

2019 Annual Report Monroe County Planning Commission



MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sharon S. Laverdure, Chairman
John R. Moyer, Vice-Chairman
John D. Christy, Commissioner

MONROE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF

Christine Meinhart-Fritz, Director
Eric Koopman, Lead Senior Planner
Nathaniel Staruch, Infrastructure Planner
Fallon Horan, Open Space Coordinator
Ryan Hill, Environmental Planner
Kim Borger, Planner
Lee Schuler, Vector Control



MONROE 2030

The Monroe 2030 Vision Statement

“The citizens of Monroe County will continue working together to sustain and improve our quality of life by ensuring that the County’s environmental, economic, and cultural assets are within reach of all its people.”

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The “Monroe 2020 Comprehensive Plan: The challenge” and the subsequent “Monroe 2030, The Challenge Continues” were both written to address the concerns of large task forces that comprised of members from the local community. This process was a novel idea in 1997, but by 2011 when the 2030 Task Force was formed, planning ‘by the community for the community’ had become the standard bearer. Both of the Comprehensive Plan Task Forces were led by Alan Price Young, who retired from the Planning Commission Board at the end of 2019. The staff is grateful for the leadership he has provided for so many years.

The Community Development Goals and Objectives found in the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan include providing efficient Infrastructure which includes sewer, water, transportation, natural gas and broadband. This continues to be an important component of the staff’s focus by highlighting opportunities for linking and leveraging the municipalities and authorities by mapping physical assets and providing workshops and professional services that will facilitate positive economic outcomes for the community for years to come.

The Planning Commission also considers another Community Development Goal, “Maintain and improve recreational assets” a priority, as the county made a commitment to providing funding for open space purchases through the Open Space Bond initiative. The county now provides grant funding for the development of these properties so the residents of Monroe County can truly appreciate the beauty in their community.

We have now reached the year 2020, and as the original 2020 Comprehensive Plan had many goals for the community, this year we plan to celebrate the achievements and review the priorities still to be attained by and for the community.



Christine Meinhart-Fritz, Director

2020 MONROE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD

Rich Schlameuss, Chairman
JoEllen Chadwick, Vice-Chairman
Annette Atkinson
Robert Baxter
Meg Dilger
Patricia Kennedy
Sharon Solt
Charles Vogt

James Fareri, Solicitor
Nate Oiler, Engineer



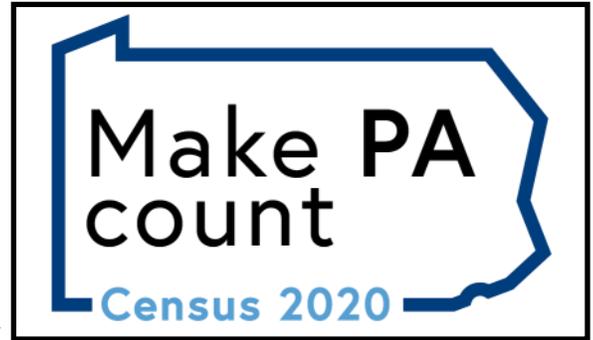
*Board Member Alan Young Completed his
Second Term in 2019*

2020 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Glenn Beers, Chairman
Richard Snyder, Vice-Chairman
Russell Gould
Mark Green
Carl Heckman
Mark Heckman
Robert Serfass

2020 UNITED STATES CENSUS

The 2020 Census is fast approaching. As such, a formal Complete Count Committee has been authorized by the Monroe County Commissioners to disseminate census information and awareness. The Planning Commission will take lead in this matter, as it has in the previous census. It is essential to spread the word and ensure that a complete count is achieved.



Example State 2020 Census Logo

The U.S. Constitution requires a census count every ten years and documents increases, decreases, and changes in community demographics. The statistics created are used to decide how many seats each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives. It also determines the amount of federal funding Pennsylvania can receive for important programs and services including healthcare, food security, education, transportation, housing, community development, families and more. For every person not counted, Pennsylvania loses over \$2,000 of this funding every year, which highlights the importance of a complete count. Everyone needs to participate so our communities receive their fair share of federal funding and representation.

Residents do not need to be concerned about safety and security, as Census answers can't be used against an individual, and data security is managed by security experts operating at the highest levels. Legal status and citizenship of a resident will not be asked. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot release any information that identifies individuals, and anyone who breaks this law faces a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

The Census also presents an opportunity for earning extra income while helping the community. Anyone interested in becoming an enumerator can file an online application through the Census website at 2020census.gov/jobs. In Monroe County, Census workers make a wage of 18 dollars an hour including paid training. All Census workers must carry a valid ID badge with their photo, U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. If the visitor is not with the Census, residents should contact their local police department.



MONROE 2030 STRATEGIC DOING INITIATIVE



The Monroe 2030 Strategic Doing Participants

During the month of March, 20 individuals from the private and public sector of Monroe County spent two and a half days learning a different approach to collaborative thinking. East Stroudsburg University was the host for the Strategic Doing Certification program that was taught by Purdue University. Funding for this opportunity was offset by The Monroe County Commissioners, the Visitors Bureau, CareerLink and East Stroudsburg University. This Training has provided the framework for the 2030 Action Teams which include, but are not limited to,

Public Health, Business Development Housing Collaboration, and Marketing. These teams meet once a month to collaborate on positive projects to help Monroe County become a better place to “live, learn, work, and play.”

