

MINUTES
MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017
LEWISTOWN COUNTRY CLUB – 5:45 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Michele Bair
Dan Dunmire
Kay Semler
Kent Spicher
Cyle Vogt

Allana Hartung, Kish Bank
Gerald Hummel, Greater Lewistown Corp
Susan Hunter, Granville Township Planning
Commission

Harold Johnson Jr, Menno Township
Lauren Kershner, The Sentinel
Kevin Kodish, Mifflin County Commissioner
Sandra Lauver, MCS Bank
Andrew Leguen, MCS Bank
Diana L McClure, Keller Engineers Inc
Jason McFalls, The Juniata Valley Bank
Mike McMonigal, United Way of Mifflin-Juniata
Counties
Brent Miller, Juniata Valley Bank
Rhonda Moore, Juniata Valley Chamber of
Commerce

Staff

Bill Gomes, Director
Jim Lettiere, CD Administrator / Assistant Director
Doug Marks, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist /
Construction Manger
Donna Baer, Fiscal Assistant
Chastity Fultz, Grant / Office Manager
Stacey Herman, CDBG Fiscal Manager

Tom Moore
Marie Mulvihill, Primary Health Network
Lisa Nancollas, Mifflin County Commissioner
Matthew Orner, Gwin Dobson and Foreman Inc.
Heidi Orner
Peter Ort, Kish Bank
Deb Pallo, Friends of Kish Dog Park
Lucas Parkes, The EADS Group
Paula Pearce, First National Bank
Daniel Potutschnig, Mifflin County Academy of
Science and Technology
Lanette Potutschnig
Robert Reitman, Huntingdon County Business and
Industry Inc.
Mark Remy, Law Office of Knepp and Snook
Amy Baer Remy, Mifflin County School District
John Rhone, Wayne Township
Lisa Rhone
Pam Sechrist, PACleanways
Dave Semler
Ellen Sheetz, First National Bank
James Shilling, Kish Bank
Jackie Shinskie, Mifflin County School District
Kelly Shutes, Derry Township
Emmett Shutes
Jim Smith, Sr, Granville Township Supervisor
Michael Tate, GME Communication, LLC
Mindy Tate
Kirk Thomas, Geisinger Lewistown Hospital
Ann Thompson, Union Township
Chris Torquato, District Attorney

Guest

John Allison, Menno Township
Lori Artman
Barry Bargo, Municipal Authority of the Borough of
Lewistown
Deborah Bargo, Lewistown Borough Mayor
Dan Beyer, The EADS Group
Cindy Bickel
Michelle Brummer, Gannett Fleming Inc.
Mike Buffington, One Stop Communications
Will Campbell, Juniata Valley Bank
Lori Comp, Senator Jake Corman's Office
John Czerniakowski
Dain Davis, The EADS Group
Wil Del Pilar
Ashley Duncan, Barton and Loguidice
Stephen Dunkle, Mifflin County Commissioner
Sue Dunmire
Renata Engel, Penn State Outreach
James Estep, Mifflin County School District
Linus Fenicle, Reager and Adler, PC
Ken Fisher, MCS Bank
Ruth Fisher
Terry Foster, MCS Bank
Mark Garlicki, Gannett Fleming Inc. - State College
Sandy Gomes
Beverly Green, Penelec
Kay Hamilton
Barb Harer, Mifflin County Internet Advisory
Committee
Cher Harpster, Friends of Kish Dog Park

Tami Torquato
Jerry Trout, First National Bank
Kerry Tyson, Nittany Engineering and Associates LLC
Matt Waddell, The Juniata Valley Bank
Kathy Ward
Pat Ward, Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers LLC
Robert Watts

Wendy Watts
Scott Welham, Lewistown Borough
Timothy Williams, Barton and Loguidice
Judge Rick Williams
Mindy Williams
Timothy Williams, Barton & Loguidice
James Zubler, Downtown Lewistown Inc.

Dinner

Ken Fisher offered the invocation before the dinner.

Introduction of Guest / Opening Comments / 2015 Annual Report

Kay Semler, Chair, welcomed everyone to the Annual Dinner Meeting and recognized Mifflin County Commissioners Lisa Nancollas, Stephen Dunkle and Kevin Kodish. She expressed her appreciation to the County Commissioners for supporting the Planning Commission's efforts during the past year. Kay also acknowledged some of the other guests in attendance at the meeting. She gave the opening comments and explained the reasons for holding the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting. Kay recognized the Planning Commission members present. Kay then called the meeting to order to review the 2016 Annual Report. She turned the meeting over to Bill Gomes, who began with introducing the Planning and Development Department Staff. Bill reviewed the 2016 Annual Report. Dan Dunmire made a motion to adopt the 2016 Annual Report. Michele Bair seconded the motion. All members present voted aye.

Awards Presentation

The Planning Excellence Award recognizes an individual for contributions to planning related activities in the County. The award was presented jointly by the Mifflin County Commissioners and Planning Commission to Jim Tunall for his contributions to planning and improving the quality of life in Mifflin County.

Featured Speaker

The featured speaker for the evening was Dr. Wil Del Pilar, Deputy Secretary Postsecondary and Higher Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education. Dr. Del Pilar spoke on the access of postsecondary education in rural communities. His office believes that, through research, 63% of the jobs in Pennsylvania will require a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2025. This does not necessarily have to be a four-year college degree, but could be a certificate, license or associate's degree. He also said a majority of the jobs will be in science, technology, engineering and machinery fields.

Currently across the state, only 12% of students are enrolled in career technology education programs. One of the goals of Dr. Del Pilar's office is to increase the number of students enrolled in these programs. His goal is to see 60% of residents or students receiving these certifications. In Pennsylvania, 44% of residents have some kind of postsecondary education. In Mifflin County, approximately 21% of residents have some kind of postsecondary education.

Dr. Del Pilar spoke to the group as to how the school district and the state can work together to close the gap between Mifflin County and the rest of the state. The Department of Education is working to implement a 339 program that requires school districts to develop and implement career/occupational exploration plans for students in grades K-12 that are aligned with the state's Career Education and Work Standards.

Adjournment

Kay closed the meeting by thanking the speaker, the staff and all those who attended. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 upon a motion by Michele Bair that was seconded by Dan Dunmire.