

**MINUTES**  
**MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2010**  
**LEWISTOWN COUNTRY CLUB – 6:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members**

James Spendiff, Chairman  
Dan Dunmire, Vice Chairman  
John Pannizzo, Secretary  
Susan Heimbach  
Neal Shawver  
Brent Miller

**Staff**

Bill Gomes, Director  
Doug Marks, Rehabilitation Specialist/Construction Manager  
Mark Colussy, Associate Planner  
Millie Sunderland, Office Manager/Grants Manager  
Donna Baer, Fiscal Assistant

**Guests**

Don Baker, PA Cleanways of Mifflin County; Barry Bargo, Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown; Deborah Bargo, Lewistown Borough Mayor; Megan Beers; Megan Bollinger, The Sentinel; John Booser, PA DEP Office of Water Management; John Breneman, Senator Jake Corman's Office; Kathleen Breon, First National Bank of PA; Michelle Brummer, Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Craig Bubb, Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown; Ed Curry, Mifflin County School District; Dain Davis, The EADS Group, Inc.; Mark DeVecchis, Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation; Jerry Donaldson, First National Bank of PA; Sue Dunmire; Greg Elliott, The EADS Group, Inc.; Fran Evanitsky, The Juniata Valley Bank; Linus E. Fenicle, Reager & Adler, P.C.; Representative Mike Fleck; Terry L. Foster, Mifflin County Savings Bank; Tom Garver, Burnham Borough Council; John Geibel, Burnham Borough Planning Commission; Ben Gilberti, HRG; Sandy Gomes; Anna Hain, Nittany Media, Inc.; Harry Hain, Nittany Media, Inc.; Michael Hain, Nittany Media, Inc.; Deputy Secretary John T. Hines, PA DEP Office of Water Management; Dottie Keene; Terry Keene, Barton & Loguidice; Douglas Kepner, Juniata Terrace Borough Council; John A. Klinedinst, C. S. Davidson, Inc.; Dick Koch, Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Jones Marker, Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown; John Mertz, Burnham Borough Planning Commission; Randall W. Miller, Mifflin County Savings Bank; Don Mulvihill; Marie Mulvihill, United Way of Mifflin-Juniata; R. Dennis Noble, Juniata Terrace Borough Council; Teresa O'Neal, Juniata County Commissioner; Nancy Orr, PA Cleanways of Mifflin County; Lucas Parkes, C. S. Davidson, Inc.; Robert Postal, Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation; Robert Reck, Mifflin County Commissioner; Wanda Reck; Nancy Records, Mifflin County Communities That Care; Mary Ellen Reed, Wayne Township; Theodore Reed, Wayne Township Supervisor; Otis Riden, Jr., Mifflin County Commissioner; Steve Roselle, CET Engineering Services; Pam Sechrist, PA Cleanways of Mifflin County; Roy Sechrist, Wayne Township Supervisor; Kevin Shannon, CET Engineering Services; Ellen Sheetz, First National Bank of PA; Ruth Sitler, PA DEP; Nick Soccio, Representative Adam Harris' Office; Rick Sollman, Congressman Glenn Thompson's Office; Mark Sunderland, Mifflin County Commissioner; Jim Tunall, Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce; Judy Tunall; Charles Walls, Buchar Horn, Inc.; Rev. John Walters; Rhonda Walters, Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce; Doug Weikel, HRG; Craig Yohn, Nittany Media, Inc.; Jon Zimmerman, Downtown Lewistown Inc; and Jim Zubler, Downtown Lewistown, Inc.

**Dinner**

Rev. John Walters offered the invocation before dinner.

**Introduction of Guests/Opening Comments/2008 Annual Report**

Jim Spendiff, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Annual Dinner Meeting and recognized Mifflin County Commissioners Mark Sunderland, Otis Riden, Jr., and Robert Reck. 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: The meeting provides an opportunity to give information about the projects worked on during the past year. The meeting is a forum for municipalities, community organizations and citizens of the County to learn about programs and issues that may affect the County's growth and development. The meeting is also a way of thanking the members of the County Planning Commission. All are volunteers who spend many hours on various matters including the review of subdivision and land development activities, and, when requested, provide 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 2009 Annual Report. Jim turned the meeting over to Director, Bill Gomes, who introduced the Planning and Development Department staff. Bill reviewed the 2009 Annual Report. Dan Dunmire made a motion to adopt the 2009 Annual Report. Brent Miller 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. PA Cleanways of Mifflin County was presented with the Community Planning Award in recognition of the dedicated network of volunteers who work diligently to remove illegal dump sites and hazards from our area and by their actions improve the quality of life for residents of Mifflin County.