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMIT AND REVIEWS

During 2019, the municipalities in Monroe County issued a total of 184 permits for new single family homes. The average price in 2019 for homes built was \$273,743, a decrease from 2018 when the average price was \$296,373. The number of building permits issued increased from 170 in 2018

2019 NEW BUILDING PERMITS

MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL
BARRETT	1
CHESTNUTHILL	5
COOLBAUGH	18
DELAWARE WATER GAP	1
EAST STROUDSBURG	0
ELDRED	7
HAMILTON	9
JACKSON	9
MIDDLE SMITHFIELD	17
MOUNT POCONO	1
PARADISE	3
POCONO	0
POLK	29
PRICE	15
ROSS	0
SMITHFIELD	8
STROUD	24
STROUDSBURG	2
TOBYHANNA	28
TUNKHANNOCK	7
TOTAL	184

SUBMITTED PLANS FOR 2019

	Minor Subdivisions	Major Subdivisions	LDPs
Barrett Township	0	0	3
Chestnuthill Township	5	0	4
Coolbaugh Township	10	0	3
Delaware Water Gap Borough	1	0	0
East Stroudsburg Borough	1	0	0
Eldred Township	0	0	0
Hamilton Township	8	0	2
Jackson Township	6	0	2
Middle Smithfield Township	0	0	1
Mount Pocono Borough	0	0	2
Paradise Township	2	0	1
Pocono Township	0	0	3
Polk Township	13	3	2
Price Township	0	1	0
Ross Township	1	0	0
Smithfield Township	2	0	2
Stroud Township	1	0	5
Stroudsburg Borough	1	0	2
Tobyhanna Township	0	0	3
Tunkhannock Township	2	0	1
Total	53	4	36

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN 2019

Proposed commercial and industrial development continued at a steady pace in 2019. Notable proposed developments include a 750,000 s.f. warehouse and 27,000 s.f. gas cylinder filling operation in the Pocono Mountains Corporate Center, a 130,000 s.f. industrial expansion of Vigon International in Smithfield Township, a 96 unit apartment complex in Middle Smithfield, and numerous other expansions and new projects.



The New Giant in Pocono Plaza



Construction of Home Goods

ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS FOR 2019

	Zoning	SALDO
Barrett Township	0	0
Chestnuthill Township	1	1
Coolbaugh Township	2	1
Delaware Water Gap	0	0
East Stroudsburg Borough	0	0
Eldred Township	0	0
Hamilton Township	0	0
Jackson Township	0	0
Middle Smithfield	3	0
Mount Pocono Borough	3	0
Paradise Township	5	0
Pocono Township	0	0
Polk Township	1	1
Price Township	0	0
Ross Township	0	0
Smithfield Township	0	0
Stroud Township	2	0
Stroudsburg Borough	2	0
Tobyhanna Township	6	0
Tunkhannock Township	0	0
Total	25	3

A number of amendments to municipal Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances were reviewed in 2019. These two ordinances are the mechanism for townships and boroughs to regulate land use. All 20 municipalities in the county have their own Zoning and Subdivision and Land Developments Ordinances. The following are some of the more notable amendments that have been submitted in the previous year.

Traffic Impact Studies – Paradise Township

Short Term Rentals – Chestnuthill Township

Official Map – Delaware Water Gap

Agricultural Uses – Stroud Township

Tourist Development Project District – Tobyhanna Township

Commercial Overlay Regulations – Stroudsburg

This chart is a breakdown of proposed ordinance amendments the MCPC reviewed in 2019.

NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2019, the MCPC reviewed 36 Land Development Plans (LDPs). It should be noted that LDPs are proposals and do not reflect municipal approval or non-approval status. It should also be noted that proposed additions to existing structures are included within the overall list. The following is a compilation of details for the proposed non-residential projects for 2019.

Municipality	Project Name	Land Use	Description	Project Details
Barrett Twp.	Orthodox Center	Institutional	Religious	Additions/Renovations
Middle Smithfield Twp.	Mt. Nebo Apartments	Residential	Multi-Family	4 Structures - 96 Units
Barrett Twp.	Community Park at Ice Lake	Government	Parks/Open Space	Park Upgrades
Stroud Twp.	Hayward Laboratories, Inc.	Industrial	Manufacturing	Parking Facilities
Stroud Twp.	SASD Middle School Parking	Institutional	Education	Access/Parking Facilities
Smithfield Twp.	East Stroudsburg LNG Facility	Infrastructure	Utilities	Natural Gas Facility
Polk Twp.	Cornerstone Community Church	Institutional	Religious	7,996 SQFT Addition
Chestnuthill Twp.	Rite Aid	Commercial	Pharmacy	11,979 SQFT Structure
Jackson Twp.	Akiba CA, L.P.	Commercial	Recreation Camp	Additions/Renovations
Tobyhanna Twp.	Farm Market	Commercial	Farmers Market	2,600 SQFT Structure
Polk Twp.	Speed Transport Truck Parking	Commercial	Trucking	2,400 SQFT Garage
Pocono Twp.	Sanofi Pastuer	Industrial	Manufacturing	Security Upgrades
Stroud Twp.	Major Hyundai	Commercial	Automotive Sales	8,800 SQFT Expansion
Chestnuthill Twp.	1650 Route 209	Commercial	Medical Offices	4,400 SQFT Structure
Barrett Twp.	Spruce Lake Retreat Cabins	Institutional	Religious	(16) 936 SQFT Cabins
Smithfield Twp.	Vigon International, Inc.	Industrial	Manufacturing	130,434 SQFT Facility
Pocono Twp.	Sanofi Pastuer	Industrial	Manufacturing	New 18,630 Lab
Jackson Twp.	International Gymnastics Camp	Commercial	Recreation Camp	33,937 SQFT Gym
Tobyhanna Twp.	Everett Property	Commercial	Professional Office	Use & Site Alterations
Stroudsburg Bor.	Shanti House, L.L.C.	Mixed-Use	Multi-Family & Retail	5-Story 11,709 SQFT
Stroudsburg Bor.	9th Street Minor LDP	Commercial	Fuel Sales	2,373 SQFT Structure
Tobyhanna Twp.	RSPS Vacation Ventures, LP	Commercial	Professional Office	2,788 SQFT Structure
Pocono Twp.	Brodhead Creek Regional Auth	Infrastructure	Utilities	Pump Station & Tanks
Coolbaugh Twp.	Pocono Mtns. Business Park	Industrial	Warehouse	750,000 SQFT Structure
Coolbaugh Twp.	Tobyhanna Self-Storage	Commercial	Self-Storage	8-Structure Facility
Chestnuthill Twp.	New Jersey Camp Jaycee	Commercial	Recreation Camp	3,200 SQFT Rec Hall
Coolbaugh Twp.	Cylinder Filling Plant	Industrial	Manufacturing	27,000+ SQFT Facility
Tunkhannock Twp.	Blakeslee Dollar General	Commercial	Retail Sales	9,100 SQFT Structure
Hamilton Twp.	The Shoppes at Turtle Walk	Commercial	Automotive Sales	36,724 SQFT Structure
Paradise Twp.	Tarpon Towers	Infrastructure	Communications	150' Monopole Facility
Mt. Pocono Bor.	Posh Properties	Commercial	Retail Sales	8,500 SQFT Structure
Hamilton Twp.	Frangelli Property	Commercial	Professional Office	10,200 SQFT Structure
Mt. Pocono Bor.	McDonald's Rebuild	Commercial	Fast-Food Service	4,540 SQFT Structure

