

# Huntingdon County Planning Commission

## 2021 Annual Report



July 22, 2021 Ribbon Cutting, Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Retaining Wall Project, Mount Union Borough



Bryan Park, Huntingdon Borough



Riverside Park, Mapleton Borough

### 2021 Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania



2021 Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

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

## SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY (LOTS SOLD)

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

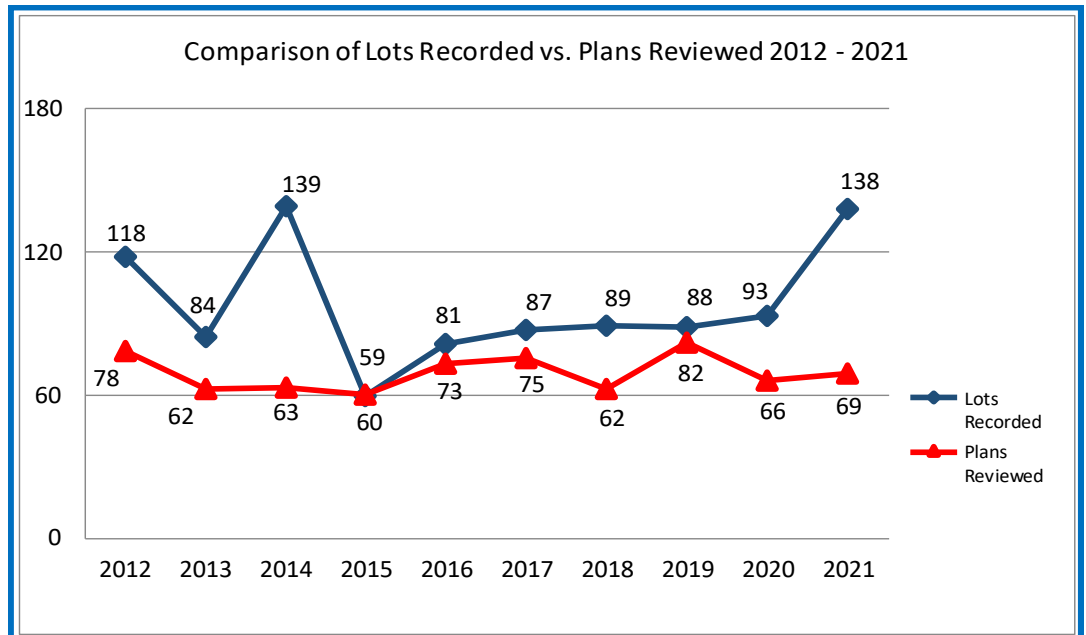
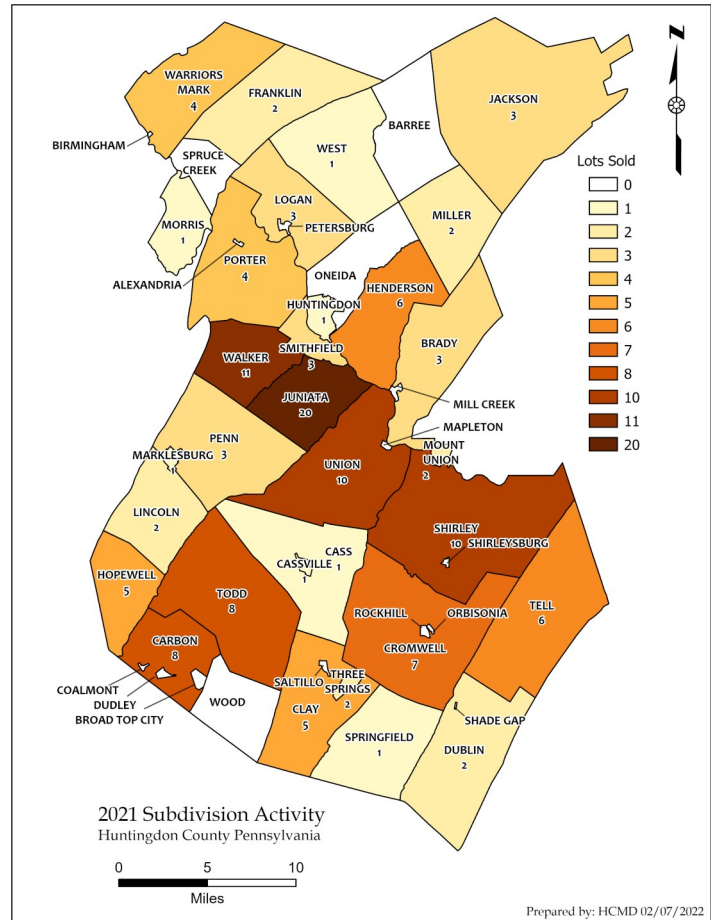
The act of subdivision is the division or redivision of a lot, tract or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels or other divisions of land, including changes to existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of lease, partition by the court for the distribution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

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

During 2021, 138 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is an increase of 48.4% from the 93 lots recorded in 2020. 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 2021, the municipalities with the highest levels of recorded lots were:

- Juniata Township, 20 lots;
- Walker Township, 11 lots;
- Shirley and Union Townships, 10 lots each;
- Carbon and Todd Townships, 8 lots each;
- Cromwell Township, 7 lots; and
- Henderson and Tell 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*.

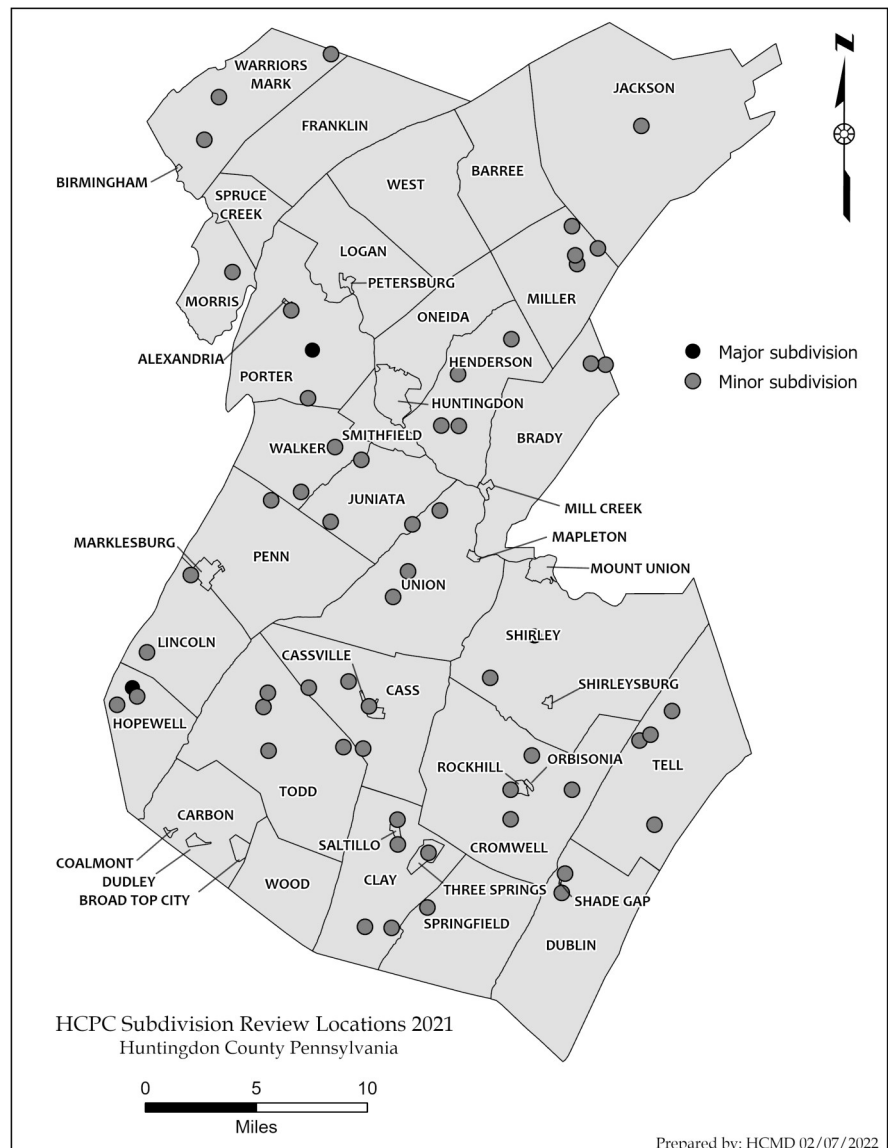
The Planning Commission reviewed a total of 69 applications in 23 municipalities during 2021, up by three from the 66 reviewed during 2020. The 2021 reviews included 3 major subdivisions, 5 non-residential land developments; 55 minor subdivisions; 3 minor residential land developments; and 3 sewage modules. These projects encompassed a total of 95 new lots and 2,056.11 acres.

