

# Planning Developments

◆ Planning Developments is published quarterly by the Mifflin County Planning and Development ◆

20 North Wayne Street ◆ Lewistown, PA 17044

No. 64

February 2017

## Inside this issue:

- **Juniata River Trail** 2
- **McVeytown Borough Authority** 2
- **HOME Grant** 3
- **Juniata River Boat Launch** 3
- **Internet Advisory Committee** 3



Site of upcoming bridge reconstruction project at Snook's Hill Road in Granville Township.

### SAVE THE DATE...

The Mifflin County Planning Commission will hold its Annual Meeting on

**Thursday, April 6, 2017.**

The featured speaker will be Dr. Wil Del Pilar, Deputy Secretary of

Post-secondary and Higher Education at the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

## Monument Square Phase V Grant Approved

The Monument Square Streetscape Project Phase V is part of a multi-phase project that furthers the goals of Mifflin County and Lewistown Borough to create a safe and welcoming environment coming into Downtown Lewistown for both residents and visitors. An application to PennDOT seeking funding through the Transportation Assistance Program was submitted in January of 2015 and on January 10, 2017 Mifflin County was awarded \$608,800 to construct Phase V. These funds will be complemented with \$82,000 from the Borough of Lewistown's CDBG program for final engineering design. This will bring the total project cost to \$690,800, excluding preliminary design work developed as part of the application process.

The overall Monument Square project started in 2004 and has included upgraded lighting, outdoor seating facilities, ADA compliant curb ramps, decorative pavers, new sidewalks, planters and trees and improved storm-water facilities. This phase includes South Main Street below the Embassy Theatre, which was not completed in 2008 as part of Phases I and II due to funding constraints. The project then turns east at the intersection of Water Street and goes one block to meet the Mann Edge Terrace II senior

housing project. Existing conditions in this area include unsafe sidewalks, overgrown trees that are heaving up sidewalks and poorly delineated crosswalks. The project proposal will address these issues and include 12 trees, 7 decorative sidewalk light standards, 2 trash receptacles, underground wiring and a parklet area adjoining the Mann Edge Terrace II property. This project will further enhance ongoing improvements taking place in the downtown area. Final project design will occur in 2017 and construction in 2018.



## Mifflin County Awarded Funds to Begin Trail Along the Juniata River

Mifflin County does not have any multi-purpose recreation trails along the Juniata River to provide residents and visitors a facility for walking, jogging and cycling. Based on recommendations found in the Juniata/Mifflin County Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan (2010) and the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan (2014) a trail along the Juniata River was proposed, leading to a feasibility study of a trail. The feasibility study, completed in early June of 2015 by YSM Landscape Architects, reviewed an area almost 2 miles in length from Victory Park in Lewistown Borough to an area around Blue Juniata Drive in Granville Township. The study showed that the trail could be developed, but based on estimated costs and approvals by some property owners, the trail was phased with Phase I maintaining a path that was already owned by the Borough of Lewistown.

Based on the results of the feasibility study, an application was submitted to PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) at the end of June 2015 to develop a trail approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long along the former towpath of the Juniata division of the Pennsylvania Canal. The county requested \$242,070 with a match of \$42,719 being provided by the Borough of Lewistown from their CDBG program. In June of 2016 Mifflin County was awarded \$230,000 to help develop this trail with a modified match requirement. This reduced grant amount from DCED, as well as increased costs linked to the time of the grant approval, will require some modification to the overall trail project. Considering the importance of the trail, Mifflin County, in collaboration with Lewistown Borough, is considering submitting an application in April of 2017 to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to see if additional funds are available to ensure we can complete the trail as originally designed.



## Mifflin County Awarded Grant to Assist McVeytown Borough Authority

In March of 2016, Mifflin County submitted a CDBG competitive application on behalf of the McVeytown Borough Authority to reconstruct the sewer system in the Borough. On October 14, 2016, Mifflin County was notified by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) that the county application was successful and was awarded \$750,000 for the project. Matching those funds will be \$55,392 in Mifflin County CDBG 2014 entitlement funds, as well as \$111,608 Mifflin County 2015 CDBG funds. The total project cost with the competitive award and CDBG allocations will be \$917,000.

