

MINUTES
MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
January 22, 2026
MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

ATTENDANCE

Members

Kent Spicher, Chairman
Dan Dunmire, Vice Chair
Edward Mann
Joshua Yetter Clark
Michele Bair (zoom)
Kay Semler
William Campbell
Dan Firth

Other

Sierra Bolger, Lewistown Sentinel
Carol Kearney-High, SEDA COG
Madison Price, CDBG
Jason Anderson, Anderson Consulting(zoom)
Mr. Galen King (zoom)

Staff

James Lettiere, Planning Director
Candace Rager, Planning Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Spicher called the meeting to order at 3:30.

Record of Public Attendance

Spicher confirmed all present signed the record of attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Spicher requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2025 meeting. Clark made a motion to approve the minutes. Dunmire seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

Re-organization of Mifflin County Planning Commission Officers

Lettiere requested a motion for the 2026 re-organization of the planning commission officers. A motion was made by Mann for the current officers to remain for 2026. All officers agreed to remain as appointed. Semler seconded the motion. All voted aye. The appointments are as follows:

Kent Spicher – Chair
Dan Dunmire – Vice Chair
Michele Bair – Secretary (with Candace Rager as assistant secretary)

Update on Juniata Terrace Water Main River Crossing Project

Carol Kearney-High, Project Coordinator, Community Services Division, SEDA-COG presented an update on the Juniata Terrace Water Main River Crossing project. The residents of Juniata Terrace Borough need an upgraded water system for safe, reliable drinking water and improved water flow for fire suppression efforts. High stated the commissioners approved required resolutions and funding actions, allowing the county to remain eligible for federal community development block grant funding. The project calls for extending Lewistown's existing water main from W. Fourth St., along Rosewood Ave. to the Juniata River. It would then run beneath the river, along the Trinity Plastics property, leading to the Juniata Terrace water tank. High stated the new line would become the primary source of water, while the existing pipe would remain in service as a secondary source until it reaches the end of its useful life, which is estimated at 20 years. A copy of this update is included with the MCPC monthly meeting minutes.

Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee Report

There are a total of eleven (11) plans submitted for December.
Of those plans submitted:

- Ten (10) Wright Land Surveying, one (1) Sarge Engineering
- Eleven (11) plans are under Municipal Ordinance
- Four (4) Lot Additions, three (3) Minor Subdivisions, three (3) Sewage Modules, one (1) Minor Residential Land Development

The plans are for Derry Township (Derry Township), Michael & Gloria Goss (Oliver Township), Levi & Lena Kanagy (Menno Township), Jonathan & Gertrude Zook (Union Township), Timothy & Renee Hassinger (Armagh Township), Daniel & Lydia Peachey (Brown Township), Jess Peachey (Brown Township), Emanuel & Ella Peachey (Brown Township), Douglas & Jamie Swartz (Decatur Township), Linda Will (Decatur Township), Inez McKnight (Armagh Township)

Municipal Subdivision Plans

The subdivision and land development review committee members reviewed the eleven (11) plans on January 15, 2026. Lettiere requested the two representatives attending via zoom to identify themselves and the plan they were representing. Jason Anderson (Anderson Consulting) represents the Galen King subdivision plan and Mr. King is the property owner. Anderson described the details of the plan. Lettiere ask for any questions. Firth inquired about whether the embankments would have to be dug out for drainage/runoff purposes. Anderson stated there would be grading completed and the runoff would go into the drainage ditch along State Route 655. Lettiere provided a waiver for the Timothy & Fay Smith plan (Wayne Township) and discussed the details of the minor subdivision stating there would need to be approval of the waiver. There were no other questions or comments made for the submitted plans. Spicher requested a motion to grant the waiver request. Dunmire made a motion to accept the waiver request and Clark seconded it. All voted aye. Spicher requested a motion to conditionally approve the comments for the county plans and approve the comments for the municipal plans. Campbell made a motion to accept and Firth seconded it. All voted aye.

Project Updates

Lettiere stated the Whole Home grant currently administered by SEDA-COG is moving along. There are eleven households with improvements to life, health, and safety matters within the home like furnaces, windows, doors, electrical and plumbing upgrades needed. Deadline for the completion is December 31, 2026. The HOME grant has received an extension until August 31, 2026 to complete four homes which will be brought up to current property maintenance codes.

Lettiere explained about pending legislature known as House Bill 1764. If adopted, it would amend the PA MPC and create a new process for reviewing large developments that impact the borders of a single municipality. The bill introduces the concept of a “development of regional significance and impact” which could include airports, intermodal terminals, large warehouses, data centers, and quarries. It allows the formation of agreements between governing bodies to protect prime farmland and valuable environmental resources from adverse development. Municipalities would be able to request impact analysis which would examine the developers potential effects on infrastructure, public services, natural and historic resources, transportation systems, housing and other community features.

Notification was received from Delta Development and DCED that the multi-modal transportation grant for the Allensville Traffic Calming/Streetscape Project was not funded. Another option for the township is to apply for PennDOT’s MTF and phase the project into four components. This grant requires a 30% match of the grant request. The township is willing to make this commitment and the application is due February 13, 2026. Also, the PennDOT (TASA) grant for the Electric Avenue/Highland Park Safe Routes to School Project is still in process. The anticipated date for notification is March or April 2026.

A contract was received with the Federal Highway Administration for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. This grant will be used to create a comprehensive safety action plan. This plan will involve all sixteen municipalities. The plan will incorporate all areas of safety and modes of transportation that moves the county towards zero deaths which is a balanced transportation system that uses systemic, equitable, and data driven solutions. Pilot projects include plans to calm traffic, make roadway improvements to provide for safer means of travel for pedestrians and bicyclists and those who are handicapped. This will position the county and the municipalities to apply for federal transportation dollars to advance these projects. Lettiere stated the formation of a steering committee will be necessary and requested for volunteers to serve. The RFP has been prepared and will be sent out to various consulting firms and the review committee will work on selecting the consultant for the project. Volunteers were asked to contact Candace Rager in the planning department for participation on the review committee.

Other Business

Lettiere announced the county commissioners reappointed Tom Lake and Edward Mann to four-year terms. They will receive a letter from the commissioner’s office affirming the re-appointment.

The next MCPC meeting will be February 26, 2026.

Adjournment

Spicher announced the meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.

Minutes Approved

Signature

Date