The three major subdivisions reviewed were:

- Joyce E. & Mark S. Hoffman, Sr, Shirley Township: 150+- acres, five 2.00 acre single-family residential lots and residue, located on the east side of Wrangletown Road and between Hogan Road and Nebo Road;
- Robert D. Clapper & Keller L. Clapper (brothers), Hopewell Township: 52.607 acres, 8 lots, consolidation of five existing parcels (Lots A through E) to create Lot A totaling 15.169 acres; consolidation of two existing parcels (Lots F and G) to create a lot totaling 18.719 acres, and creation of new Lot H containing 1.000 acre, located on the west side of Raystown Road and immediately south of the Raystown Road/Dogtown Road intersection; and
- Craig R. Anderson & Wyndhill Family Limited Partnership, Porter Township: 131.864 acres, 7 lots (consolidation of existing Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 11 totaling 7.25 acres with existing Tract 1), located on the west side of William Penn Highway immediately south and northwest of the Redbud Lane/William Penn Highway intersection.

The five non-residential land developments reviewed included:

- Terry L. and Kathleen S. Sheffield Used Car Repair Garage, Penn Township: construction of a 2,688 square foot facility, located immediately east of the Seven Points Road/Turkey Farm Road intersection;
- Jeremy D. Breon & M. Susan Breon Poultry Operation, Tell Township: construction of two 42'x640' poultry barns and one 36'x36' egg room, located on the east side of Shade Valley Road and north of the Goshorn Road/Shade Valley Road intersection;
- Jeffrey D. & Charlotte Z. Weaver Poultry Operation, Shirley Township: construction of two 46'x580' poultry barns and one 30'x48' egg room, located on the east side of Germany Valley Road and north of the Loop Road/Germany Valley Road intersection;



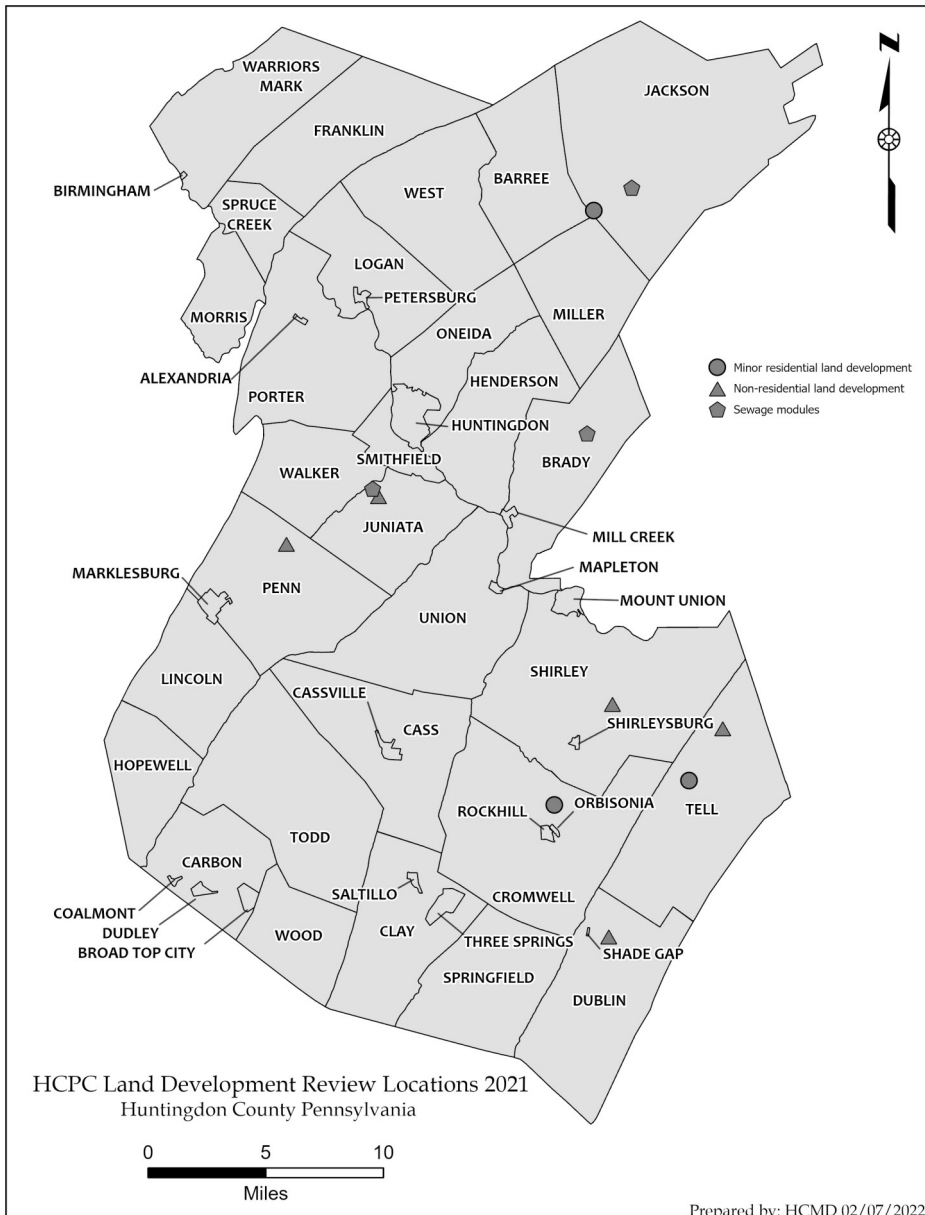
## SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

- RidgeView Campground, LLC, Juniata Township: creation of a three-phase, 210 site campground, located on the south side of Piney Ridge Road and east of Family Lane; and
- Dollar General, Dublin Township: construction of a 77'-0" x 140'-2" store, located on the west side of Croghan Pike and north of the Main Street/Croghan Pike intersection
- Willard J. Yoder, Jr. & Betsy A. Yoder, Jackson Township: 397 acres, addition of a second residence (mobile home), located along a private drive and northwest of the Standing Stone Road/Yoder Road intersection; and
- Alan H. Book, Tell Township: 131.980 acres, construction of a second residence, located along both sides of Shade Valley Road and south of the Shade Valley Road/Richvale Road intersection.

The three residential land developments reviewed included:

- Patrick E. Horne & Jaime L. Horne, Cromwell Township: 25 acres, construction of a second single-family residence with on-lot well and septic, located along both sides of Croghan Pike and north of the Croghan Pike/Enyard Road intersection;

The maps on pages two and three illustrate the distribution of the 69 proposals reviewed during 2021.