2019 ECONOMIC SUMMIT AT EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY



2019 Economic Summit at East Stroudsburg University

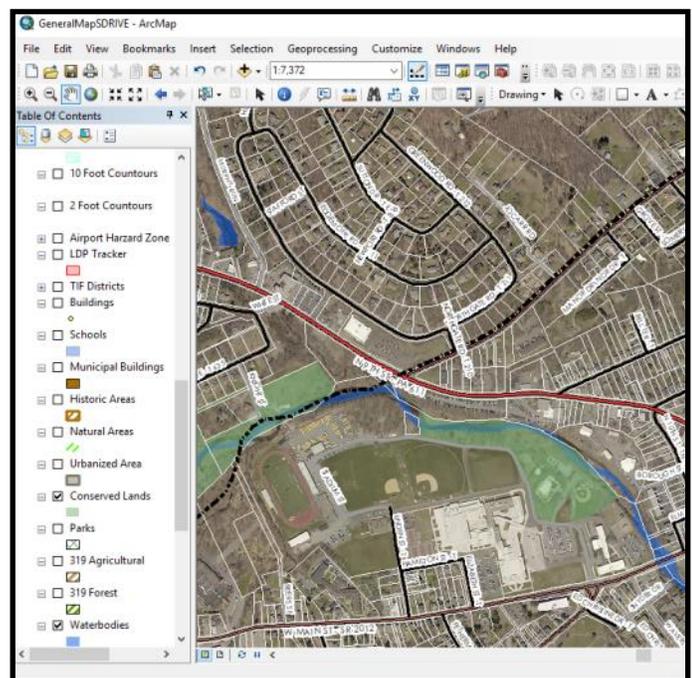
Last September, East Stroudsburg University hosted the seventh annual Pocono Mountains Economic Summit to provide elected officials, community leaders, and the business community an overview of the economic outlook for Monroe County. The theme of the 2019 Summit was ‘Monroe County: Why Do We Live Here?’

Speakers included County Commissioners, Chuck Leonard of PMEDC, Matthew Connell of Northampton Community College, Chris Barrett of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, and Ashley Putnam of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The speakers provided insight into topics such as hospitality and tourism, economic and workforce development, as well as an update of the Monroe 2030 Strategic Doing Groups.

The Economic Scorecard was also presented to illustrate and track economic trends over the last six years in comparison to the surrounding region. The specific categories included employment, earnings, healthcare, education, and others. Overall, Monroe County has been in step with regional and national trends with income and employment, while seeing improvements in business climate, crime rate, health care, and education. The Economic Summit is held annually and will continue to offer a forum for the discussion of new ideas and to review past trends to forecast the future.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS UPDATE

Monroe County Planning Commission staff attended the ESRI Mid-Atlantic User Conference in Philadelphia as an opportunity to join technical sessions and workshops that discussed new and innovative solutions using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Keynote speakers included cartographer and user experience designer John Nelson, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, and other ESRI staff members who presented new technologies from ESRI. MCPC staff members attended a wide variety of courses which included GIS operations in public safety, new and emerging applications with GIS, and data management strategy sessions. The conference also offered courses related to ArcGIS StoryMaps which can be used to present technical information and topics pertaining to Monroe County in a meaningful and convenient manner. The conference focused on using the new ArcPro platform and offered software training sessions. Staff members attended tutorial sessions focusing on ArcPro updates and familiarized themselves with basic and advanced functions of the new software.



Screenshot of ArcMap Software

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING UPDATE

RCAP Solutions, Inc. (RCAP) works with communities and central water/wastewater systems to promote public, environmental and economic health. In order to best assess a community's needs, RCAP performs comprehensive surveys, data collection, and analysis on the water and/or wastewater equipment and infrastructure systems. The data collected is used to project funding needs and sources; information that is necessary and often times required, when applying for a grant or a loan.

RCAP also provides a wide range of educational training for water/wastewater administrators, staff, and board members. If a community qualifies, RCAP can provide some of their comprehensive services at little-to-no charge with funds available to our organization through government and private grants and contracts we administer. Their efforts often leverage millions of additional dollars annually for the communities they assist.



Infrastructure Workshop with RCAP Solutions

In August of 2019, the MCPC was able to collaborate with RCAP in order to facilitate an infrastructure based workshop: Sustainable Management of Rural and Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities Workshop. The workshop provided general information for small/rural systems, strategies for asset inventory and management, workforce development approaches, and short/long range planning strategies. The workshop took place at the Monroe County Public Safety Center and was attended by municipal, utility, property management, and home-owners association representatives from several counties.

EASTBURG 2025 TASKFORCE UPDATE

Work continued throughout 2019 to implement the recently adopted East Stroudsburg Comprehensive Plan, entitled 'Eastburg 2025'. Monthly meetings with Borough officials, local leaders, and the business community were held to ensure the plan was moving forward. Notable milestones include the completion of a Market Study to serve as a basis for decisions and changes to municipal ordinances as well as demonstrate local market trends. A consultant was also brought on to assist in the creation of an overlay district along the Courtland Street corridor. The major goal of the overlay district is to update the Borough's Zoning Ordinance to allow for improved and more diverse housing stock while improving the physical environment of the uptown area and allowing for greater flexibility in commercial and multi-family residential development. The overlay district is expected to be adopted in early 2020.



