

LOCAL TOPICS

Municipal Ordinance Reviews

Damascus Township – Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Temporary Signs

In October of 2024, our office reviewed a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of Damascus Township. The proposed amendments sought to manage the display of temporary signs for such purposes as political campaigning, special events, commercial sale days or other cultural or entertainment activities. We had no detrimental comments on the proposed regulations. As of the writing of this report, the amendments have not yet been adopted.

Honesdale Borough – Zoning Amendments

In November of 2024, Honesdale Borough submitted draft amendments to their Zoning Ordinance for our review and comment. The proposed amendments mainly sought to revise standards for Animal Husbandry as it related to stables and kennels etc. but other amendments also centered on cemeteries, residential lighting and certain repairs to existing structures. Our review was completed that same month and the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments were adopted by Honesdale Borough on November 12, 2024.

Lebanon Township – Zoning Ordinance Amendments

In April of 2024, our office reviewed proposed minor amendments to Lebanon Township's Zoning Ordinance. The amendments were in reference to the section containing 'Performing Standards' and sought to manage the outside storage of such items as logs, pipe and palletized stone. The proposed amendments to the Lebanon Township Zoning Ordinance were adopted in August of 2024.

Oregon Township – Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance Amendments – Large Scale Solar Facilities

Similar to a number of other Wayne County municipalities, Oregon Township developed an amendment to its Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) in order to manage the development of solar energy facilities in the Township. Our office reviewed the proposed regulations, which contained regulations on items such as plan requirements, setback minimums and decommissioning, in January of 2024. Subsequent to being provided with our review of the proposed regulations, Oregon Township adopted the amendments to its SALDO in March of 2024.

Paupack Township – Short Term Rentals Ordinance Amendments

Paupack Township began the process of regulating Short Term Rentals with the development of a Short Term Rental Ordinance and corresponding amendments to its Zoning Ordinance in 2021. Our office reviewed several proposed drafts over the course of the following two years until the time of ultimate adoption of the regulations in 2023. In June of 2024, the Township proposed a small number of amendments to the adopted Short Term Rental Ordinance. The proposed amendments focused on two sections, ‘Definitions’ and ‘Violations, Complaints and Remedies’. Our review was completed and the Township adopted the amendments in August of 2024.

Wayne County and Municipal Comprehensive Plan Consistency Reviews

Central Wayne Regional Authority - Sewer Replacement Project

The Central Wayne Regional Authority (CWRA) is applying for funding through PENNVEST that will be used to replace deteriorated sewer infrastructure in the Grove Street and Terrace Heights areas which are 70 years old. The replacement will consist of approximately 7,600 linear feet of sewer main, 30 sanitary sewer manholes and 85 service connections. This upgrade will provide the opportunity for new residential development in the area. A letter supporting this application to PENNVEST was provided as this project is consistent with both the Central Wayne and County Comprehensive Plans.

Damascus Township Municipal Complex

Damascus Township has requested a letter of support to accompany a grant application to the America 250 PA Program for funding that will be used to assist in the construction of a new municipal complex building off of Conklin Hill Road. This complex would provide office space for township personnel as well as a business incubator space equipped with high speed internet/broadband technology to assist residents and local businesses to promote and expand their small business. A letter supporting this project was provided to the Township.

Greater Honesdale Partnership - Streetscape Project

The Greater Honesdale Partnership is requesting grant funds from the Penn DOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program that will be used for a streetscape project between 11th and 12th streets. The design and construction will include sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks, parking improvements and street light replacements. This project is consistent with the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan and a letter supporting the project was provided to the Greater Honesdale Partnership.

Greater Honesdale Partnership - Main Street Matters Program

Letters were sent to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in support of the Main Street Matters Program-Façade Funding Grant being offered through the Greater Honesdale Partnership. The Façade Program's dollar-for-dollar match will encourage businesses to invest in their properties bringing positive changes to the central business district of downtown Honesdale.

Greater Honesdale Partnership - 12th Street Park Project

Letters supporting the 12th Street Park Project were provided to the Commonwealth Financing Authority and Honesdale Borough Council. This project involved the transformation of an underutilized side-street area along the river into an outdoor community space. This riverfront

park area will include landscaped areas, pathways, seating and recreational facilities that will benefit the residents of Honesdale and visitors to the area. This project was identified within the 2022 Wayne County Recreation, Parks and Natural Resources Plan.

Honesdale Borough - Streetscape Phase II Project

The Greater Honesdale Partnership (GHP) has requested a letter of support that will be part of a grant application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for funds that will be used for Phase II of the Borough Streetscape Project with construction efforts focused between 11th and 10th streets. This project consists of safer updated crosswalks, traffic calming enhancements and improved street lighting. The County fully supports the downtown enhancement efforts by the GHP and has forwarded a letter of support to the PA DCED.