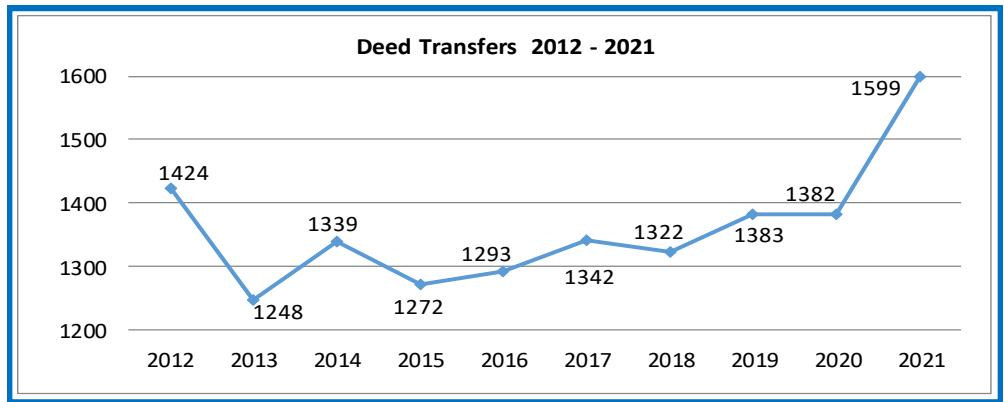




## SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

### 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 a total of 1,599 deeds recorded in 2021. This number of recorded deeds, both existing and new, increased 15.7% from the 1,382 deeds recorded in 2020. According to the Huntingdon County Register and Recorder, deeds accounted for 21.5% of all filings in her office in 2021.



### BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL ADDRESSES ISSUED

For 2021, the Department used new addresses issued by the County Mapping Department to track new permanent and seasonal housing within Huntingdon County.

The Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 84 residential addresses in 29 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing - 66 addresses for permanent housing and 18 for seasonal housing.

As illustrated in the table to the right and the in the maps on page 5, the highest total number of new seasonal addresses (three) were issued in Clay Township, while the highest number of new addresses for permanent housing (six) were issued in both Brady and Juniata Townships.

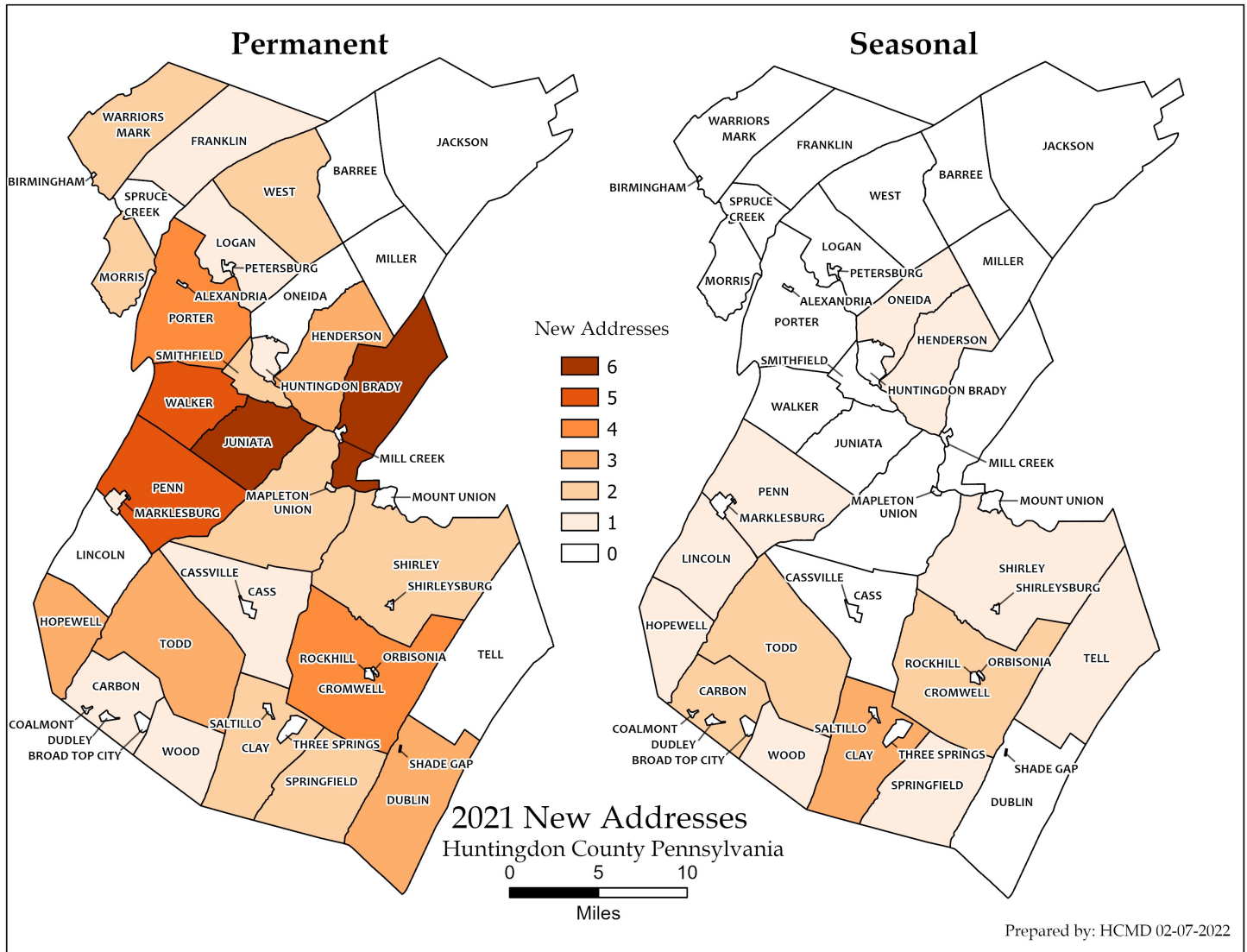
A total of six addresses were also issued in both Cromwell and Penn Townships:

- four for permanent housing and two for seasonal housing in Cromwell Township; and
- five for permanent housing and one for seasonal housing in Penn Township.

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES ISSUED		
MUNICIPALITY	PERMANENT	SEASONAL
Brady Township	6	0
Carbon Township	1	2
Cass Township	1	0
Clay Township	2	3
Cromwell Township	4	2
Dublin Township	3	0
Franklin Township	1	0
Henderson Township	3	1
Hopewell Township	3	1
Huntingdon Borough	1	0
Juniata Township	6	0
Lincoln Township	0	1
Logan Township	1	0
Mapleton Borough	1	0
Marklesburg Borough	1	0
Morris Township	2	0
Oneida Township	0	1
Penn Township	5	1
Porter Township	4	0
Shirley Township	2	1
Smithfield Township	2	0
Springfield Township	2	1
Tell Township	0	1
Todd Township	3	2
Union Township	2	0
Walker Township	5	0
Warriors Mark Township	2	0
West Township	2	0
Wood Township	1	1

# SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

## BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL ADDRESSES ILLUSTRATED



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department assists municipalities and non-profit organizations in meeting community development needs by applying for and administering various State and Federal grants, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program as well acting as the responsible entity for environmental reviews.

## GRANT ADMINISTRATION

During 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the operation of the Planning Department and the administration of the CDBG program. All PA DCED staff, at the direction of Governor Wolf, continued to operate from a work-from-home situation. Thankfully, the Huntingdon County Planning Department was open to the public and staff were able to work in the office.

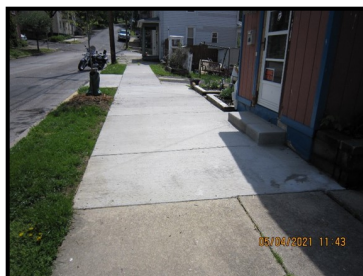
Three staffing changes impacted our CDBG program. In August, our PA DCED Grant Manager, Sarah Gulick, resigned her position to take a new position within DCED. Joshua Crawford was assigned as her replacement. In September, Taylor Aurand, Assistant Community Development Administrator, resigned from the Planning Department. Jayann Leibley was hired in December and has been making improvements to the financial side of our programs as well as orienting to the CDBG program. Despite these changes, the Planning Department was able to make significant progress in administering the CDBG program, completing five activities and beginning an additional three activities.

