

Dennison Township Newsletter

Spring 2015

76 Walnut Street, White Haven, PA 18661

Phone: 570-443-8190



To our residents,

The Dennison Township Board of Supervisors are pleased to provide this spring 2015 newsletter sharing accomplishments of the past year, goals for this year and information of importance to the residents of Dennison Township. The Supervisors have a scheduled, monthly business meeting on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 PM in the Township Municipal Building; all residents are encouraged to attend. Stay up to date on Township news, resources, meeting dates, planning and zoning regulations all available on our Township website: www.dennisontwp.org

The Dennison Township Board of Supervisors:

Bruce Thomas, Sheila Weaver, Mike Mack



2015 Goals & Objectives

The Board of Supervisors will continue the policies that retain our Townships rural character, and will continue to provide the basic services and governance that protect the safety and welfare of our residents.

1. Longtime Township Solicitor Albert Maier Jr. retired at the end of 2014, the Board of Supervisors appointed Attorney Jack Dean for 2015 and plan on utilizing his professional services for:
 - Recouping sewer delinquencies through enforcement of existing judgments, municipal liens, and appropriation of assets.
 - The abandonment of Lake Francis Road
2. Reorganizing the Township office to facilitate long term file storage within the existing office space.
3. Completing the revision of the zoning ordinances to reflect the goals and objectives identified in the recent update of the comprehensive plan.
4. Obtaining grant funding for the codification of the zoning ordinance.
5. Advertising for a contractor to fulfill basic maintenance services for the township at a pre-negotiated labor rate.

2014 Capital Road Projects

Dennison Township receives highway funding through yearly allocations from the state liquid fuel tax. This allocation however is insufficient to fund large scale project based solely on that source of revenue. In 2014, projects were initiated that were augmented by the general fund reserves budged for the following capital road projects completed in 2014.

Peat Moss Road Culvert Replacement

Correction of a longstanding storm water runoff problem providing a solution that involved multiple property owners and Township infrastructure. The runoff was creating a dangerous freezing condition in the winter and deteriorating the road berm during summer runoff. The issue was remedied by installing a new culvert pipe under Weeks Lane and terminating at a grated collection box, and extending the drainage through a new culvert under a private driveway.

Middleburg Tarring and Chipping

Last spring the Board of Supervisors met with our PennDOT District 4 municipal services engineer to discuss the options for repairing the deteriorating roads in the Middleburg section of the Township. The engineer felt that subsurface repair followed by a double coat of tar and chip would provide the best result within the budget allocated for this purpose. Additionally it was decided to include Ice Lake Road in the project because the road had deteriorated to the point that repairs could not wait until the next cycle for capital road projects.

Hollenback Road Repaving

The boundaries of Dennison Township include a section of the Hollenback Road leading into the Borough of Penn Lake Park. While no Dennison Township residents live along this section of roadway, the Township does receive liquid fuel tax revenue and is responsible for the maintenance of this section of roadway. Originally scheduled as part of the 2014 capital project for roads that were to be repaired through subsurface repair and tarring and chipping, the winter of 2013-14 left the road in a condition that necessitated repaving.

Linden Street Storm Water Remediation

Corrected a longstanding storm water runoff problem in which storm water was flowing across Linden Street at the intersection of 4th Street. The runoff was creating a dangerous freezing condition in the winter at this and the Walnut and 4th Street intersection. The issue was corrected by creating a grass lined swale along the west side of Linden Street terminating in a grated catch basin. A new culvert was installed under Linden Street terminating into an existing catch basin on 4th Street.

Dennison Township Volunteer Fire Company

The Dennison Township Volunteer Fire Company also had a busy year. The volunteers responded to 89 calls (507 man-hours), spent 300 hours in training, 600 hours of fundraising, and an additional 200 hours attending meetings and public information sessions. The Fire Company received 2 grants; 1 from the Bureau of Forestry and the other from the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, to purchase an all-terrain utility vehicle which has been placed into service and is equipped to respond to forest fires and may also be used to transport victims injured in remote locations. Early this fall, it was used to remove an injured resident from the woods. The Fire Company also had the roof replaced on the fire station in Middleburg. The roof had been leaking for many years and was in need of replacement. The members of the fire company sponsored 4 fund raisers during the year. In February members sold hot dogs, soup, chili, and other food items to those who attended the Winterfest at Nescopeck Park. They also sold food items at the Park the opening day of trout season. For 2 days over the Memorial Day weekend they provided coffee, hot dogs and other food for travelers along Route 80 at the rest stop near White Haven. On September 28, the Company hosted its annual "block shoot." Between these 4 fund raisers the company netted \$4,500 which helped pay for operating expenses. The annual fund drive, which was mailed out to residents in September, raised a little over \$7,000 which helps pay for operating expenses such as fuel for the vehicles, heating the 2 stations, and firefighting equipment. Your continued support of your all volunteer fire company is greatly appreciated. The fire company is always in need of volunteers. We need not only firefighters but residents who are willing to help as fire police or with fund raisers, baking goodies for our fund raisers, or any of the other important functions we perform. If you would like more information about helping the fire company, please call Bill at 570-443-7023.

