
GREGG TOWNSHIP NEWS

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- ✧ Gregg Township Joins Regional Planning Commission
- ✧ SCCCTS (322/144/45) Transportation Study Update
- ✧ Ham Pot Pie Supper at Fire Hall October 25th from 4 – 7 PM
- ✧ Dry Hydrants planned for 2004
- ✧ Citizens Guide to Zoning and Building Permits Coming Soon
- ✧ Meet the County Commissioner Candidates on October 16th
- ✧ Everything You Wanted to Know About Your Septic System

Gregg Township Meeting Calendar

Board of Supervisors	2 nd Thursday	7:00 PM	Township Building
Planning Commission	1 st Monday	7:00 PM	Township Building
Sewer Authority	4 th Tuesday	7:30 PM	Fire Hall
Zoning Hearing Board	As needed	7:00 PM	Township Building

MEET JULIE MASON

Julie Mason, a native of Bellefonte and resident of Gregg Township, is our new Secretary/Treasurer. She has worked for Supelco, the National Fire Protection Association, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center and the *Centre Daily Times*, and we are happy to have her.

Please stop in to say hello.

TOWNSHIP HEARINGS SCHEDULED

The following hearings will be held at 7 PM in the Township Bldg.

Final Budget Presentation:

October 20th

Burn Restriction and the Village Zoning District: November 17th

These public hearings give township residents a chance to discuss issues with the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission members. We hope that you can attend, share your views, and help us make good decisions that benefit everyone in Gregg Township.

Please say thanks to our advertisers – they help us pay for our newsletter.

TAR & CHIP PROJECT DELIVERS TAX SAVINGS TO RESIDENTS

This year, Roadmaster Walter Strouse suggested we tar and chip Bitner Hollow Road, due to its deteriorating condition. We received bids for doing both sections – and Vice Chairman Doug Bierly suggested that we complete the entire project in the hopes that we could save money by increasing the scope of the project.

We saved nearly 5% compared to doing each section separately – spending \$500 less. We hope to do more group projects in 2004, and bring additional savings – and improved roads – to Gregg Township residents.

DOWN THE DRAIN VIDEO AVAILABLE TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

For some folks, a septic system is something new and different. That's why we sent for a new video from DEP on how to care for your home's septic system. Just stop by the township building and sign it out. Its easy-to-follow format provides good background information on how septic systems work and what you can do to best maintain them.

BILL WOULD EXEMPT MINOR HOME REPAIRS FROM NEW STATE BUILDING CODE

In response to concerns raised across the state, **House Bill 623** was introduced to exempt minor home repairs from the permit requirements under the Uniform Construct Code (UCC). This bill would define "minor repairs" as nonstructural repairs made to residential structures that cost \$1000 or less. This bill is an attempt to make the UCC easier to implement.

Also, HB 1654 would impose a \$2 charge on every permit issued under the UCC. This money would be deposited in a restricted account with the Governor's Center for Local Government Services. It would be used to train municipal building code inspectors through the Pennsylvania Construction Codes Academy.

If you support this measure, please consider contacting Kerry Benninghoff at 355-1300.

PERSONAL CARE BOARDING HOMES ADDED AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN AG ZONES

After a Public Hearing, where citizen comments were overwhelmingly in favor of expanding land uses in the Agricultural Districts in Gregg Township, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to add Personal Care Boarding Homes as a Conditional Use in the Agricultural Zones in our township.

DRY HYDRANTS ON AGENDA FOR 2004

The members of Gregg Township Fire Company #1 are planning to install Dry Hydrants in the township next year. Dry Hydrants assist our firefighters in providing water to douse fires by connecting to creeks and small ponds. They will be working with several property owners to site these hydrants in order to better protect area residents in case of fire.

The Gregg Township Board of Supervisors supports their efforts and will consider extending a small grant to the Fire Company, to assist in the purchase and installation of the hydrants, in next year's budget.

HIGHWAY STUDY NARROWED TO EIGHT ALTERNATIVES

Please take a moment to review the map, which outlines the current alternatives under consideration by PaDOT and the South Central Centre County Transportation Study. This is a complex study that will continue for a few more years.

If you have questions, please call Doug Bierly, Gregg Township's SCCCTS representative, at 422-8093.

LOW INTEREST LOANS AVAILABLE FOR RURAL HOMEOWNERS

Rural Development, an agency of the US Department of Agriculture, has loan funds available for very low-income homeowners in rural areas. Loans are available for general repairs to improve or modernize homes, remove health and safety hazards, and adapt households for people with disabilities.

Loans may be made for up to \$20,000, with a maximum 20-year repayment period, at an interest rate of 1%.

For more information call the Rural Development office at 570-726-3196 or visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa

DOGGONE IT

Due to recent complaints of unrestrained dogs in Gregg Township, we'd like to remind everyone that, although township has no dog laws on its books, Pennsylvania requires that dogs be kept confined within the premises of the owner, secured by a collar and chain or other device so that it cannot stray, or under the reasonable control (i.e. leash) at all times when not on the owner's property.