NEPA Alliance - SR 6 Wallenpaupack Creek Bridge - Palmyra Township

PennDOT is applying for federal appropriations funding for the NEPA Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that will be used for the deck rehabilitation of bridge structures on State Route 6. These structures are located between Palmyra Township, Pike County and Palmyra Township, Wayne County and cross over Wallenpaupack Creek. State Route 6 is a Principal Arterial highway and is significant to the nation's economy, defense and mobility. SR 6 has an average daily traffic count of 9,766 vehicles. This rehabilitation project will extend the life of the bridge and delay the need for a costly bridge replacement project in the future. A letter supporting this project was forwarded to the NEPA Alliance.

PennDOT - Route 6 Corridor Charging & Fueling Infrastructure

A letter supporting this Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program was forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as this project will enhance the availability of charging and fueling infrastructure along the Route 6 corridor in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This project will benefit the area by promoting clean energy adoption, boosting economic development, enhancing transportation equity and supporting statewide goals. This program is consistent with the "Transportation Plan" section of the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan and will have a lasting positive impact on our community.

Rail-Trail Council - D&H Rail-Trail Improvement Project

The Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA has plans to improve a 3 plus mile section of the D&H trail from Buck's Falls in Thompson Township to Little Ireland Road in Starrucca Borough, Wayne County. The Council requested a letter supporting their grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development – Trails and Greenway Program. The D&H Rail-Trail was named Pennsylvania Trail of the Year in 2021. The trail improvement project will consist of a trailhead being added at Little Ireland Road that will provide parking for both north and south public access. This project is consistent with the 2022 Wayne County Recreation, Parks and Natural Resources Plan. The Wayne County Planning Department supports the efforts of the Rail-Trail Council and forwarded a letter supporting this project.

South Canaan Township - Old Gravity Road Bridge Replacement

South Canaan Township is applying for grant funds through the Department of Community and Economic Development Local Share Account (DCED LSA) that will be used for a needed bridge replacement located on Township Route 388 (Old Gravity Road). The Township is responsible to maintain 34 miles of road network and this funding will allow for the replacement of this locally owned bridge. A letter of support was sent to the South Canaan Township Supervisors as this project is consistent with the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan in that a listed goal is to provide for the needed road infrastructure by seeking out grant funds to reduce the burden on the local taxpayers.

Waymart Borough - Wayside Park Improvements Phase II

Waymart Borough is requesting grant funds through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for improvements to Wayside Park. The funds will be used to add other playground equipment, benches and tables and possibly a pavilion located near the Van Auken Creek. Wayside Park is used for numerous community events. A letter supporting this grant application was provided by the Wayne County Planning Department as these identified improvements to the park are consistent with the Wayne County Recreation, Parks and Natural Resources Plan, the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan and the Borough's Comprehensive Plan.

Wayne County Commissioners - Hankins Pond Park Project Phase I

Grant funds through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) are being applied for by the Wayne County Commissioners to aid in a Park Rehabilitation and Development project located along Bethany Turnpike (SR 670) in Mount Pleasant Township. This park project will be available for public recreational walking, scenic views and to provide access to the abandoned hatchery grounds, streams, and water resources. A letter of support was forwarded to the Wayne County Commissioners by the County Planning Department.

Wayne County Commissioners - Hankins Pond Park Project Phase II

The Wayne County Commissioners have requested a letter of support for a grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for funds that will be used to aid in the rehabilitation of the Hankins Pond site located along the Bethany Turnpike (SR 670) in Mount Pleasant Township. The County plans to open this site for public recreational walking, scenic views and for public access to the natural streams and water resources on site. Phase II will involve the construction of the remaining gravel trail around the perimeter, a picnic area and a non-motorized boat launch for those with mobility limitations. The Wayne County Planning Department forwarded a letter supporting this project to the Commissioners.

Wayne County Commissioners - Dessin Animal Shelter Renovations

A letter supporting a grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development Local Share Account (DCED LSA) was provided to the Wayne County Commissioners. Phase I of this project will consist of the installation of a new sewage system, repair and pave the existing driveway and correct any drainage issues. Phase II will be used to cover interior renovations such as new flooring, animal holding areas, office space and restrooms. The project is consistent with local planning efforts to provide necessary community facilities by using appropriate grant funds to reduce the burden on the local taxpayers. The Dessin Animal Shelter has been and continues to be a critical animal service provider within Wayne County.