For several years the McVeytown Borough Authority has experienced repeated sanitary sewer overflows, or the discharge of untreated sewage, at the Wray Pump Station, which serves to pump raw sewage to the treatment facility. The unpermitted overflows have caused groundwater and surface water entering the sewer lines due to cracks in the system, which resulted in a consent order from the PA Department of Environment Protection (DEP) requiring that corrective action be taken. As a result of this grant award, public and private sewer lateral lines will be rehabilitated, as well as the main sewer line. The project will eliminate the overflows, bring the borough into compliance with state and federal regulations and improve the overall health of the community. As part of the program requirements, a competitive request for qualifications (RFQ) was recently undertaken for engineering services. Following a thorough review process, Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc. was selected as the engineer. Construction for this project will begin in 2017.

## **Mifflin County Receives HOME Grant**

The Housing Rehabilitation Program in the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department continues to be a priority considering the housing needs in the county. One of the primary programs that has assisted in dealing with this problem in Mifflin County is the HOME Program. This is a competitive program through the PA Department of Community and Economic Department (DCED). On November 7, 2016, Mifflin County was awarded \$500,000 in HOME Program funds. These funds are being leveraged by the County's Act 137 funds in the amount of \$64,734, which brings the total funds for this project to \$564,734.

Mifflin County's HOME program focuses on assisting single-family, owner occupied homeowners that meet the HUD income eligibility guidelines. The program provides financial assistance and corrects deficiencies that are potentially health and safety related and not cosmetic rehabilitation. This HOME grant will be targeted whereby 75% of the housing units will be in a service area that includes the Boroughs of Kistler, Juniata Terrace and Lewistown. The remaining 25% will be scattered sites throughout Mifflin County. These boroughs were selected in part because they have the highest concentration of low-moderate income persons in the county. By this targeted approach, Mifflin County believes we are addressing areas with the greatest housing needs in the county. This program will be launched in 2017. Applications are currently being accepted from single-family homeowners who believe they may meet HUD's income and program guidelines. Additionally, an outreach effort will be made in these municipalities to encourage eligible homeowners to participate in the program. Questions about the program should be addressed to Jim Lettiere at the Planning Office.

## **Juniata River Boat Launch Update**

The Juniata River Boat Launch was constructed in the summer of 2016 and completed in the late fall. However, because of permitting issues, additional parking provisions for the facility were not completed. The permit for the additional parking was approved by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the end of January 2017 and this parking area is anticipated to be completed in early April 2017. A grand opening of the boat launch will likely occur in late April.

## **Mifflin County Internet Advisory Committee**

Following the decision by Penn State in early 2016 to discontinue live classes at the Lewistown Outreach Center and to tie all services to their Worldwide Campus that is internet based, it became apparent that Mifflin County would not be able to fully participate.

Mifflin County has poor internet service in many parts of the county. In order to address this, an internet summit was held in July of 2016 inviting businesses, agencies and municipalities to provide input on their needs. Some 40 people participated in the event.

Following the summit, the Mifflin County Commissioners appointed a ten-member Internet Advisory Committee to review the needs and develop recommendations on how to move forward to improve internet service. The committee has met 3 times over the past few months reviewing service maps that show questionable service areas by the various providers. An early recommendation to determine what the actual internet service is in Mifflin County was to develop a community based survey. A residential survey is being developed that will be mailed out to approximately 2,000 households based on a random sample that also takes into account sufficient survey results by municipality in the county. The residential survey will be complemented with a business survey that will be sent out electronically by the Chamber of Commerce to 800 businesses. From these two surveys, we will verify the type of service we have and the needs in the county. The surveys will be sent out in the spring of 2017 and will be the basis of how the county proceeds to improve internet service.

**MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

20 North Wayne Street

Lewistown, PA 17044

Phone: (717) 242-0887

Fax: (717) 242-5460

Email: mcplanning@mifflinco.org



*Developing a Better Community*

*Contact the Planning and  
Development Department for  
planning services offered.*

**PLANNING**

**DEPARTMENT  
STAFF**

William Gomes, AICP  
*Director*

James Lettiere, AICP  
*Community Development  
Administrator / Assistant Director*

Doug Marks  
*Housing Rehabilitation  
Specialist/Construction Manager*

Stacey Herman  
*CDBG Fiscal Manager*

Chastity Fultz  
*Office / Grants Manager*

Donna Baer  
*Fiscal Assistant*

**Upcoming Events:**

**Planning Commission Meetings** - February 23, March 23,  
April 27, May 25, June 22

**Subdivision Review Meetings** - February 16, March 16, April  
20, May 18, June 15

**Internet Advisory Committee** - February 15, March 15, April  
19, May 17, June 21

**DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program  
Grant Application** - Due April 16

**Save the date! - Mifflin County Planning Commission  
Annual Dinner  
Thursday, April 6, 2017**