Conceptual Design for Multi-Family Housing along Courtland Street

MPO & TRANSPORTATION UPDATE



NEPA Long Range Transportation Plan Public Listening Session

The NEPA Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill Counties, develops and maintains a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Region's Long Range Transportation Plan. The TIP identifies the region's highest priority transportation projects, develops a multi-year program of implementation, and identifies available federal and non-federal funding for the programmed project phases.

The TIP shows the estimated cost of each project and a projected schedule for completion. The TIP covers a four-year period of investment, must be fiscally-constrained, and is updated every two years through a cooperative effort of local, state, and federal agencies, including participation by the general public.

The Twelve Year Plan, otherwise known as the TYP is the mid-range planning document utilized by PennDOT and the NEPA MPO. As projects are completed on the TIP, the TYP serves as a priority list for new projects to become completed within the NEPA MPO region.

The LRTP identifies the major transportation projects, programs, and policies needed for the next twenty-five years and establishes the vision and goals that will guide public decisions affecting transportation facilities, infrastructure, and services in the region.

The Long Range Transportation Plan was approved at a joint meeting of the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee and NEPA MPO Policy Board on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. The LRTP must be updated every four years. An update of the LRTP is currently underway.



Proposed Route 209 and 115 Intersection improvements

Projects on the current TIP include the widening of Route 115 to three lanes from Route 903 to Long Pond Road in Tunkhannock Township, the large roundabout at the intersection of Route 115 and Route 209, and a smaller round-a-bout on Route 209 in front of the Pleasant Valley High School in Chestnuthill Township, and the Stites Tunnel Bridge which crosses the Paradise Creek in Pocono Township near the border with Stroud Township.

These projects are examples of providing a safer and more reliable road network within Monroe County.

2019 MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC COUNTS

The MCPC provides traffic count services in response to municipal requests. Traffic information recorded consists of counts which measure the speed, interval, and classification for each vehicle. The table below shows the data for traffic counts conducted during the past year.

Start Date	Municipality	Road Name	Total Count	ADT
5/14/19	Delaware Water Gap Bor.	Cherry Valley Rd	1,469	490
5/14/19	Stroud Twp.	Mervine Rd	127	43
5/23/19	Polk Twp.	Burger Hollow Rd	14,867	2,123
6/11/19	Polk Twp.	Burger Hollow Rd	11,048	1,578
6/11/19	Polk Twp.	Long Mountain Rd	7,069	1,009
8/27/19	Chestnuthill Twp.	Frantz Rd	9,122	1,303
8/27/19	Chestnuthill Twp.	Brookmont Dr	2,573	367
8/27/19	Chestnuthill Twp.	Altemose Dr	16,243	2,320
8/27/19	Chestnuthill Twp.	Merwinesburg Rd	35,443	5,063
9/10/19	Chestnuthill Twp.	Pheasant Run Rd	8,129	1,161
9/10/19	Chestnuthill Twp.	Toll Rd	15,193	2,170
9/10/19	Chestnuthill Twp.	Merwinesburg Rd	37,390	5,341
9/25/19	Middle Smithfield Twp.	Oak Grove Rd	14,215	2,030
9/25/19	Middle Smithfield Twp.	Big Ridge Dr	13,892	1,984
9/25/19	Middle Smithfield Twp.	Brushy Mountain Rd	6,973	996
9/25/19	Middle Smithfield Twp.	Oak Grove Rd	16,332	2,333
10/10/19	Pocono Twp.	Sullivan Trl	50,461	7,208
10/10/19	Tunkhannock Twp.	Mountain Rd	25,784	3,683



Setting Up a Traffic Count



Traffic Counter

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ROUNDTABLE AND MODEL ORDINANCE

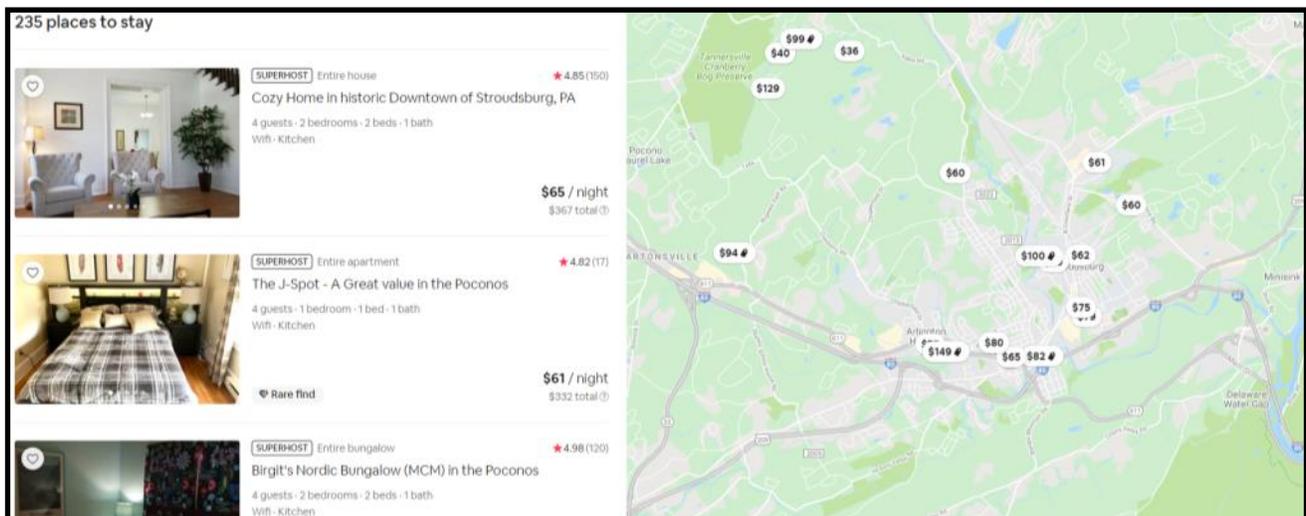
In June, the Monroe County Planning Commission held a Short-Term Rental Roundtable where zoning officers, elected officials, and various other affected groups were invited to discuss the impacts that such rentals are creating within



