



# Conewago Township News

NOVEMBER 17, 2008

## Township Meetings

partial unofficial list

### Board of Supervisors

7:30 p.m.

Nov. 12, Dec 10, Jan 5,

Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8

May 13, June 10

### Planning Commission

7:30 p.m.

Dec 8, Jan 26, Feb 23,

Mar 30, Apr 27, June 1

### Park and Rec.

7:00 p.m.

Nov 18, Dec 16, Jan 20,

Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21,

May 19, June 16, July 21

### Municipal Sewage Auth.

7:00 p.m.

Nov 11, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3,

Mar 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7

## Comprehensive Plan Open Forum November 19 7:00

### p.m. Public meeting at the Conewago Elementary School

“The Comprehensive Planning Committee has been in the works for more than two years developing a new plan that reflects past, current, and future growth of the Township. Conewago Township is a place where local history and culture are valued

and celebrated by residents and visitors alike.



In 1900, the population of Conewago Township was 830 persons as given by the U.S. Census returns. In 1904 the assessed valuation of all real estate within the Township was \$548,480. At this time there were six schoolhouses in the Township, with a total enrollment of 184 pupils. From early settler days, through the turn of the

century and up to the present day, Conewago Township has retained an essentially rural character, with agriculture serving as the chief industry and one of the major occupations of the populace. Despite the construction in the middle part of this century of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the Harrisburg – Lancaster expressway (Interstate 283), which traverse the Township in the central and southern portions, very little commercial and residential development had occurred. Development began in the early 1970’s with Laurel Woods, followed by the Chestnut Road development and Cedar Woods in the 1980’s, and then The Pines in the 1990’s and Hills of Waterford in 2003. These developments were mainly due to the emergence of the nearby Hershey Company, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Company and the Hershey Medical Center as major commercial, employment, and tourist activity centers. In the Comprehensive Plan that is being considered Conewago Township recognizes the necessity of developing a plan

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that is intricate in nature to guide the township through the next ten to fifteen years.

Planning is not a new concept to Conewago Township. This plan will serve as an update to the 1981 Comprehensive Plan, and the township has also adopted a zoning ordinance, subdivision and land development ordinance, and an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan. However, the comprehensive plan, which serves as the township's primary policy document, does not adequately address the current growth pressures that the township is facing. This Plan encourage and maintain the preservation and continuance of the agricultural and rural character that has defined the township, while maintaining the quality of life for all Conewago residents through improvements to the health, safety, and welfare of the community. The plan is intended to organize and coordinate the interrelated collection of people, ideas, land, facilities, services, infrastructure, agricultural preservation efforts, land uses, and environmental elements that comprise the township as a whole. Thus, the term "comprehensive" is used to express the scope of the plan's content. The plan charts the course for municipal growth and change by: Expressing the aims and ambitions of area residents and businesses; Being responsive to change; Providing a framework necessary for continual review and revision; Delineating the municipal forms and character they seek to achieve. In part, the comprehensive plan is a factual report that examines how the past has led to the present; it is a report that can be used to chart the municipality's future, as well as a report of the plans and actions necessary to achieve its objectives for the future. Often, much of the value in a community's comprehensive plan is found in the decisions that are made in the process of preparing the plan and the actions that are taken to implement the plan.

What must a Plan have it: **MPC Act of 1968, P.L.805, No.247 as reenacted and amended. Eighteenth Edition**

### **Content of Comprehensive Plan**

Statement of community development objectives , Plan for land use, Plan to meet housing needs, Plan for movement of people and goods, Plan for community facilities and utilities, Plan for protection of natural and historic resources to the extent not preempted by state/federal law and consistent with and not exceeding requirements of acts identified in MPC Section 301(a)(6), Plan for the reliable supply of water containing specific statements outlined in MPC Section 301(b), Short- and long-range implementation strategies, Statement that existing/proposed development is consistent with or can be buffered against that in contiguous municipalities, Statement that existing/proposed development is consistent with the county comprehensive plan, Identification of growth and development areas, Energy conservation plan, In preparing a comprehensive plan, a planning agency must make surveys, studies, and analyses of housing, demographic and economic characteristics, land use, transportation, community facilities, natural/historic/ cultural resources, and prospects for future growth.

- For complete information go to <http://mpc.landuselawinpa.com/1.html>

## **The Hummelstown area needs a new library and we hope you can help**

The current Hummelstown Community Library is bursting at the seams as it struggles to support nearly 50,000 visits each year and to maintain a collection of 26,000 volumes—all squeezed into 2,800 square feet of space. The library is not handicapped accessible and it lacks a community meeting room. In fact, the extremely popular summer reading programs for children must be held in a tent outdoors. But you can help change all of that with a gift to the *Connecting the Community in the Heart of Hummelstown* Capital Campaign. When the campaign meets its goal, work can begin on construction of the new library planned for Second and Railroad streets. This new, state-of-the-art library will be three times the size of the current building and will feature at least two community meeting rooms. At the time this is being written, the campaign is \$350,000 short of its \$1.5 million goal. There are many ways to give, including membership in the Brownstone Society, participation in the library's Giving Tree and purchasing an engraved brick for the outdoor area. Each of these provides a wonderful opportunity to show your support for libraries and learning with a gift in your own name or in honor or memory of someone special. Gifts of \$500 or more can be paid over 3-5 years.

