

MINUTES
MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009
LEWISTOWN COUNTRY CLUB – 6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Members

James Spendiff, Chairman
Dan Dunmire, Vice Chairman
Kay Hamilton
Susan Heimbach
Neal Shawver
Brent Miller

Staff

Bill Gomes, Director
Jan McDonald, Community Development Administrator
Doug Marks, Rehabilitation Specialist/Construction Manager
Mark Colussy, Associate Planner
Jodie Barger, Community Development Bookkeeper/Secretary
Donna Baer, Fiscal Assistant
Millie Sunderland, Office Manager/Grants Manager

Guests

Barry Bargo, The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown; Deborah Bargo, Lewistown Borough Mayor; Megan Beers; Megan Bollinger, The Sentinel; John Breneman, Senator Jake Corman's Office; Craig Bubb, The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown; Nancy Cisar, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Kenneth Coleman, The EADS Group; Dain Davis, The EADS Group; Sue Dunmire; Fran Evanitsky, The Juniata Valley Bank; Linus Fenicle, Reager & Adler, P.C.; Kenneth Fisher, MCS Bank; Representative Mike Fleck; Terry Foster, MCS Bank; Deanne Fultz; Rich Fultz, Decatur Township; Brian Funkhouser, Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Joe Gagliardo, Lewistown Hospital; Tom Garver, Burnham Borough; Representative Adam Harris; Randy Harshbarger, Mifflin-Juniata Special Needs Center, Inc.; Gary Heimbach; Evelyn Henry, Kistler Borough; Barbara Hobbs, Kistler Borough; Gene Hughes, Mifflin-Juniata Special Needs Center, Inc.; Gerald Hummel, Greater Lewistown Corporation; Ann Kanagy, Belleville Mennonite School; Aquilla Kanagy, Mifflin County Airport; Dottie Keene; Terry Keene, Barton & Loguidice; John Klinedinst, C.S. Davidson, Inc.; Richard Koch, Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Diana McClure, Keller Engineers, Inc.; Kristine McDonald; John Mertz, Burnham Borough Planning Commission; Karen Michael, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; Don Mulvihill; Marie Mulvihill, United Way of Mifflin-Juniata; Karen Napikoski; Ronald Napikoski, Derry Township; R. Dennis Noble, Juniata Terrace Borough; Teresa O'Neal, Juniata County Commissioner; Myra Ordanoff, Kistler Borough; Lucas Parkes, C.S. Davidson, Inc.; Sam Price, Community Partnerships RC&D; Chuck Queitzsch, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development; Kathy Queitzsch; Mary Ellen Reed, Wayne Township; Ted Reed, Wayne Township; Otis Riden, Jr., Mifflin County Commissioner; Deputy Secretary James Ritzman, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; Steven Roselle, Commonwealth Engineering & Technology, Inc.; Pete Searer, Searer, Schrum & Searer; Pam Sechrist, PA Cleanways of Mifflin County; Jim Shilling, Kish Bank; Patti Shilling; John Shirk, Juniata County Comprehensive Plan Committee; Dayton Shugarts; Janet Shugarts, Kistler Borough; Amy Smith, Kistler Borough; Cory Snook, Representative Adam Harris' Office; Rick Sollman, Congressman Glenn Thompson's Office; Carol Ann Spendiff; David Spicher, Union Township Planning Commission; Mark Sunderland, Mifflin County Commissioner; Ronald Taverno, Penn State Cooperative Extension; James Tunall, Juniata Valley Area Chamber of Commerce; Charles Walls, Buchart Horn, Inc.; Doug Weikel, Herbert Rowland & Grubic, Inc.; Joanne White, Burnham Borough Planning Commission; Judge Rick Williams; Tona Williams; Anne Wimsatt, Lewistown Borough Planning Commission; Larry Wise, Burnham Borough Planning Commission; Brian Wisser, Alan Wrye, Buchart Horn, Inc.; J. Lester Yoder, Union Township Planning Commission; and Ann Yost, Yost Strodoski Mears.

Dinner

Jim Tunall offered the invocation before dinner.

Introduction of Guests/Opening Comments/2008 Annual Report

James Spendiff, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Annual Dinner Meeting and recognized Mifflin County Commissioners Mark Sunderland and Otis Riden, Jr., who were present. Jim expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for supporting the Planning Commission's efforts during the past year. Jim also recognized some of the guests who attended the meeting.

Jim gave the opening comments and explained the reasons for holding the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting: 1) it provides an opportunity for the Planning Commission to tell how hard they (the Planning Commission and Planning and Development Department) have worked this past year; 2) the meeting is also a forum for municipalities,

community organizations and residents of the County to learn about programs and issues that may affect the County's growth and development; and 3) the meeting is also a way of thanking the members of the County Planning Commission. All members are volunteers who spend many hours on a variety of issues including assisting municipalities in the County review of subdivisions and land development activities, and, when requested, providing advice to the Mifflin County Commissioners on a variety of issues that affect our County.