Short-Term Rental Roundtable of the Monroe County Control Center

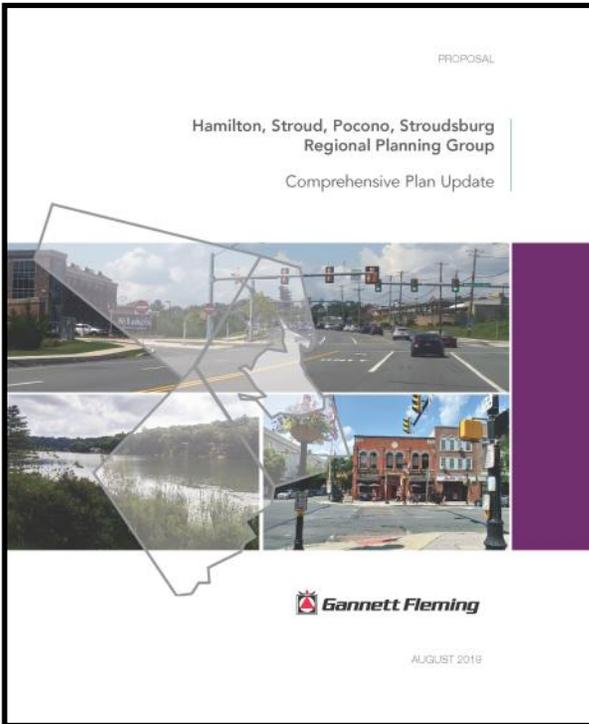
the county. This roundtable discussion was held chiefly to inform local officials of the impact of a certain State Supreme Court ruling concerning the commercial nature of short-term rentals. In essence, municipalities are permitted to regulate these uses as a commercial venture and prohibit them in residential areas, as several townships have since done. Representatives also discussed their own experiences with these ubiquitous, if often unnoticed, rental operations. Vacation rentals have long been a staple of the Pocono Mountains, however online services such as *AirBnB* and *VRBO* have drastically changed the manner in which these properties are being rented out. Rather than ban this use outright, which creates enforcement concerns, the county planning commission developed a model ordinance to serve as a template for municipalities to adjust and adopt regulations dealing with this land-use.

This model has been updated to reflect the opinions and experiences discussed in during the roundtable. It includes regulations on number of permitted guests, 24-hour owner contact, inspections, and numerous other standards to mitigate issues that have proven to be problematic in the past. To date, nearly all municipalities have adopted or are considering adoption of regulations pertaining to short-term rentals. The updated county model for short-term rentals is available on the county website.



Screen Shot of typical AirBnB Listings in Monroe County

REGIONAL MUNICIPAL PLANNING GROUP INITIATIVES



In 2019, efforts continued to reestablish the Hamilton, Stroud, Pocono, and Stroudsburg Regional Planning Group and to update its multi-municipal comprehensive plan. A community survey was conducted as an initial measure to prepare the update, and there were hundreds of responses. The results will define the areas of focus for the plan, which is meant to act as a guide for growth and address current and future issues within the region. Interviews were conducted for a consultant to facilitate the project and one was selected in late 2019. It is anticipated that a final draft will be completed by the end of the year. It should be noted that the project was awarded a \$35,000 grant by the Department of Community and Economic Development, with an additional \$30,000 in funding leveraged by the County's Financial Assistance Program. Major areas to be addressed by the plan include economic development, housing diversity, public services, and transportation issues, particularly those along the Route 611 corridor.

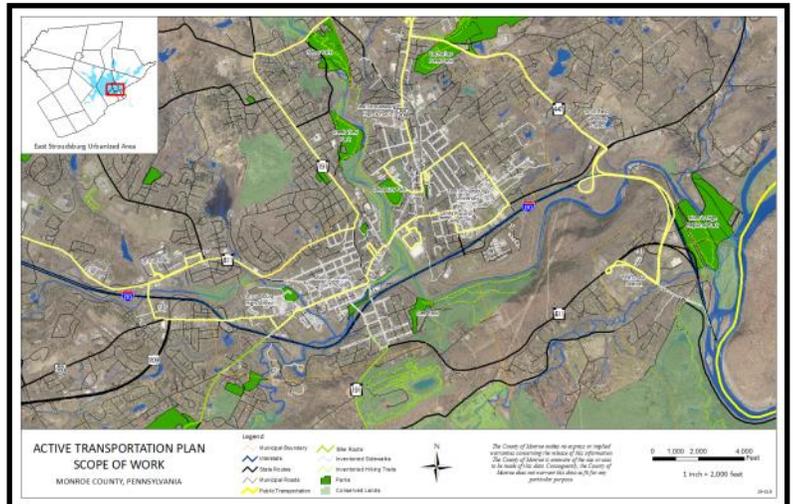
Selected Proposal for the HSPS Comprehensive Plan

The Chestnuthill, Jackson, Eldred, Ross, and Polk Regional Planning Group (CJERP) also continued working together throughout the year to address emerging issues and trends that affect their community. Most notably, discussion and work centered on the topics of medical marijuana, short-term rentals, and agricultural land-uses. The group meets regularly and remains an example of the positive effects of regionalized planning as a means of combining resources and working together for common goals.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE EAST STROUDSBURG CORE

In October 2019 the Monroe County Planning Commission was awarded funding through the 2020 Walk Works Program to move forward with an Active Transportation Plan for the Core of the East Stroudsburg Urbanized Area. Funding is being provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Practice. In 2019 staff worked on internal data collection and base mapping for this project, however, the official project kick-off is anticipated for early 2020.

The plan will explore opportunities to expand public transit service, identify ways to incorporate complete streets concepts to improve pedestrian infrastructure, and make recommendations to connect and raise awareness of the local pedestrian and trail systems. Developing this plan would establish straightforward policies for decision making throughout the area with respect to enhancing and increasing access to recreational, economic, and cultural destinations through safe activity-friendly routes.