These laws are in place to protect dogs, their owners, and the general public. More information is available on line at www.doglaw.state.pa.us

PENNS VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FORMED

All seven Penns Valley municipalities – Millheim and Centre Hall Boroughs, Gregg, Penn, Miles, Haines and Potter Townships have joined together to develop a regional Comprehensive Plan to address future land use in the valley. This historic effort finds our elected officials working together to retain the qualities that make living in Penns Valley special, while still allowing for future growth and development.

And where one local community is spending nearly \$50,000 on their own Comprehensive Plan, this cooperative effort will bring a multi-municipal plan to the citizens of Gregg Township for less than \$7000, due in large part to our success in securing a \$50,000 grant to assist in funding the work.

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

...by Douglas Bierly, Gregg Township Supervisor

What Gregg Township will look like in the future is something that is often on the minds of the Gregg Township Supervisors and members of our Planning Commission. We rely on three sources of information to help us plan for land use in the township.

1. **"The Upper Penns Creek Watershed Assessment Public Opinion Survey"** - conducted and analyzed by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service during the Spring of 2001. This survey of Penns Valley citizens found that desired land uses were ranked in the following order:

- a. Community Parks
- b. State game and forest lands
- c. Forests/woodlands
- d. State Parks
- e. Agriculture

2. **"The Penns Valley Vision"** - recommendations based upon a series of meetings in 1999 and 2000 between hundreds of residents and local officials:

- a. Maintain the health and integrity of the upper Penns Creek watershed
- b. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Penns Valley
- c. Promote transportation alternatives to keep existing roads safe and less congested in the future
- d. Foster regional development and planning
- e. Promote economic development and tourism
- f. Support and develop a strong, viable and unified community
- g. Support a healthy, diversified local farm economy strengthened by positive community relationships.

3. **"The Gregg Township Comprehensive Plan"** - developed in 1978, which includes the following goals:

- a. Protect high quality agricultural land from encroachment by residential, commercial or industrial uses.
- b. Protect significant natural and historic sites to help maintain property values.
- c. Discourage strip development.
- d. Insure that major developments do not cause costly municipal investments in services and utilities.
- e. Encourage development consistent with physical limitations such as slope, flood plain and soil conditions.
- f. Provide a wide variety of housing to serve the needs of all township residents.
- g. Encourage managed economic growth.
- h. Provide a safe, efficient and convenient movement of goods while minimizing adverse conditions.
- i. Provide recreational facilities and the proper management of such facilities.
- j. Maintain a continuing planning program.

Now that our sources have been presented, what do **you** want Gregg Township to look like in the future? Citizen comments are always welcome at our Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings.

CITIZENS GUIDE TO TOWNSHIP ZONING and the UNIVERSAL CONSTRUCTION CODE

Township Secretary Julie Mason and Zoning and Permit Officer Glenn Ripka will be working on a new township publication designed to put into plain language the regulations from the soon-to-be enacted Statewide Building Code (UCC) and our own Zoning Ordinance.

This project will help simplify what can often be confusing legalese and legislative language that makes our heads spin. Look for this free publication by the middle of 2004. It will be designed to assist township residents in learning when permits are needed and how to fill out the necessary paperwork.

Eight Alternatives Under Review

Some area residents new to the study process have told us they were unaware of the reasoning behind some idea "families" or individual ideas being dismissed from detailed study. The summary (at right) of the reasons is excerpted from the PENNDOT press release issued April 24, 2002 and posted on the study web site, www.scccts.org

The Federal Highway Administration accepted the recommendations made by PENNDOT, which were based on input from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), resource agency representatives, and the feedback from more than 800 residents who attended May 2002 public meetings.

The ideas that were dismissed are not being carried forward for additional detailed study. Only the eight remaining build ideas, now referred to as alternatives, are being developed, and will be compared to the "no build" alternative in assessing how the study area needs could be met.

All project information has been and continues to be available Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the study office in Penn State's Innovation Park, 103 Innovation Boulevard, Suite 216. If you are unable to visit the study

office during those hours, please contact the office at 814-861-4495 or 1-877-772-2287 to make other arrangements.

Press releases, agendas for CAC meetings, and minutes of those meetings, along with maps and background information, are available on the project web site at www.scccts.org.

Ideas Dismissed from Further Study ...

In the South Family of ideas...

(redirecting US Route 322 traffic to and from Mifflin County near the Laurel Creek Reservoir through Rothrock State Forest land to a connection with the existing US Route 322 Mt. Nittany Expressway near Boalsburg), all six ideas were recommended for dismissal due to their impacts to the state forest lands and many environmental resources, as well as opposition from the public and resource agencies based on protection of those resources.

