



Cumberland County Planning Commission

2018 Annual Report

Cumberland County Planning Commission
310 Allen Road
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-240-5362

ABOUT US

The Cumberland County Planning Commission (CCPC) is comprised of nine members who serve four year terms. Appointments to the CCPC are made by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners. Staff support for the CCPC is provided through the Cumberland County Planning Department (CCPD). The CCPC meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at 310 Allen Road, Conference Room B, Carlisle, PA.

The CCPC is charged with a variety of responsibilities as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) or as assigned by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners including:

- ✓ Municipal subdivision and land development plan review
- ✓ Municipal ordinance amendment review
- ✓ Municipal comprehensive plan review
- ✓ County Comprehensive Plan preparation and implementation
- ✓ Municipal technical assistance
- ✓ Transportation planning
- ✓ Farmland preservation

2018 CCPC Members

John Epley, Chairman
James D. Ross, Vice-Chairman
Robert Fisher, PLS, PE
Rick Trynoski
Heather Sweitzer
Chris Knarr, AICP
Jack Showley, DDS
Barbara Wilson
Ra Kligge*
Gary Eichelberger, Commissioner Liaison

2018 Planning Department Staff

Kirk Stoner, AICP, Director of Planning
Jeff Kelly, AICP, Assistant Director of Planning
Stephanie Williams, Senior Planning Manager
Steve Hoffman, Planning Specialist
Justin Miller, Recycling Coordinator
Melissa Piper Nelson, Planning Technician
Barbara Sue Hershey, Office Manager

**Passed away, May 2018*

CCPC MISSION AND VISION

Mission: The Cumberland County Planning Commission helps build strong urban, suburban, and rural communities by promoting responsible economic development, providing transportation choices, encouraging housing diversity, and conserving natural resources.

Vision: Planning with a purpose for today and tomorrow.

CCPC CORE VALUES

- **Accountability** – Every project is completed according to established performance standards and demonstrates clear value to County residents.
- **Integrity** – Our primary obligation is to serve the public interest through the transparent, honest, and ethical execution of our responsibilities.
- **Competency** – We pursue planning excellence through continuous professional development and certification maintenance opportunities that expand the capacity and improve the quality of our planning services.
- **Partnerships** – Building strong relationships with municipal governments, the public, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector; creates a collaborative environment that broadens the reach and impact of our planning initiatives.
- **Be Present** – Successful planning requires local familiarity and experience that can only be gained through our personal presence in every community throughout the County.
- **Respect Local Autonomy** –We support the local government structure in the County and commit to working cooperatively with communities to develop “grass roots” solutions tailored to meet local needs.

2018 IN REVIEW

The Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan guides all activities of the CCPC. The plan is organized around three key themes; conserve, grow and connect. Highlights of the CCPC's 2018 accomplishments in each theme area are summarized below.

CONSERVE

- ✓ **Farmland Preservation** – As staff for the County's Agriculture Land Preservation Board, the CCPD worked with farmers to permanently preserve 960 acres of prime farmland. To date over 20,010 acres of prime farmland have been preserved through the Cumberland County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, almost 12% of the prime farmland found in the county. More information on the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program can be found in the Agriculture Land Preservation Board's annual report posted at www.ccpa.net/farmland.
- ✓ **Recycling and Waste Reduction** – Cumberland County continued its successful electronics recycling and household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events in 2018. Staffed by the CCPD, the electronics recycling facility collected over 350,000 pounds of electronics. The annual HHW collection event served over 1,000 cars in just 6 hours and responsibly recycled or disposed of over 120,000 pounds of hazardous waste that would have otherwise been landfilled.
- ✓ **Land Partnerships** – The Land Partnerships Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipal and nonprofit stakeholders to complete parks, trails and greenways projects' that are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. Subsidized using Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, Land Partnerships provided \$236,300 for 14 projects in 2018. Implementation of those projects enables the county to achieve its conservation goals through partnerships with other stakeholder organizations. Notable projects implemented in 2018 include:



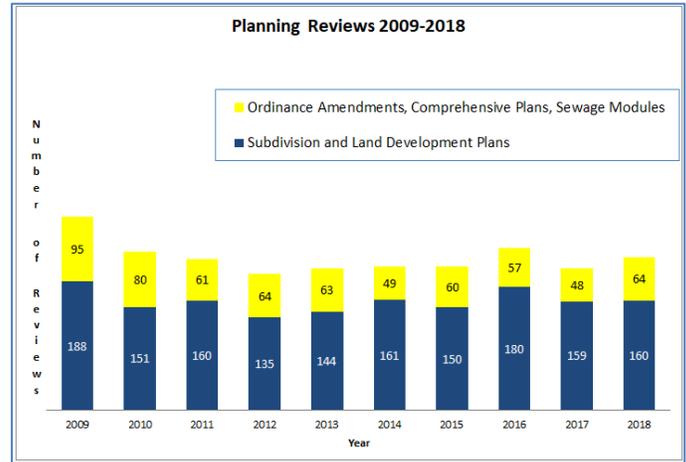
- ❖ **Improving Water Quality** – The Big Spring Creek Watershed Association used a Land Partnerships grant to install stream deflectors and plant native riparian vegetation along the Big Spring Creek, a cold water limestone fishery. These improvements will reduce silt buildup, enhance trout habitat and help secure the long term viability of this important waterway.