Sarah Gulick conducted an on-site monitoring of the CDBG program in August, and was pleased; her report did not indicate any findings. Stacia-Fé submitted the FY 2021 Application to DCED by the October 28, 2021 deadline; and a fully executed contract is anticipated by April 2022. Planning Department staff also submitted contract close out paperwork for eight contracts. Following are descriptions of the CDBG Activities completed and begun in 2021; and the status of open contracts.

### FY 2016 & FY 2017

#### **Obo Huntingdon Borough Sidewalks Replacement**

Ten sidewalks of low to moderate income homeowners were replaced through this project. The notice to proceed was issued on October 27, 2020 to John C. Yenter Associates, Inc.



The project was substantially completed on March 15, 2021. A total of \$72,489.55 from two fiscal years of Borough CDBG funding was used for this project - \$63,000 from FY 2016 and \$9,489.55 from FY 2017.

### FY 2017

#### **Obo Huntingdon Borough Curb Cuts**

This project was added to FY 2017 through revision to spend leftover funds from the Borough's Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program activity.

This activity expanded on the completed FY 2016 activity and entailed retrofitting 13 existing curbs within the Borough for



ADA compliance. The notice to proceed was issued on July 13th to Antares Site Work LLC and the certificate of substantial completion was issued on September 2nd. \$76,491.75 in CDBG dollars were used for this project. Because one curb cut was removed from the project at the request of Borough officials, a remaining balance of \$1,706.70 was returned to DCED.

#### **Todd Township Municipal Building ADA Upgrades**

This County project to retrofit the municipal building for ADA compliance included rehabilitation of the existing bathroom, replacement of the existing door and doorway, and installation of an ADA parking area. The notice to proceed was issued on December 22, 2020 to Runk, LLC. The project was substantially completed by March 16th. \$50,391.26 in FY 2017 CDBG funds were used for this project. Since this project finished under-budget, the remaining funds were allocated to the 19 S. Jefferson Street demolition, project, which was added as an FY 2017 activity through a DCED-approved contract modification.



#### **19 S Jefferson Street Demolition**

This County project was created through a contract modification when the Shade Gap Community Center Upgrade project was deleted due to inability to



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

proceed. This project involved the demolition of a two-story brick building in disrepair located at 19 South Jefferson Street, Mount Union, PA. After the onset of



a wind storm, this building, posed a significant risk of collapse. The notice to proceed was issued on June 9th to Krieger Excavating, LLC and the project was substantially completed by July 19th. \$54,377.04 in FY 2017 CDBG funds were used for this project. Mount Union Borough has agreed to maintain this lot as green space.

### FY 2019 and FY 2012 Competitive

#### **PA Ave Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall, Phase 2**

This County project entailed replacing a structurally unsound retaining wall located in Mount Union Borough. This phase of the project leveraged over \$2.8 million, including partial funding through FY 2012 Competitive CDBG funding and FY 2019 CDBG Entitlement funding. The notice to proceed was issued on July 27, 2020. In 2020, demolition and excavation of Wall 2, between Division and Jefferson Streets, was completed. Construction resumed in early spring of 2021. Wall 1 was constructed and substantial project completion was issued on July 20th.

### **ONGOING CDBG CONTRACTS & ACTIVITIES**

#### **FY 2018**

#### **Obo Smithfield Township Spot Blight (913 Pike Street Demolition)**

This project entailed demolition of a vacant residential structure located at 913 Pike Street, Huntingdon, PA. This property had been abandoned since 2014 and was placed for tax sale several times with no buyers. Several drug busts took place at the property over the years. Due to zoning regulations, a new home could not be built on this property, so the property will be maintained as green space by the Township in perpetuity. The notice of award was



issued on June 29<sup>th</sup> to Antares Site Work, LLC for \$28,337.00. The notice to proceed was issued on July 13th and the certificate of substantial completion was issued on December 12th. \$28,337 in CDBG funds was used for this project. Final payment will be released when the grass is seeded in spring 2022. Currently, \$75,627 is allocated towards this demolition. A contract revision will be submitted to DCED to spend leftover funds by adding the Township's existing FY 2019 Levee Improvements project into FY 2018.



#### **MUMA West Water Street Waterline Replacement**

This County project on behalf of the Mount Union Municipal Authority involved replacing approximately 300' of corroded cast iron pipe with a 4" ductile iron waterline, beginning at the intersection of West Water Street and North Washington Street and ending at a cul-de-sac in Mount Union. A blow-off hydrant at the end of the line was also installed. Formerly, the corroded pipe only allowed for a ½" of the diameter for water flow, resulting in diminished water flow and pressure for the eight residences which were impacted. \$60,000.00 in FY 2018 CDBG



funds are allocated to this project and MUMA is contributing \$18,500.00 for engineering costs as well as the remaining project funds. The notice of award was issued to Antares Site Work, LLC for \$91,343 on October 12th. Substantial completion was issued on December 2nd. Change Order #1, issued on December 21st, reduced the original contract price from \$91,343.00 to \$75,400.50 due to final adjustment of quantities. The project timeline has been extended until March 30, 2022 to allow for final restoration of seeding in the spring.

#### **MUMA Hill Valley Sewer Improvement Project**

This County project involves addressing issues within Mount Union sewer lines. In 2017, Mount Union Municipal Authority (MUMA), with assistance from the PA Rural Water Association, visually inspected manholes and video inspected and smoke tested the sewer lines. This activity includes reconstructing and rehabilitating existing lines and manholes in the Hill Valley area portion of Shirley Township. \$87,000.00 in FY 2018 CDBG funds are allocated to this project. MUMA will contribute \$13,126.00 for engineering, as well as the



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

remaining construction balance. The notice of award was issued to Guyer Brothers, Inc. for \$112,112.00 on October 19th. The notice to proceed was issued November 9th. Due to material delays, construction did not begin until January 2022.

### **Ribbon Cutting Held for Completion of PA Ave Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall, Phase 2**

On Thursday, July 22, 2021, Mount Union Borough Council, sponsored by Keller Engineers, held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pennsylvania Avenue Wall. This event took place on a day with high summer temperatures, under a white tent, on the grassy area along Pennsylvania Avenue. Those attending were State Senator, Judy Ward and Representative, Richard Irvin; County Commissioners Mark Sather, Jeff Thomas and Scott Walls; Thomas Prestash, PennDOT's District 9 District Executive; Brian Wiser and Diana McClure, Project Engineer and Director of Business Development with Keller Engineers; staff of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department, Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC), Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED); members and staff of Borough Council; and members of the public.

The primary purpose of this project was to replace the existing structurally deficient retaining wall and broken sidewalks and to reconstruct a large portion of Pennsylvania Avenue between Division and Jefferson Streets. This \$2.8 million multi-modal project is regionally significant, due to the involvement of multiple means of transportation, including, but not limited to, rail, motor vehicles, bicycling and walking trails. Funding sources that enabled completion of this project included PennDOT and PA-DCED multimodal-transportation funding; CDBG-Competitive; CDBG-Entitlement; SAP&DC mini-grant through PA-DCNR; a PennDOT Infrastructure Bank loan; and local cash from Borough Council. This project took over 10 years to complete and serves as the catalyst for expanding economic development in Mount Union Borough.



### **HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT (HPG)**

These funds totaling \$71,718.23 were used to provide assistance for the most urgent needs of homeowners, including ADA barrier removal and accessibility, roof replacement, feasible repairs to mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and other problems that threatened the health and safety of the residents.

Although a USDA-approved contract extension allowed completion of this project by September 30th, the contractor's compliance with COVID requirements made completion of the last house by the contract deadline impossible. On October 6th, USDA granted a time extension through December 31st. Work was completed by December 30th.