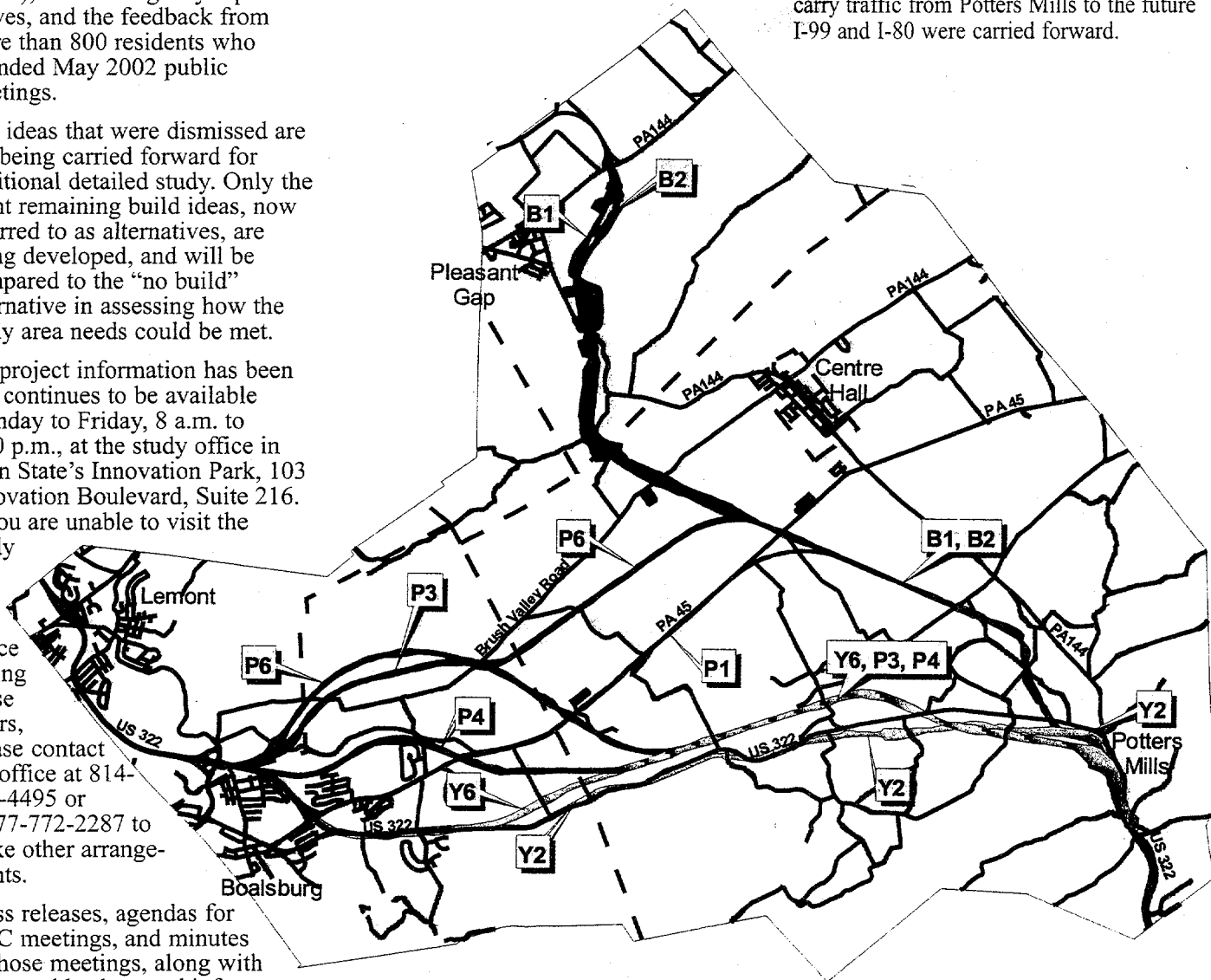
In the East Family of ideas...

(routes east of PA Route 144 which would take traffic across or through Nittany Mountain to and from the PA Route 26/I-99 area near Pleasant Gap), all four ideas in the family were recommended for dismissal

based on impacts on habitat for potential threatened and endangered species, for high impacts to productive agricultural land, impacts to homes and businesses, impacts to water supplies and impacts to agricultural security lands, restrictions to hazardous materials carriers associated with tunnel access, and high maintenance and operations costs.

In the other families of ideas...

Four of six ideas in the **Central** were dismissed for forest, structure, and overall disturbance or excavation impacts; Six of eight ideas in the **North** family were dismissed for agricultural, forest, wetlands, water supply, and overall disturbance or excavation impacts. Both of the ideas in the **West** family which have the potential to carry traffic from Potters Mills to the future I-99 and I-80 were carried forward.



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MEET THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

Progress and Penns Valley Granges and Centre Hall and Millheim Lions Clubs have joined together to bring this year's four county commissioner candidates to Penns Valley so we can hear what they have to say.

With this year's candidates residing in State College, Bellefonte and Phillipsburg, a good turnout will help show them that Penns Valley is a viable force in the county. Please try to attend so that you can learn first hand where they are on the issues, what their credentials are, and why they are running for office.

Candidates Night will be held at the CENTRE HALL LIONS CLUB (on Rt. 192) on October 16th at 7 PM

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HAM POT PIE SUPPER - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH - GREGG TOWNSHIP FIRE HALL

Come out and support our Ladies Auxiliary and firefighters during their premier fall fundraiser. Enjoy a fabulous dinner with your friends and neighbors from 4 - 7 PM (take-out is also available).

For more information or to volunteer to help with this year's event, please contact Vicky Barner at 422-0387.