**For more information on the giving opportunities mentioned above call Lori Lane at 234-4961 x 110 or go to [dcls.org](http://dcls.org) and click on the Hummelstown Campaign Update link. Please consider a gift to this important community project.**

### **Key features of the proposed new library include the following:**

- space for expanded collections and ease of access for library users
- dedicated children's area, with six computer terminals and capacity for more than 15,000 books
- library program/community meeting room
- area specific for teens, with seating for 10, five computer terminals, 1,700 volumes plus current periodicals
- easy accessibility and adequate parking for users from all points
- adult reading and study area, with seating for 18, capacity for more than 16,000 volumes, and 10 computer terminals
- ADA-required accessibility to all citizens
- outdoor plaza area.

### **Salt prices sky rocket !!**

As early as February 2008 this Township understood that last winter was a bad one for salt use. We had already gone out 16 times for de-icing the roads. Price of salt in 2007-08 was \$52.18 a ton delivered. We stocked up in February just in case we got the March freezing rains which didn't happen. When June came around we started checking on prices for our winter order and was surprised to find out that our three companies we normally order salt from did not have any salt to spare for the 2008-09 winter season. We quickly locked in a bid with our Capital Region Council of Government (COG) who represents about 31 Townships. When they receive bids they only received two the lowest being \$79.48 a ton delivered.. As we have learned recently many COG's did not even receive one bid. Some Cog's received bids but they were three to five times higher than years past. Some has high as \$145.00 a ton . Pennsylvania Legislators and PennDOT have stepped in fearing a crisis is at hand to help municipalities secure the nearly 100,000 tons of salt they need to be ready for the coming year.

Where does that leave Conewago Township? We use our Road Crew and leaders experience in making the decisions. Safety is an area we do not compromise, Weather, timing, and communication with other townships in our area is primary in the decision making. The Conewago Township staff will strive to provide safe winter road conditions for vehicular traffic within the resources established by The Township. We have the Salt in storage to maintain a normal season use. We will continue to receive this year de-icing supplies as needed.



**Where Do Your Tree Leaves Go?**

Storm water comes from rain and melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows over rooftops, paved areas, and sloped lawns to storm drains in our streets and then flows to our streams, creeks, and rivers. Pollutants from the streets and driveways are carried in storm water. Though we may not think about it too often, or not at all, how we care for our lawns and yards directly affects our streams and rivers, which also affects our drinking water. Whether we live near or far from a river, eventually our storm water will end in a river. Simple solutions for lawn care can improve water quality and habitat quality in our waterways. We can *easily* contribute to enhancing our rivers. Leaves and grass clippings left on sidewalks, driveways, alleys and streets are washed into storm drains where they decay. This decaying plant material releases bacteria, oxygen-consuming materials, nitrogen, and phosphorus into our waterways. These nutrients throw off the fragile balance of plant and animal life in rivers. Leaves and grass clippings may also accumulate and obstruct storm drains, causing them to function improperly or even flood. Small steps to protect our waterways from these pollutants include: • Leave grass clippings on the lawn • Compost grass clippings and leaves in the backyard • Sweep up or recycle clippings that are on sidewalks, driveways, and alleys These three simple solutions to protect storm water can lead to happier and healthier people, rivers, plants, and wildlife.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY MILLAGE RATES FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES LEVIED IN THE YEAR 2008** Conewago Twp and Middle Paxton Township are the only Township in Dauphin that do not have a township (municipal) tax. Some other Township examples:

<b>TAXING DISTRICT</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>LIBRARY</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL</b>	<b>SVC *</b>	<b>SCHOOL *</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Conewago Township	6.876	0.35	N/A		18.100	2 5.32600
East Hanover Township	6.876	0.35	0.36000	L	18.100	2 5.68600
Elizabethville Borough	6.876	0.35	4.40000		15.400	2 7.02600
South Hanover TWP	6.876	0.35	0.46110	H,L	18.100	2 5.78710
Derry Township	6.876	N/A	1.09660	L	16.520	2 4.49260
Londonderry Township	6.876	0.35	1.07000		18.100	2 6.39600

Road Maintenance Projects for 2009 (not approved by Board of Supervisors until passed in a public meeting. This is information from the Road Master as projections only) These projects could cost the Township approximately \$509,000 dollars if approved for 2009.

**Single or Double Chipped**

BEECHWOOD LANE	BEECHWOOD LANE	CEDAR ROAD	HEMLOCK COURT	WALNUT ROAD
HERTZLER ROAD	HILL ROAD	HOFFER ROAD	KERBY ROAD	WHITE PINE ROAD
NYE ROAD	OLD HERSHEY ROAD	VALLEY ROAD	VISTA ROAD	

**Repaved and rebuilt** —GATED ROAD