Active Transportation Plan Scope of Work

OPEN SPACE & TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PLANS



Monroe County Trails and Greenway Partner Forum

Stroud Region Trail Gap Analysis

In 2019 the Monroe County Planning Commission continued the partnership with Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission. Staff continued to collect data on existing trail conditions and provide detailed mapping of areas of the Stroud Greenway where trail gaps were identified. In the spring RKR Hess, a division of UTRS, Inc. was bought on to assist in the final analysis. Their team performed deed research to identify constraints and opportunities throughout the greenway and assisted each municipality in selecting projects for early implementation. The study was finalized in December and will serve as a guide for future development of an interconnected regional trail network.

Upper Brodhead and Paradise Trail Feasibility Study

The Monroe County Planning Commission continued to partner with the Brodhead Watershed Association to study the feasibility of a trail along either the Upper Brodhead or Paradise Creek. Staff assisted in data collection, inventorying of existing conditions, and provided mapping to delineate a series of potential routes for the trail. Gary David Bloss, RLA, PP was brought on to the project to explore the feasibility of the trail and identified a series of constraints and opportunities. The study was finalized in August and serves as an important first step toward identifying a preferred alignment to connect the ForeverGreen Nature Preserve to the Historic Cresco Mountain Train Station.

Monroe County Trails and Greenway Partner Forum

The Monroe County Planning Commission, in partnership with the Pocono Heritage Land Trust, hosted a forum for municipal representatives and nonprofit partners working to enhance public access and provide connectivity to protected lands within the county. The forum was held in October at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. Staff presented an interactive mapping exercise providing status updates on trail and greenway projects throughout the county and highlighted opportunities for partnerships that could support the development of an interconnected countywide trail network. Representatives from PA Department of Recreation and Conservation, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and St Luke's University Health Network presented on programs, tools, and resources that could be used to support individual or regional trail planning efforts.



Eagle Spotting at Forevergreen Nature Preserve

2019 OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Monroe County Open Space Development Program was created to distribute Act 13 funds to qualifying municipal and nonprofit landowners throughout the County. Act 13 of 2012 established the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocated a portion of the funds received from the Impact Fee related to natural gas drilling to each Pennsylvania County for the purpose of planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreation trails, open space, parks, and beautification projects.

The program allows municipalities and qualifying nonprofit land owners to apply for grants to support the development and rehabilitation of passive and active recreational resources on protected lands throughout the county. In 2019 the program funded projects in two categories of projects; Municipal Partnership Development Grants of up to \$40,000 (requiring 2:1 match), and Open Space Development Mini-Grants, of up to \$20,000 (requiring 1:1 match).

The program awarded a total of \$144,638 in funds received by the impact fees in 2017-2018 and helped leverage an additional \$236,357 in matching funds. The following projects were supported in part with funding from the 2019 grant round and are scheduled for construction from 2019-2021. (* indicates that the project was also completed in 2019.)

Buckhill Falls Conservation Foundation: Spruce Mountain Trail \$5,000

Pocono Heritage Lands Trust: Pomeroy Nature Preserve Parking and Stream Access \$12,282

** Barrett Township: Phase I Ice Lake Community Walking Park \$20,000*

** Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission: Inclusive Swing Sets at Albertsons Park & Dansbury Park \$9,000*



HJP Park Access Resurfacing

Polk Township: Cherry Community Walking Park Phase 2 \$20,000

The Nature Conservancy: Tunkhannock Open Space Access Project \$16,000

Ross Township: Van Buskirk Haney/ Park Trail Resurfacing \$7,600

Eldred Township: Mock Park Fiddletown Road Trailhead \$6,756

** Jackson Township: HJP Access Drive Surfacing \$16,000*

West End Open Space and Recreation Commission: West End Regional Park Phase 2 \$32,000



West End Regional Park

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

In 2019, the Commissioners certified \$70,036 to the State to facilitate the Farmland Preservation Program in Monroe County. The state matched that amount through a 6:1 match of approximately \$465,000 resulting in an increase in the agricultural protection funds to over a half-million dollars. In April 2019, ten applications were submitted to the program. The board made an offer to one of the applicants, who owns one of the largest farms in Monroe County, and is now submitting the application to the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board for approval.

Three farms were brought to settlement in 2019, increasing the number of preserved farms in the county to 119 farms which equates to 7,977 acres. To ensure that preserved farms continue to operate in a manner conducive to agricultural production and activities, staff from the Monroe County Planning Commission and the Monroe County Conservation District jointly conducted annual inspections of 119 farms. These inspections allowed the staff the opportunity to speak with the owners and provide information pertaining to conservation practices on the farm.

The Agricultural Land Preservation Board in cooperation with East Stroudsburg University's art and design students with New Mind Design began creating new Farmland Preservation signage to be displayed at the properties enrolled in the Monroe County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The sign is expected to be finalized and distributed to preserved farms in the county in 2020.



Brown Farm, Eldred Township

Municipality	Number of Farms	Acres Preserved	Funding
Polk	33	2027	\$5,602,529.95
Eldred	19	1224	\$4,190,864.96
Hamilton	16	1289	\$3,988,782.03
Chestnuthill	20	1337	\$3,938,376.60
Ross	11	830	\$2,097,740.47
Jackson	11	748	\$2,021,308.88
Stroud	6	349	\$1,032,577.08
Pocono	1	34	\$604,440.00
Tunkhannok	1	114	\$228,808.00
Tobyhanna	1	24	\$67,760.00
Total:	119	7977	\$23,773,187.97

E-911 READDRESSING

From the inception of the Readdressing Project in 2010, the hired consultant, L.R. Kimball estimated at the time the project should expect approximately 10,000 calls for address assignments or corrections. As of today, the project call log status is approaching 27,000 calls and continues to rise with approximately 1,200 entered for 2019. The majority of the incoming calls are now related to receiving a copy of the original Address Notification Mailer. However, calls are still received with concerns to structures that are in need of additional addresses for mail delivery or 9-1-1 purposes. The project is also responsible for assigning addresses for all new construction and works closely with the Monroe County Control Center in the maintenance of the MSAG (Master Street Address Guide). The original objective of the project was extremely successful in developing an addressing system and signage that reduces response time of emergency providers in dire times of emergencies.

