, and zoning and zoning administration. Since 2017, he has been a Board of Director member of the PMPEI.

Stacia-Fé is a graduate of Allegheny College with a B.S. in Environmental Science.

STAFF TRAINING

In 2020, Planning and Development virtual staff training included:

- American Planning Association Pennsylvania Chapter Annual Planning Conference;
- Federal Plans Webinar held by DCED;
- Income Eligibility Webinar Series held by DCED;
- Various CARES Act and CDBG-CV online trainings held by DCED; and
- Fair Housing webinar held by the Southwest PA Legal Services Fair Housing Law Center

LOOKING AHEAD to 2021

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 August 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 May 2021.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (cont...)

FINANCIAL REPORT

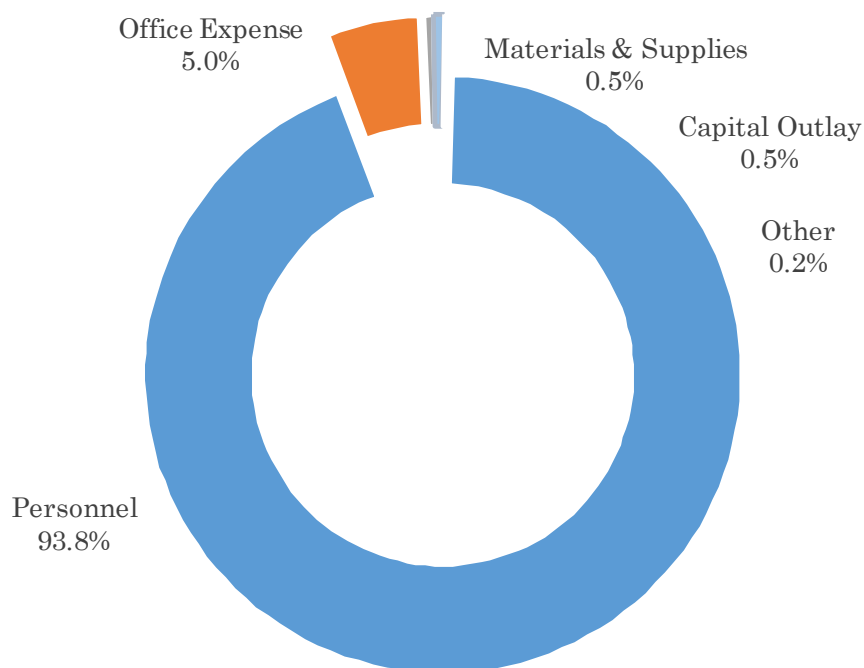
The Department is funded by the County General Fund's Planning and Zoning, Planning Grants (Community Development Block Grant or CDBG) and Solid Waste and Recycling Line Items. For 2021, the total of these General Fund budgets is 4.5% more than it was in 2020. Below are detailed budget reports for 2020 and 2021.

GENERAL FUND TOTALS

2020 Budget	2020 Expenditures	2021 Budget
\$209,937.00	\$186,454.91	\$219,387.00

Planning and Zoning Budget Report	2020 Budget	2020 Expenditures	2021 Budget	Planning Grants and Recycling Budget Reports	2020 Budget	2020 Expenditures	2021 Budget
Personnel	\$97,227.00	\$93,344.59	\$98,727.00	Personnel	\$94,550.00	\$81,508.03	\$101,000.00
Office Expenses	10,400.00	\$8,466.97	\$10,900.00	Office Expenses	2,060.00	\$823.43	\$2,060.00
Materials and Supplies	1,400.00	\$455.64	\$1,000.00	Materials and Supplies	1,100.00	\$414.44	\$1,000.00
Capital Outlay	1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,500.00	Other	1,700.00	\$441.81	\$1,200.00
Total	\$110,527.00	\$103,267.20	\$114,127.00	Total	\$99,410.00	\$83,187.71	\$105,260.00

2020 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

Lawrence Biemiller

*one vacancy on this nine-member board

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF*

James P. Lettiere, AICP, *Planning Director*

Stacia-Fé Gillen, *Community Development Administrator*

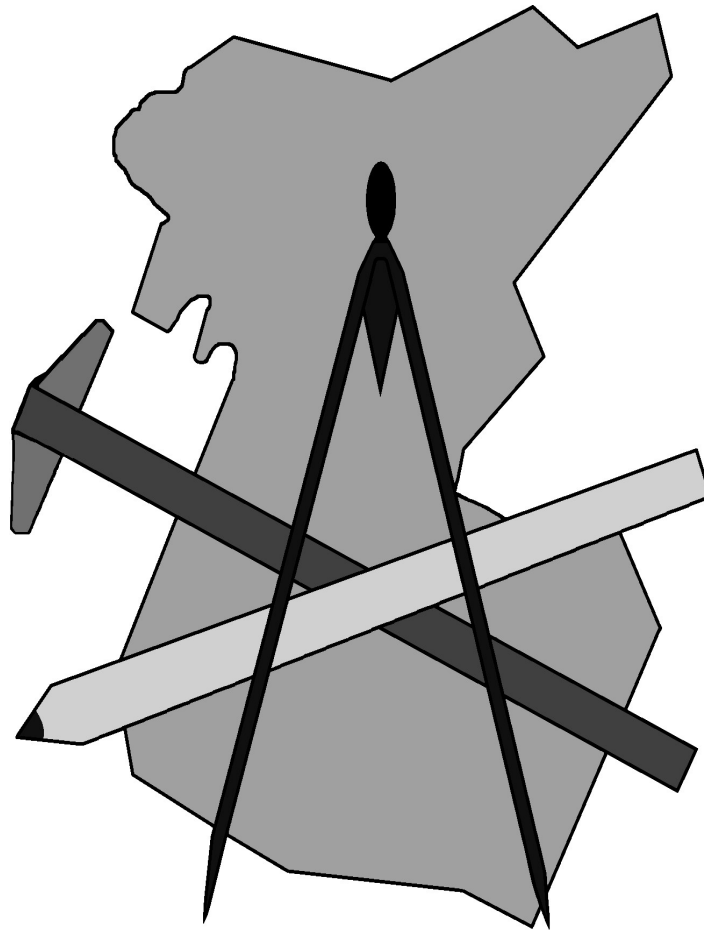
Taylor Pollicino, *Assistant Community Development Administrator*

Laurie Nearhood, *Office Manager/Secretary*

*Reflects Current Staffing

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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