Jim recognized the Planning Commission members present. He called the meeting to order for the purpose of reviewing the 2008 Annual Report. Jim turned the meeting over to Director, Bill Gomes, who introduced the Planning and Development Department staff. Bill reviewed the 2008 Annual Report. Dan Dunmire made a motion to adopt the 2008 Annual Report. Neal Shawver seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Awards Presentation

The Community Planning Award is presented by the Mifflin County Planning Commission to individuals, organizations or communities that have demonstrated leadership in community planning. The award is given annually as a way to recognize the efforts and talents of individuals, organizations or communities to improve the area. One of the reasons for this award is a way for municipalities to have an opportunity to recognize positive planning efforts. The Mifflin-Juniata Special Needs Center was presented with the Community Planning Award in recognition of their initiation and completion of the COMPASS Building.

Bill gave an overview of the COMPASS Building project: Several years ago, the Mifflin Juniata Special Needs Center had the vision to play a leadership role in creating a facility to house their operations and the operations of other non-profit organizations. It was critical that the new facility be centrally located and easily accessible. Hence the organization acquired the warehouse formerly owned by Mann Edge Tool Co. at the corner of Dorcas Street and Montgomery Avenue in downtown Lewistown and began renovations and a 14,000 square foot expansion. Today, construction has been completed on the \$3.0 million project and the 37,000 square foot facility now serves as the new home for The Abuse Network, Juniata Valley Tri-County Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission, Tuscarora Intermediate Unit's Early Intervention Program and the American Red Cross. The project has been aptly referred to as the COMPASS (Community Partners Allied Service System) facility.

The Special Needs Center illustrated to all of Mifflin County what great progress might be made by the cooperation of organizations and their commitment to a common purpose. Their efforts have resulted in the creation of a highly visible community facility that will serve the region well into the future. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lewistown Borough and Downtown Lewistown also recognize the importance of this project by placing the facility within the designated Elm Street Program reflecting a renewed commitment to the vitality and economic base of downtown Lewistown.

The Planning Excellence Award was initiated to recognize an individual for his or her contribution to planning related activities in the County. This is a joint award presented by the Mifflin County Commissioners and the Mifflin County Planning Commission. Jim Spendiff presented the award to Marie Mulvihill, who has been actively involved in the community for many years. Marie actively works in the community "wearing many hats" and has the ability to connect with workers, managers, agencies and residents, earning the respect of many. She actively serves on various boards and committees in the community, and has helped show organizations how to make the most of their funds and serve the maximum number of citizens possible. She believes in and is involved with the Elm Street Neighborhood project and the Angel Food Ministries program. Marie was instrumental in helping to initiate the Peer to Peer project for Mifflin County based on her work with the Mifflin County Playground Association, as well as her association with the Juniata-Mifflin Counties Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan Advisory Committee. Her work with the Peer to Peer project is a perfect example of her commitment to our community. She learned that the Communities That Care Rec Connect Action Team was trying to steer some collaborative efforts among various playgrounds in our area. She was familiar with grant opportunities for the project. She was invited to speak at the Rec Connect team meeting and eventually ended up chairing the group. Through her involvement with the Planning Commission and the Greenway Plan, she was able to bring more insight to the group, which resulted in the submission and award of DCNR C2P2 funding for the project. Without her direct involvement and expertise, the project would not have gotten off the ground so quickly. Jim concluded by saying we are fortunate to have her living in our midst and hope that her community involvement only continues to grow.

Featured Speaker

The featured speaker for the evening was Deputy Secretary for Planning, James Ritzman, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Deputy Secretary Ritzman spoke on *Transportation in Pennsylvania – A Needed Change*. Deputy Secretary Ritzman spoke about James Ritzman, Deputy Secretary for Planning, discussed the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's evolving approach to transportation planning and program delivery. Information on Smart Transportation, Transportation Financing and Economic Stimulus/Recovery, and the Pennsylvania Communities Transportation Initiative were incorporated into his presentation. Mr. Ritzman gave an overview of transportation challenges and discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as perspectives on Smart Transportation, managing culture change and the Pennsylvania Communities Transportation Initiative (PCTI). Data was provided in his presentation on inflation indices, expenditures versus buying power, motor license fund revenues, highway and transit funding, poor mileage trends, road ratings and structurally deficient bridges.

Adjournment

Jim closed the meeting by thanking the speakers, the staff and all those who attended. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. upon a motion by Dan Dunmire that was seconded by Neal Shawver.

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