- ❖ **Preserving Environmentally Sensitive Areas** – Cumberland County matched its Land Partnerships funds with the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources to preserve 34 acres at the headwaters of the Letort Spring Run in South Middleton Township. The project permanently preserves the source waters of a Class A, Exceptional Value stream while providing public access to hiking and fishing.

GROW

✓ **MPC Reviews** – The Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires county planning agencies to review and comment on all municipal subdivision and land development plans, ordinance amendments and comprehensive plans. The CCPC completed over 224 MPC required reviews in 2018, a level of effort consistent with trends over the past 10 years. A summary of growth trends identified through the MPC reviews can be found in a separate document on the CCPC’s website.



✓ **Municipal Technical Assistance** – CCPD staff provides technical assistance to individual municipalities through the Local Planning Assistance Program (LPA). Municipalities commonly use CCPD staff through the LPA Program to update comprehensive plans and ordinances that they otherwise would not have the staff or resources to complete. CCPD staff assisted our municipal partners on three zoning ordinance updates and two comprehensive plans in 2018. The updated plans reflect current planning practices and are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan.

✓ **Spurring Economic Development** – In partnership with the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC), the CCPC supported implementation of a variety of economic development projects. Carlisle Borough continued progress on its Urban Redevelopment Plan using grants and loans to begin land development on the former Tire and Wheel site and initiate construction on the former Industrial Auto Components site. The CCPC supported East Pennsboro Township’s efforts to modify its zoning ordinance and secured tax incentives to induce development of a vacant 54-acre site in Summerdale.



✓ **Revitalizing Core Communities** – CCPD staff supported revitalization initiatives in South Middleton Township, East Pennsboro Township, Shippensburg Borough and New Cumberland Borough. South Middleton Township is focusing its efforts on preserving Children’s Lake and the historic character in the Village of Boiling Springs. East Pennsboro Township hopes to spur economic growth by leveraging the assets of the former West Fairview Borough area. New Cumberland Borough is analyzing commercial and residential market trends to attract new businesses to downtown while providing a variety of housing options for new residents.

CONNECT

✓ **County Bridge Program** – CCPD staff continued implementation of the County Bridge Capital Improvement Program. The County awarded the \$5 million construction contract for Orrs Bridge in Hampden Township. Preconstruction tasks were completed for Kunkle Bridge (South Middleton Township), Sample Bridge (Silver Spring Township), and Wolf Bridge (Middlesex Township) in anticipation of 2019 construction activity. The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania awarded Cumberland County its prestigious Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Award for the Craighead Bridge replacement project that was completed in late 2017.



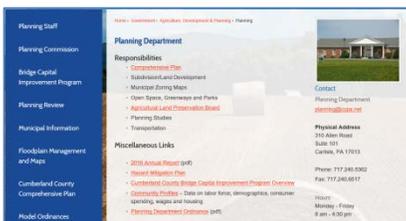
✓ **Transit Regionalization** – Cumberland County continued its support for transit agency administrative consolidation in 2018. CCPD staff provided the Board of Commissioners with technical support to evaluate the administrative and operational benefits of administrative consolidation of Capital Area Transit (CAT) with the Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (CPTA). The County merged its shared ride transportation service with CPTA in 2015 and has saved over \$600,000 in administrative costs. The County hopes to see similar financial savings and operational efficiencies with consolidation of CAT and CPTA.

✓ **Training Program** – The CCPD offered 6 training courses on emerging planning issues designed to improve the capacity and understanding of municipal staff, elected officials, citizen planners and general. Over 100 participants learned about topics including recycling, drones, subdivision/land development review, the value of conservation, and historic preservation. CCPD staff and outside experts instructed the training programs.

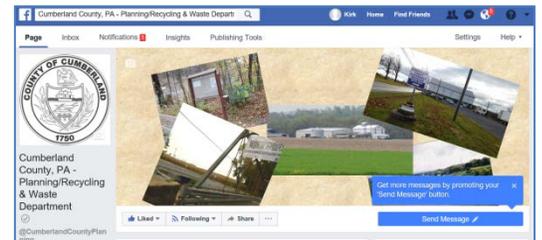


FOR MORE INFORMATION

The CCPC’s website and social media accounts provide more detailed information on the activities of the CCPC as well as a wealth of data on County and municipal growth trends. The images below have live links to the CCPC webpage and Facebook account.



CCPC Website



CCPC Facebook Page