Under the agreement between Huntingdon County and the Center for Community Action (CCA), CCA staff conducted initial home inspections, determined applicant eligibility, and conducted audit and final home inspections. Five eligible Huntingdon County homeowners participated in this program. Assistance included metal roof replacement and gutter installation; entrance door replacement; floor repairs; and ADA toilet and shower installation. The homes assisted were located in Henderson Township and Huntingdon, Orbisonia, Rockhill and Saltillo Boroughs.

### **CDBG-CV**

This grant program utilizing Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding is for housing rehabilitation, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvement, development and planning that prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

Huntingdon County's fully executed grant contract was received on November 19, 2020. Included in this \$235,153.00 contract is \$166,152.00 for Huntingdon County and \$69,001.00 for Huntingdon Borough.

In accordance with the agreement between Huntingdon County and the Center for Community Action (CCA), these funds will be used to assist LMI-qualified residents with rental and mortgage payments and electric and other eligible utility assistance as designated by DCED.

Although CCA staff conducted intake during 2021, no funds were spent in 2021 due to the need for additional guidance from DCED, a lack of qualified applicants, and the release of additional State and Federal funding sources for similar services. A modification to use these funds by the September 28, 2022 deadline will be submitted to DCED in early 2022.

## 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 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—completed March 2021	15,372.03
Huntingdon Borough Curb Cut Installation—completed 2020	25,853.00
Huntingdon Borough Sidewalk Rehabilitation—completed March 2021	63,000.00
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Water Phase 2—completed 2019	70,716.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$347,380.00</b>
FY 2017	Amount
Todd Township Municipal Building ADA Upgrades—completed March 2021	\$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, completed July 2021	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—completed March 2021	15,598.00
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Water Phase 2—completed 2019	69,896.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$343,620.00</b>
FY 2018	Amount
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - Hill Valley Sewer Improvements Project—started January 2022	\$87,000.00
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - West Water Street Waterline Replacement—completed December 2021	60,000.00
Mapleton Reservoir Improvement Project	52,358.00
Huntingdon Borough Housing Rehabilitation	96,948.00
Smithfield Township Spot Blight (913 Pike Street)—completed December 2021	75,627.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$371,933.00</b>
FY 2019	Amount
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Linear Park Corridor Retaining Wall Phase 2—completed July 2021	\$200,486.00
Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization	99,552.00
Smithfield Township Flood Levee Improvements	77,239.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$377,277.00</b>
FY 2020	Amount
Pump Station #2 Upgrades	\$204,358.00
Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization	22,473.00
Huntingdon Borough 6th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation	79,836.00
Smithfield Township Housing Rehabilitation	78,945.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$385,612.00</b>



# 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 2021, the members of PEP met quarterly.

## 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 2021 due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 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 2021 to discuss collaboration opportunities and ways to move economic progress forward in Huntingdon County, but no meetings were held due to major staffing changes in 2020 at three of the participating agencies and due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Restored  
Pennsylvania  
Avenue Retaining  
Wall and Street,  
Mount Union  
Borough, July 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 2021, the Planning and Development Department published the *2020 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

In 2021, Planning Department staff partnered with the Center for Community Action for the yearly Fair Housing activity. This annual activity is a requirement for recipients of CDBG funding. On August 25th, the Center for Community Action distributed 40 copies of the book titled *The Berenstain Bears' New Neighbors* to Huntingdon and Bedford County Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) daycare providers. In addition to distribution of the books, a letter was sent to the providers explaining that this book is about living in a multi-cultural community, raises awareness of the continued presence of housing discrimination, and emphasizes the benefits of living in an inclusive community.



## PMPEI COURSE IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

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

Huntingdon County participants learned where the planning commission fits in local government; how it relates to the elected governing body; the process of

comprehensive planning; techniques for implementing plans including land use regulations; and how to have an effective planning commission. The course also included hands-on exercises and discussions of issues important to local and county planning.

Thirteen students were enrolled in this three day planning course, which took place at the Bricktown Events Performance and Event Center in Mount Union, PA. These sessions were held from 6:00PM-9:00PM on October 25th, October 27th and November 1st. The course was sponsored by the Juniata River Blueprints Communities through a grant received from the Federal Home Loan Bank. Course instructors were James P. Lettiere, AICP, Huntingdon County Planning Director and Mark Colussy, Mifflin County Planning Director - both of whom are certified instructors with the PMPEI.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The Rotary Club of Huntingdon invited James P. Lettiere, AICP, Planning Director, to speak at their November 2, 2021 meeting. The topic was regarding the Bedford, Huntingdon and Fulton Solid Waste Management Plan. James provided an overview of the processes involved with the Plan's preparation and the status of recycling in the three counties.

The 2022 Leadership Huntingdon County class extended an invitation to the Planning Director to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department. This event was held on November 10, 2021 at the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center in Brady Township as part of the Leadership Huntingdon County course related to County and Regional Infrastructure.



# 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 2021:

### Alexandria Borough and Porter Township

Staff participated in several 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 review and discuss the draft flood mitigation study for the Juniata River and determine the best mitigation options for the study's focus.

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.

Staff participated in meetings with Huntingdon Borough officials and USACE Baltimore District staff to discuss the Muddy Run floodplain mapping project. 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.

Staff also facilitated outreach to USACE Baltimore District staff to investigate the possibility of funding for a study of East Penn Street in Huntingdon Borough. The study's primary purpose is to develop flood mitigation measures that would reduce or eliminate flooding along East Penn Street. The reduction or elimination of this flooding problem would allow access for emergency vehicles and mitigate flood damage to several privately owned businesses along this street. In February 2022, the USACE notified the Planning Director the project was funded in the amount of \$84,000.00 to complete the study.

### Mount Union Borough

Staff participated in 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.

## 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 May 20, 2021, the Huntingdon County Planning Commission reviewed seven applications for Act 13 funding totaling \$60,023.85. The Planning Commission's award recommendations were forwarded to the Huntingdon County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$29,000.00 to three projects on May 25, 2021.

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

The three 2021 Act 13 Legacy Fund awards included:

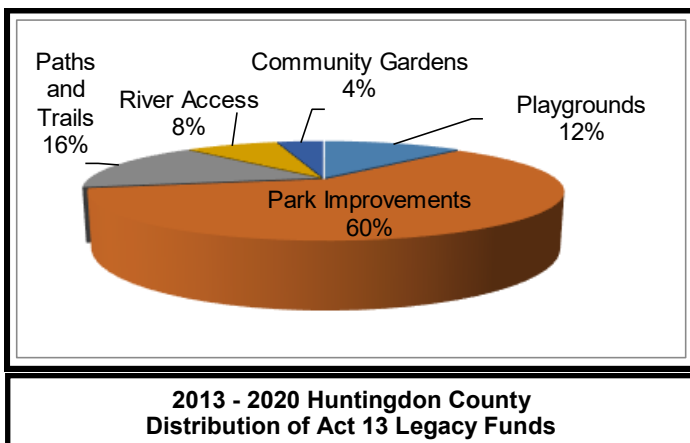
- \$10,000.00 toward upgrading tables at the swimming pool in Three Springs Borough;
- \$10,000.00 for a concrete boat ramp at Riverside Memorial Park in Mapleton Borough; and
- \$9,000.00 to replace bleachers at the J.A. Carney Field in Wood Township.

Of the \$232,945.53 in Act 13 Legacy Funds awarded for 29 eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$161,046.89 was spent by the end of 2021 - \$154,157.54 for project costs and \$6,889.35 for program administration.

\$35,047.27 of the total funds awarded since 2013, have been reallocated 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, Shirleysburg and Three Springs Boroughs; and in Morris, Porter, Shirley, Smithfield, Tell, Walker and Wood Townships.