Bill discussed PA Cleanways' work. Illegal dumping has been and continues to be a problem throughout Mifflin County, particularly in some of the more rural areas. Though it is estimated that only an extremely small percentage of citizens actually contribute to this problem, some of the most scenic and beautiful areas of Mifflin County have become blighted by the illegal disposal of solid waste. In some locations, these dumps threaten to pollute groundwater and some of our highest quality streams and waterways.

PA Cleanways of Mifflin County, a chapter of PA Cleanways, was formed in 2001 by a group of local residents that were concerned about the illegal dumping problem. The local chapter focuses on organized cleanups of illegal dumps, special collection events of items such as tires that are hard to dispose of, promoting recycling, and educating the public about illegal dumping and littering.

Since its inception through the end of 2009, PA Cleanways of Mifflin County has held 61 cleanups that removed and properly disposed of 174.65 tons of trash. In addition, more than 4,000 discarded tires have been recycled. In 2007, one of the oldest and largest dumpsites in the county was cleaned up in Hesser Gap, Bratton Twp. because of the persistence and work of the local chapter. This site, located on land adjacent to Tuscarora State Forest, yielded 28 tons of trash and 1,543 tires. In 2009, the chapter partnered with the Mifflin County Conservation District to secure a DEP Illegal Dump grant, which resulted in the removal and recycling of 100+ tires from the Juniata River in Oliver Twp. and 2000+ tires from a site in Derry Township.

A survey of illegal dumps in the county was conducted by Cleanways volunteers in 2009. The final report is being finalized and will be released in June of 2010. In addition, PA Cleanways of Mifflin County, in cooperation with the Mifflin County Solid Waste Authority, hosted the area's first annual Green Expo last October at the Youth Park in Reedsville, which offered information on green products, energy efficiency, and recycling. A second Expo is planned for June 19, 2010.

PA Cleanways of Mifflin County is driven by a dedicated network of volunteers that come from diverse backgrounds. The work they do can sometimes be incredibly hard, dirty and even dangerous in some situations. They get no financial reward for their efforts. But cleaning up these illegal dumps removes an environmental blight and hazard from our landscape. And through the chapter's education and outreach efforts, the general public becomes more aware of the problem. And this, along with diligent enforcement of anti-dumping regulations, will be the deterrent that ultimately ends illegal dumping. The end result will be a better quality of life for the residents of Mifflin County.

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 Donald Kauffman for his contributions to planning and improving the quality of life in Mifflin County. Don Kauffman has been proactive in our community for many years. Don has been a member of the Mifflin County Planning Commission for the past 15 years. He was a founding member of, and served on the Mifflin County Regional Police Board from 1993 to 2007. He has been an active participant in preserving agricultural land in Mifflin County as a member of the Mifflin County Agriculture Land Preservation Board for the past 16 years. Don has served Bratton Township since 1988 and helped secure public sewer service to portions of the Township that had suffered for many years with failed on lot systems. He has also served on the Mifflin County Children and Youth Advisory Committee, the Mifflin County Welfare Board, and the

Home Nursing Boards of both Huntingdon and Altoona. Since Don was unable to attend the meeting, Jim indicated his award would be delivered to him in person.

### **Featured Speaker**

The featured speaker for the evening was John T. Hines, Deputy Secretary for Water Management of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Deputy Secretary Hines spoke about *The Importance of Water Quality on Pennsylvania Communities*. The Office of Water Management plays a prominent role in water quality management including Marcellus Shale development. An important component of the Office of Water Management is to help Pennsylvania meet the Federal Clean Water Act to improve water quality. Municipalities throughout the Commonwealth are facing new requirements for stormwater and wastewater management. The concern of addressing impaired waters has led to the Chesapeake Bay Strategy, nutrient discharge limits into water bodies affecting both the agricultural community and local sewer authorities, and the potential imposition of Total Maximum Daily Load requirements. Another water quality related concern is how to better deal with impervious development that affects local stormwater facilities. Deputy Secretary Hines discussed how municipalities can better plan for these issues and how the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection can assist communities in meeting proposed changes.

### **Adjournment**

Jim closed the meeting by thanking the speakers, the staff and all those who attended. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. upon a motion by Dan Dunmire that was seconded by Neal Shawver.

mjs