2014 General Municipal Governance

Comprehensive Plan

A comprehensive plan is required by the state for every municipality. Dennison Township's plan had not been updated since 1988. In 2014 through a grant provided by the Department of Community Development, the 1988 plan was updated and revised. Input was provided from Township residents by a community survey sent to each home in 2010. The overwhelming result of this plan is the stated intent to retain the Township's rural character and that the local governing body maintain policies and ordinances that reflect these goals. The plan is available for viewing and downloading on the website www.dennisontwp.org.

Ambulance Service

The Board of Supervisors re-established White Haven Ambulance Association as the provider for basic emergency medical service, the use of the local provider was interrupted after the dissolution of association in 2012.

Township Municipal Building Attic Insulation

In 2012 the Township utilized donated insulation from resident Gene Evans to insulate the municipal building. The project was awarded to Dennison Development and included new thermo pane windows and vinyl siding. The contractor advised that additional energy saving could be realized by increasing the amount of insulation in the buildings ceiling and attic. This was completed in the fall of 2014 and finalizes the weatherization upgrades to the building.

Snow Removal

For the winter season of 2013-14 the Supervisors contracted with Jarick Construction to provide winter road maintenance. The outsourcing of this service falls within the budget historically allocated for snow removal. Based on the results from the previous season and positive feedback from the residents, the Board of Supervisors renewed the snow removal contract for 2014-15

Single Stream Recycling

Thanks to the information provided by resident Mike King regarding the success of an adjoining municipalities' recycling program, and with funding reimbursement provided through the Department of Environmental Resources, the Township selected Solomon Container Services as our provider for single stream recycling. Two containers have been provided for township resident use at the township lot adjoining the Linden Street Firehouse in the Middleburg section of the Township. Acceptable materials to be recycled include plastic bottles, glass containers and broken down cardboard. The program began on June 1st and year to date totals of recycled materials collected at the site was 27.96 tons. For additional information about the recycling program please visit our website www.dennisontwp.org.

Smart 911

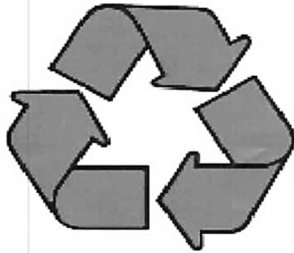
Luzerne County has an enhanced 9-1-1 service called Smart 911 available for free to all residents. The County and Dennison Township Supervisors are encouraging all residents to create a Safety Profile at www.smart911.com and provide 9-1-1 with the information they need to assist you in the event of an emergency. The profile you create can include as much or as little information as you want, such as:

- Members of your family and any medical conditions, medications, allergies, even photos
- Mobile phone numbers tied to a home or work address
- Your emergency contacts, vehicle information, and even pets

Smart 911 is 100% private and secure. The only time a profile is seen is when you call 9-1-1. The profile immediately displays to call takers, which allows first responders to assist you faster and more efficiently.

Please create your profile today at www.smart911.com.

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING



ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Plastics #1 through #7 - soda/water bottles, milk jugs, detergent bottles
Newspaper - Do Not Bundle
Magazines & Catalogs
All Junk Mail & Envelopes
Cardboard (break-down boxes)
Office & School Paper (all colors)
Phone Books
Cereal & Cracker-type boxes
Brown paper bags
Aluminum, Steel & Tin cans
Glass bottles & Jars

NOT ALL PLASTICS ARE RECYCLABLE.

Plastic containers must have a recycling symbol and a number on the bottom of the container in order to be recycled. Please rinse bottles and cans before disposal.

Please use reusable bags or bins.



NON ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Garbage
Food waste*
Food-tainted items (used paper plates)*
Paper towels or paper napkins*
Plastic bags
Aluminum Foil
Styrofoam cups/plates or packaging
PVC Pipe
Wood
Propane tanks or helium tanks
Batteries
Plastic Toys
Plastic Strapping
Ropes or Chords
Scrap Metal
Rubber hoses
Tarps, Plastic Sheets

The recycling containers are located at the Township lot adjoining the Linden Street Firehouse in Middleburg.

2015 Spring Cleanup Day is Saturday, June 6
dumpsters will be provided from 8:00-4:00
for the collection of household items.