The distribution of Act 13 funds summarized by category is detailed in the chart below:



### 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 in 2020, but resumed in September, 2021 after a decision was made by the PMPEI Board of Directors. The JRBC-sponsored PMPEI Course in Community Planning was held in October and November 2021 at the Bricktown Events Performance and Event Center in Mount Union, PA.

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.

The grand opening for the Mount Union Area Community Garden, sponsored by the JRBC and funded, in part, with a Huntingdon County Act 13 Legacy Fund grant award, was held on Saturday, July 17th.



# 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 resigned as County Recycling Coordinator on May 3, 2021. Tracey Rhodes, County Deputy Chief Clerk, assumed the duties of Recycling Coordinator and assisted with coordination of a drive through electronics collection event on September 25th at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds. Approximately 327 vehicles were served during this event. Tracey also assisted with preparation and submission of DEP reports and grant applications. James Lettiere, County Planning Director, coordinated and participated in the update of the solid waste management plan for Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties.



After March 2021, the recycling drop-off locations in Huntingdon County included:

- James Creek Post Office, Marklesburg Borough;
- Park's Garbage Service, Shirley Township; and
- Fairgrounds Road, Smithfield Township

## SOLID WASTE PLAN UPDATE

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

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 subsidized 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. Prior to March 2021, there were 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 were 10 additional drop-off locations under contract with the Sandy Run Landfill that were not in jeopardy of closing and will remain open.

For the residents of Huntingdon County, the three locations under the Sandy Run Landfill contract were 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 were Porter Township, Jackson Township, Oneida Township and Wood Mizer (Shade Gap) in Dublin Township. The combined operating costs for these four locations was \$35,290 yearly.

The SCCSWA operated in the red for three years, with a deficit of approximately \$85,000 for 2020. This financial loss was attributed to the lack of a dedicated funding source to sustain the operation. Global policies and restrictions China and other Asian Countries placed on recycling also adversely impacted the United States market. For example, in 2014, SCCSWA recycling materials were paid out at \$40/ton, compared to 2020 when haulers were required to pay \$58/ton. Profitability decreased due to lower labor costs.

On Monday, March 8, 2021 the SCCSWA voted to discontinue 10 drop off locations within the Tri-County region, at the host municipality sites that were operated and under contract with Parks' Garbage Service. The four sites closed in Huntingdon County included the Porter Township Municipal Building, the Jackson Miller Elementary School (Jackson Township), the Oneida Township Building and Wood Mizer (Dublin Township). Other facilities under a separate contract will remain available for residents to deposit recycling materials. In Huntingdon County these sites are located on Fairgrounds Road in Smithfield Township, at the James Creek Post Office in Marklesburg Borough and at the Parks Garbage Service Facility in Shirley Township. In Fulton County, they are located at the Forbes Road School and the McConnellsburg Recycling Center. In Bedford County, they are located at the Everett Church of the Brethren, the Bedford Township Supervisors Office, the Broad Top Township Building and the Sandy Run Landfill.

In September 2021, the draft *Solid Waste Management Plan* was advertised for public comment and a copy of the draft Plan was submitted to each municipality for review. As part of the plan revision process, Bedford County, Fulton County, and Huntingdon County coordinated and held a joint Public Hearing on the proposed *2021 Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan Update* on October 6, 2021. Following the public review period, the Plan was



## COUNTY ASSISTANCE (cont...)

submitted to the Huntingdon County Board of Commissioners for adoption. The Huntingdon County Commissioners officially passed Resolution 2-2022 on January 11, 2022 thereby adopting the South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency's (SSCSWA) 2021 *Municipal Solid Waste Plan*. Each County's Board of Commissioners must approve the Plan by Resolution.

Consistent with Act 101, the adopted Plan was sent to municipalities within Huntingdon County on January 19, 2022 for ratification. Each municipality has 90 days to act on the plan. If a municipality does not act within 90 days, it will be assumed to have ratified the plan. Each municipality is also required to submit a copy of its resolution of ratification to the County. If a municipality acts to decline to ratify the plan, they must pass a resolution containing a concise statement of their objections and forward a copy of that resolution to the County and the advisory committee. A conditional approval is considered a disapproval.

The major goals of this Plan update are:

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

### MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

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.

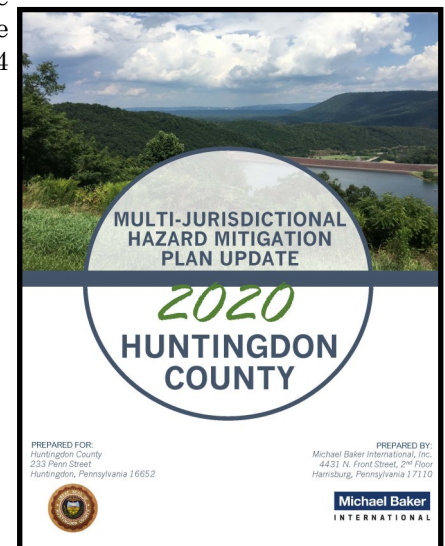
Huntingdon County is at-risk of damage from a variety of hazards: drought; extreme temperatures; flood, flash flood, and ice jams; hailstorm; hurricane, tropical storm, and nor'easter; invasive species; landslide; pandemic and infectious disease; subsidence and sinkhole; tornado and windstorm; wildfire; 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.

Accordingly, the Huntingdon County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team (HMPT), composed of the County's consultant Michael Baker International, government leaders from Huntingdon County, in cooperation with elected officials of the County and its municipalities prepared the 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 passed Resolution No. 4-2021, which officially adopts the Huntingdon County 2020 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. By October 29, 2021, each of the 48 municipalities in Huntingdon County had also adopted the County's Plan by resolution.

During the Fall of 2021, the County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) with approval from the County Commissioners sent a letter of intent to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) expressing interest in participating in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for federally declared disasters. This grant could provide funding to complete the County's next five (5) year plan, with the provision the plan must be completed by 2024 instead of 2025.



# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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

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

## **ALLEGHENIES AHEAD**

The six counties in the Southern Alleghenies Region, Cambria, Somerset, Blair, Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon, began a multi-county Comprehensive Plan update in 2016. The Plan was adopted by the Huntingdon County Commissioners on July 3, 2018. The 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.

During 2021, several meetings of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission involved discussions regarding furthering identified action items within the Huntingdon County Action Plan. The five (5) plan categories for Huntingdon County's Action Plan include Broadband and Cellular Service, Collaboration and Coordination, Business and Workforce Development, Housing and Blight and Recreational Amenities and Natural Assets.

During the December 2021 Huntingdon County Planning Commission meeting, Planning Director, James Lettiere explained he had nothing to discuss regarding plan implementation unless the Planning Commission had something. He noted Acts 152 and 137 were presented to the County Commissioners for consideration and it appears unlikely these programs will move forward.

Planning Commission member Wendy Melius commented there is not enough housing and the cost of housing is increasing. She explained the Center for Community Action is coordinating a community housing needs assessment for Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties and the assessment may show a need for an Act 137 program. James agreed the Planning Commission could advocate again for Act 137, if the completed study shows housing rehabilitation or new housing are needed.

## **BROADBAND TASK FORCE AND BROADBAND IMPLEMENTATION**

The mission of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Broadband Task Force is "to create a comprehensive action plan that guides affordable, reliable network implementation for all businesses and residents in the six-county region." Led by Chair, Commissioner Jeff Thomas, the Broadband Task Force is comprised of elected officials, representatives from the private sector, and other community leaders.

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

At the February 16, 2022 State of the County address held at the Lewistown County Club, the Huntingdon County Commissioners reported they used \$1.4 million of the \$4.39 million American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds received by the County. These funds were awarded to Upward Broadband to make improvements to 15 existing tower sites in the County that serve 4,000 customers. Additionally, \$85,000 was awarded to Crowsnest Broadband LLC to make improvements to 2 existing towers that serve 350 homes.