MONROE COUNTY ADDRESSING PROJECT

New Physical Address

ADDRESS NO. 1234567
CITY/ZIP STATE 131 ADDRESS DR

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND IN BLOCK. THE ADDRESS CHANGES MUST BE MADE TO ALL MAILING LABELS, BUSINESS CARDS, AND OTHER MAILING MATERIALS. THE ADDRESS CHANGES MUST BE MADE TO ALL MAILING MATERIALS. THE ADDRESS CHANGES MUST BE MADE TO ALL MAILING MATERIALS.

Your City and Town will receive this form in 10-15 days. You will receive a copy of this form from the City and Town. The address change will be processed by the City and Town. The address change will be processed by the City and Town.

- Notify all your correspondents of your NEW ADDRESS.
 - The US Postal Service will continue to deliver mail until your old address for one (1) year.
 - No address change will take effect until you have received your new address. It is crucial that you mark a minimum of 10 days before you begin mailing anyone of your new address or returning your address signs back to the office.
- Your NEW ADDRESSING NUMBER shall be placed on all structures, mailboxes, and other appropriate locations.
 - The address sign shall be located where the driveway intersects with the main road (state route, highway, or local road).
 - The sign shall be installed on a solid stone post or pole in any other type of mounting device.
 - CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ADDRESSING BUREAU FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET YOUR SIGN AS WELL AS ANY OTHER SERVICES, USE AND PLACEMENT. DO NOT CALL 911 FOR ADDRESSING INFORMATION.
- Custom address notifications / systems.
 - Voter Registration
 - Insurance Companies
 - Bank Accounts
 - Business Correspondence
 - Mailing Labels
 - Letterhead
 - Business Cards
 - Magnetic Subscriptions
 - Personal Address List
 - State Government
 - Netherlands Department of Transportation
 - Vehicle Registration
 - Driver's License

Please send your new house number to the address change office. If you receive mail at your old address, you will continue to do so as you have been. This is because the postal service will continue to deliver mail to your old address for one year. Please send your new house number to the address change office. If you receive mail at your old address, you will continue to do so as you have been. This is because the postal service will continue to deliver mail to your old address for one year.

MONROE COUNTY ADDRESSING PROJECT
CONTACT: 717-261-1234
MONROE COUNTY ADDRESSING PROJECT
CONTACT: 717-261-1234

January 31, 2018 ARI # 633473172

Sample Readdressing Form

VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM

Monroe County and PA in general had a dry summer season. This drastically decreased mosquito habitat, mosquito breeding, and mosquito borne disease across the County and State. Pennsylvania experienced 546 West Nile Virus (WNV) positive mosquito pools, 2 Human cases, and 0 Deaths from WNV. These numbers reflect less than one tenth of the viral activity of 2018. Monroe County Vector Control collected mosquitoes from 379 traps in 46 unique locations, in which we uncovered no positive samples for WNV compared to 25 positive pools last year.

Vector continued Zika virus testing in which no Zika activity was found. Vector responded to over 30 resident mosquito complaints and 32 miscellaneous or environmentally related complaints and questions. Vector Control performed 27 control events; 3 of which were adult sprays and the rest being bacterial larval treatments. Susceptible areas were also pretreated.

Vector implemented another trial of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) traps but collected no mosquitoes that tested positive. In September the Department of Agriculture reported an EEE positive animal from a farm facility in the County. Aggressive EEE trapping around the site revealed no EEE positive mosquitoes. Additional positives were revealed in Carbon and Lycoming County along with the first human EEE positive to be recorded in New Jersey. Learning programs are being implemented throughout January and February along with maintenance of EEE trapping for the 2020 season. Our first year in the newest DEP tick collection program went well. We collected ticks from 28 unique, public locations and using a tick drag. The spring collection showed approximately 1 in 5 ticks positive for the bacterial spirochete which causes Lyme disease, along with ticks positive for other pathogens. This collection is planned to occur again in 2020.



Spotted Lantern Fly Infestation in Monroe County



Tick Drag Operations

Vector participated in Northampton Community College's Earth Day event and offered literature and tick cards to multiple groups. Educational events are scheduled in schools, with Girl Scout Troops, and in local property owners associations. Five local and regional news appearances were made for both vector related education and announcement purposes and Spotted Lanternfly overview. Vector Control is always committed to a consistent, zero human infection rate. It remains our goal to achieve that standard throughout 2020.

There's been continued progression of the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). This invasive pest entered our County in 2017 and adding Monroe to the quarantine list with neighboring counties. Vector remains ready to collaborate with control opportunities that might be received from the Conservation District, the Department of Agriculture, and the USDA.

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY STUDY 2019

The 2019 Monroe County Water Quality Study was conducted from April 15th to April 25th and included 36 sites throughout the county. Site locations were chosen based on watershed distribution and trend data collection. Three types of sampling were conducted to evaluate the streams.

Field Chemistry Sampling: The field sampling was conducted using a hand-held YSI Professional Digital Sampling System (ProDSS) Multiparameter water quality meter. Temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen concentration, dissolved oxygen as percent, and conductivity were collected at each site using this meter.



Water Quality Sampling

Macroinvertebrate Sampling: Macroinvertebrates were collected using a 12" 500 micron D-frame net that was held on the stream bottom. The collector thoroughly disturbed the stream bottom to dislodge any macroinvertebrates from the substrate. This process was repeated 6 times for Riffle/Run streams and 10 times for Multihabitat streams. The samples were delivered to Aquatic Resources Consulting to attain an Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) score for each system.

Additionally, physical habitat analysis was conducted at each site which assesses the instream habitat availability and condition that impacts the abundance and diversity of macroinvertebrates and fish.