The Broadband Task Force has also initiated a six-county regional fiber optic study for a 5-10 year study period.

These broadband expansion efforts and the fiber optic study are consistent with Huntingdon County's Action Plan for broadband and cell service expansion to cover gaps in coverage, which will enhance the marketability and competitiveness of Huntingdon County and will incentivize future investment within the County.

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

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 28, 2021, The Huntingdon County Commissioner's approved the recommendations from the Huntingdon County Planning Commission's September 16, 2021 meeting for prioritizing projects only for local bridges for the 2023-2026 TIP. The following is a September 2021 reprioritized list of projects previously provided to SAP&DC on October 7, 2020. This September 2021 list supersedes the October 2020 list.

Priority	Local Bridges
1.	West Township (T-520), Bridge No. 1 Globe Run Road over Globe Run.
2.	Union Township (T-392), Bridge No. 4 Harmony Church Road over Little Trough Creek.
3.	Jackson Township (T-526), Peachey Road Bridge over Laurel Run
4.	Lincoln Township (T-400), Entrioken Cemetery Road Bridge over Coffee Run
5.	Dublin Township (T-316), Appleby Road over Shade Creek
6.	Franklin Township (T-549), Bridge No. 1 Graysville Cemetery Road over Spruce Creek
	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.

# TRANSPORTATION PLANNING (cont...)

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (HCATC)

Under the direction of Brandon Peters, MPA, Transportation Program Manager with the assistance of Zachary D. Lee, Regional Planner and Matthew C. Bjorkman, Transportation Specialist with the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission, the 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was updated and approved. The updated plan was adopted by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee of the Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) on December 16, 2021.

Goal 3 of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is to continue planning for bicycle and pedestrian initiatives by having established county active transportation committees report to their respective planning commissions charged with raising awareness of bicycle and pedestrian planning concerns.

The Huntingdon County Commissioners approved creation of the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee at their March 21, 2017 meeting. This County Committee has been inactive for a few years and its current reestablishment will provide value-added ideas and potential projects for the creation of a Countywide Active Transportation Plan.

On November 28, 2017, the Huntingdon County Commissioners authorized creation of the Active Transportation Committee consisting of 18 members and 4 ex-officio members. The Active Transportation Committee then met bi-weekly during 2018 and monthly starting in 2019. Due to the departure of the previous Huntingdon County Planning Director in February 2020 and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group has been inactive.

At their January 25, 2022 regular meeting, the Huntingdon County Commissioners, at the request of Planning Director, James Lettiere approved amending Committee membership from 18 members to 11 members. This includes 8 voting members and 3 ex-officio members.

On February 11, 2022, the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee held its kickoff meeting. The initial goal of the committee is developing a grant application for submission to the PA WalkWorks program for funding that would potentially develop a County Active Transportation Plan.

WalkWorks is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the

Pennsylvania Downtown Center to help fund walkable communities along with active transportation plans, policies and identified projects.

It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee (HCATC) to raise awareness and assist with meeting the needs of non-motorized transportation including walking, biking, handicapped accessibility, and connections to public transportation. This can be enhanced by creating a County Active Transportation Plan using the Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan adopted on December 16, 2021 as a general framework.

The current HCATC is comprised of community leaders from a variety of municipalities and specialties. Members who attended the kick-off meeting were Southern Alleghenies Regional Planner, Zack Lee; Three Spring Borough Council President, Charles “Moose” Harper; Standing Stone Trail Club President, George Conrad III; Alexandria Borough Council President, Judy Scott; Huntingdon County Visitor’s Bureau Executive Director, Matt Price; conservation biologist, Laura White; Keller Engineers, Brian Wiser; Planning Director, James Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fé Gillen; and Assistant Community Development Administrator, Jayann Leibly. Those on the HCATC but unable to attend were Huntingdon County Business & Industry Executive Director, Debra Clark-Loner; and Center for Community Action Executive Director and current Huntingdon County Planning Commission member, Wendy Melius.



# AGENCY LIAISON AND COORDINATION

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

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

## COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

The Planning Director represents the County on several SAP&DC 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 (HCB&I)

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

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

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

The categories for the 2020 Awards were Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit. Five applications were received and four awards were presented when the sixteenth annual

Community Improvement Awards were announced during the Planning Commission's September 13th meeting. Recipients of the 2020 Awards were the Huntingdon County History & Heritage Roundtable, Community Spirit; Juniata Brewing Company, New Construction; 1850 Pennsylvania Railroad Arch Bridge Restoration, Preservation; and Cookies for Caregivers, Special Merit.

The Huntingdon County History & Heritage Roundtable is comprised of representatives from museums and historical societies (nonprofit



organizations) and individuals interested in local history. Since their first meeting in 2018, Roundtable members meet monthly at rotating times and locations to share ideas and suggestions, answer questions and collaborate on promotional, preservation and educational efforts related to Huntingdon County's great history and heritage. Visitors to [www.huntingdoncountyhistory.com](http://www.huntingdoncountyhistory.com) will find a brief history of Huntingdon County; information about almost every museum, historical society or organization and historical site in the county; and pages highlighting outdoor activities, community events and stories and legends of Huntingdon County.

Roundtable projects and events have included creation of a 911 contact sheet in case of emergencies at any of their member facilities; publication of a Heritage Brochure for distribution through local businesses; research and promotion of the Huntingdon County Medal of Honor Monument; a Southern Huntingdon County bus tour; and a free museum day. An upcoming project is a World War I Monument.



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

Juniata Brewing Company (JBC) is the sole production brewery in Huntingdon County. Founded in 2020 and focused on enriching the Huntingdon community and bringing craft beer to the local region, JBC creates specialty products in a renovated furniture building.



The taproom provides a distinctive gathering space to serve the

products produced by the five-barrel brewery and the connected warehouse area serves as outdoor seating. Some of the original wood from the EB Endres warehouse was repurposed in the outdoor seating area for support and to retain the weathered and historical texture and some was refinished to serve as tables in the taproom.



The 1850 Stone Arch Railroad Bridge was part of the original single-track line that brought Pennsylvania Railroad Company service to Huntingdon. Used by the first steam engine "Henry Clay" when it arrived in Huntingdon on June 6, 1850, this bridge was in service until it was abandoned after the great flood of 1889 destroyed extensive canal property and the railroad moved its tracks from Allegheny Street to the former canal bed, closer to the river. This bridge representing Huntingdon's transition from canal to railroad is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located directly beside the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal Greenway Trail.



Members of the Huntingdon Rotary Club participated in this two-part restoration project. The first part included cleaning up the area around the bridge, removing

overgrown vegetation on the bridge and placing a sign identifying the bridge as the 1850 Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge. The second part was preparation and placement of a sign panel relating the rich history of the canal and railroad era at Huntingdon. Rotarians

collaborated with Fred Lang and Nancy Shedd, members of the Huntingdon County Historical Society, to design the historical panel. Artist and local enthusiast, Neal Campbell donated an original painting for use on the panel. This original painting portrays a train crossing the Stone Creek bridge circa 1870. In cooperation with the Huntingdon Park and Road Association, the large sign panel was placed in Blair Park - across the road from the Arch Bridge.



The Cookies for Caregivers initiative was born in Huntingdon as a reflection of the COVID-19 experience in 2020. To show gratitude to essential workers on the front lines of the pandemic, two dads started baking and delivering cookies to Huntingdon's Hometown Heroes as a sign of appreciation and respect.

This movement to spread kindness started as a challenge between Scott McKenzie and Jeremy Uhrich. Their hug radius has greatly expanded through local and national media recognition and the formation of national and international Cookies for Caregivers chapters. Throughout the past year, McKenzie and Uhrich have been quoted as saying "it's ok to be small, just don't think small" and "there's no expiration date on kindness."



# ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

## STAFFING

The Department encountered several staffing changes during 2021. Taylor Pollicino, Assistant Community Development Administrator, resigned effective September 13th. Jayann Leibley was hired to fill this vacancy and assumed her duties on December 6th.

## STAFF TRAINING

James Lettiere, Planning Director, attended the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association's Annual Conference held October 17-19, 2021 in Pittsburgh, PA.

James also participated in a recent webinar regarding affordable housing through the Wednesday Webinar Series sponsored by the Pennsylvania Planning Association.

Other Planning and Development staff training activities during 2021 included:

- ◆ CDBG Sub-grantee Virtual Training, sponsored by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCEA);
- ◆ ACS Data and Survey Methodology Webinar, sponsored by DCED and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD);
- ◆ Adverse Effects Webinar, sponsored by the PA State Heritage Preservation Office (SHPO);
- ◆ CDBG-CV Best Practices Webinar Series: Public Services, sponsored by DCED and HUD; and
- ◆ Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant webinar, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

## LOOKING AHEAD to 2022

### 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 SAP&DC Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) will continue to implement *Alleghenies Ahead*.

### Identify Projects for the Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

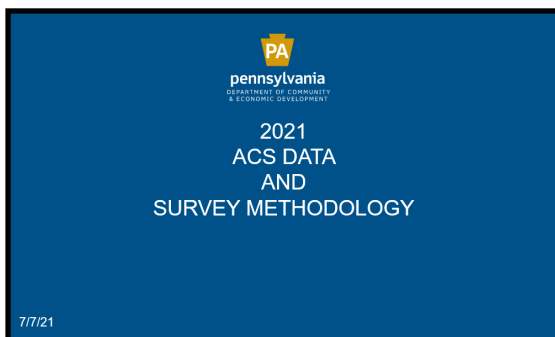
Apply for grant funding for a County Active Transportation Plan through PA WalkWorks and continue to investigate future projects and to find ways to collaborate with stakeholders and municipal leaders.

### 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 in 2024.



## ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (cont...)

### FINANCIAL REPORT

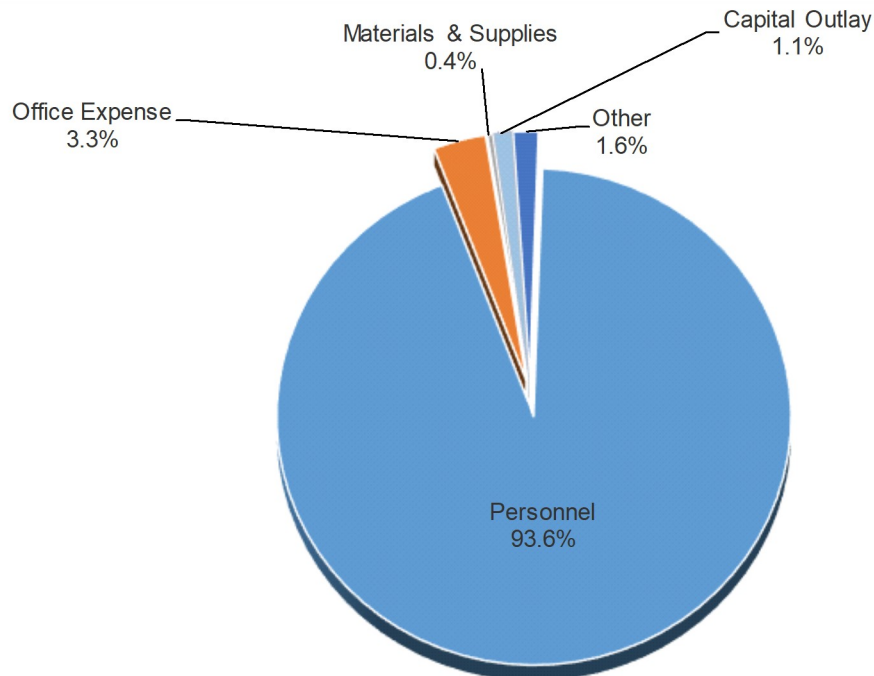
The Department is funded by the County General Fund's Planning and Zoning, Planning Grants (Community Development Block Grant or CDBG) and Solid Waste and Recycling Line Items. For 2022, the total of these General Fund budgets is 0.52% more than it was in 2021. Below are detailed budget reports for 2021 and 2022.

#### GENERAL FUND TOTALS

2021 Budget	2021 Expenditures	2022 Budget
\$219,887.00	\$175,908.17	\$221,037.00

Planning and Zoning Budget Report	2021 Budget	2021 Expenditures	2022 Budget	Planning Grants and Recycling Budget Reports	2021 Budget	2021 Expenditures	2022 Budget
Personnel	\$98,727.00	\$95,274.84	\$101,477.00	Personnel	\$101,500.00	\$69,372.10	\$102,500.00
Office Expenses	\$8,000.00	\$5,118.93	\$7,200.00	Office Expenses	\$2,060.00	\$689.82	\$2,360.00
Materials and Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$593.76	\$800.00	Materials and Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$30.98	\$900.00
Other	\$2,900.00	\$2,532.84	\$2,500.00	Other	\$1,200.00	\$294.90	\$1,300.00
Capital Outlay	\$3,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00				
Total	\$114,127.00	\$105,520.37	\$113,977.00	Total	\$105,760.00	\$70,387.80	\$107,060.00

#### 2021 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*

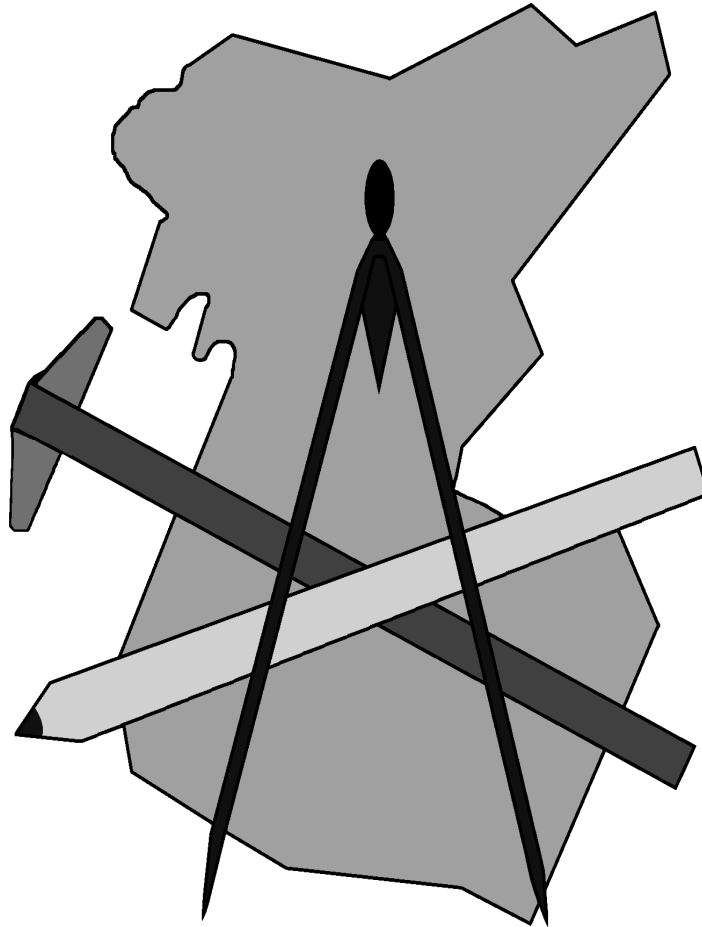
Jayann Leibley, *Assistant Community Development Administrator*

Laurie Nearhood, *Office Manager/Secretary*

\*Reflects Staffing as of March 3, 2022

# Huntingdon County Planning Commission

## Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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Huntingdon, PA 16652  
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[facebook.com/HuntingdonPlanning/](https://facebook.com/HuntingdonPlanning/)  
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