Laboratory Chemistry Testing: The following list shows water chemistry sampling parameters that were tested by Microbac Laboratories for analysis of the stream samples.

Laboratory Testing Parameters		
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	Nitrate-Nitrate as N	Hardness
Aluminum, Total	Alkalinity to pH 4.5	Chloride
Calcium, Total	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	pH
Iron, Total	Phosphorus - Total as P	Nitrogen, Total as N (Calc)
Magnesium, Total	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	Ammonia as N

The Planning Commission's commitment to preserving the integrity of Monroe County's water resources is long standing. The Annual Water Quality Study has been conducted since 1985 and illustrates the MCPC's commitment to preserving the integrity of Monroe County's water resources. The study was conducted with the Monroe County Conservation District with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Brodhead Watershed Association, Aquatic Resource Consulting, and Microbac Laboratories.

The 2019 Water Quality Report has been finalized and is available on the County Website.



Macroinvertebrate Sampling



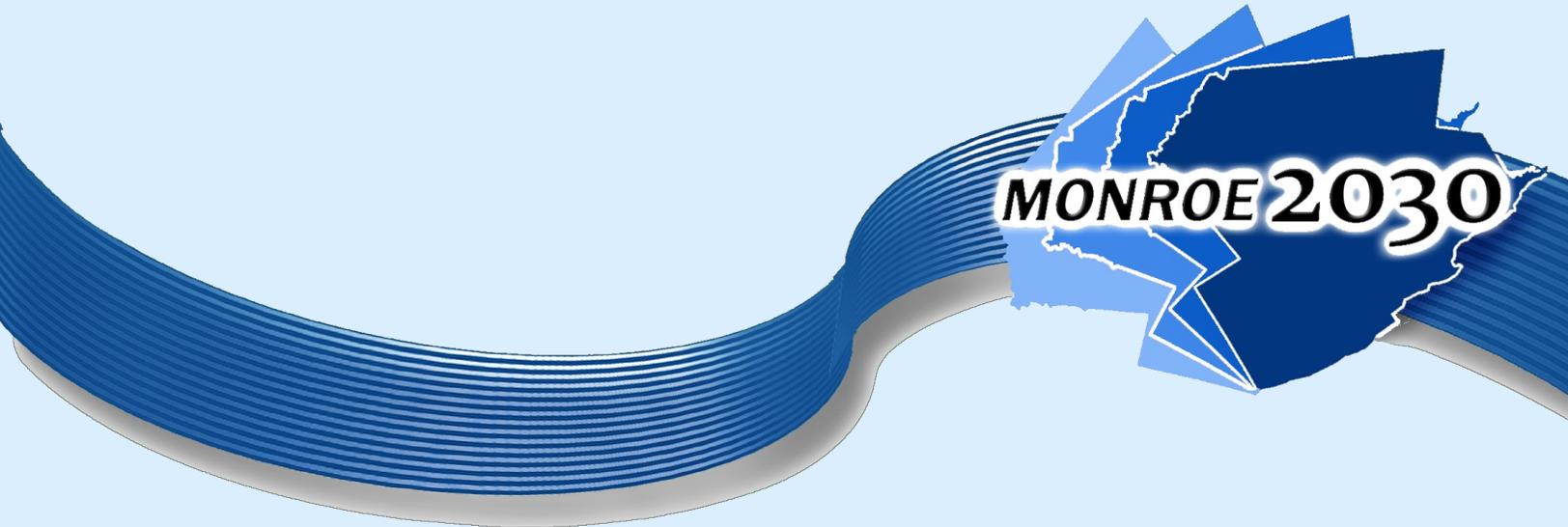
2019 Financial Support PMEDC Secured for Monroe County Projects

- Eleven new Local Share Account Projects approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority - \$2,446,359
- Four new Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant applications submitted
- Two new Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grants released for Pocono Family YMCA and Sanofi Pasteur
- One new Small Business Loan approved for DNA Property Management - \$50,000
- 34 Payment Requests submitted for LSA, PennWorks and RACP - \$ 2,661,246.00

PMEDC's 2019 Highlights

- New Prospects: 53 Active Prospects: 8 Active Projects: 42
- New companies: Bulldog Liquidators, Silverback Distillery and All Weather Insulated Panels
- Over 1.5 million square feet of industrial space under construction or completed
- Nine Local Share Account projects (\$1,549,795) and 1 PennWorks project (\$400,000) completed and audited
- Ongoing administration of 27 Local Share Account projects and 9 RACP projects
- Completed fifth issue of Pocono Mountains Region Economic Development Guide
- Construction of 505,505 SF building on Lot 110 at New Ventures Commercial Park, Blakeslee
- Completion of Kalahari Resorts Convention Center Expansion
- Pocono Mountains Economic Development Hour radio program on WSBG/WVPO
- Penn's Northeast/Times Leader Industrial Park Series & Mid Atlantic Real Estate Journal Editorial
- Special Events and Trade Shows:
 - ESU Economic Outlook Summit
 - Monroe Career Pathways Coalition Kick-Off and Internship Program Kick-Off
 - Business Consulting Services in cooperation with SBDC ongoing monthly
 - Penn's Northeast Clay Shoot
 - Bulldog Liquidators Ribbon Cutting
 - Demolition Kick-Off at Smithfield Gateway
 - KidsPeace Ribbon Cutting
 - ShopRite of Stroudsburg Grand Opening
 - Membership Luncheons and Annual Dinner
 - Penn's Northeast 400 and Annual Meeting at Pocono Raceway
 - Second Annual Penn's Northeast Real Estate Summit
 - Bringing the World to PA at New Ventures Commercial Park
 - SIOR Industrial Property Summit
 - Tobyhanna Army Depot Industry Day & Change of Command Ceremony

Visit www.pmedc.com for more information



MONROE 2030

For further information, please contact the
Monroe County Planning Commission
1 Quaker Plaza, Room 106
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Phone (570) 517-3100
Fax (570) 517-3858
mcpc@monroecountypa.gov