



PENN TIMES

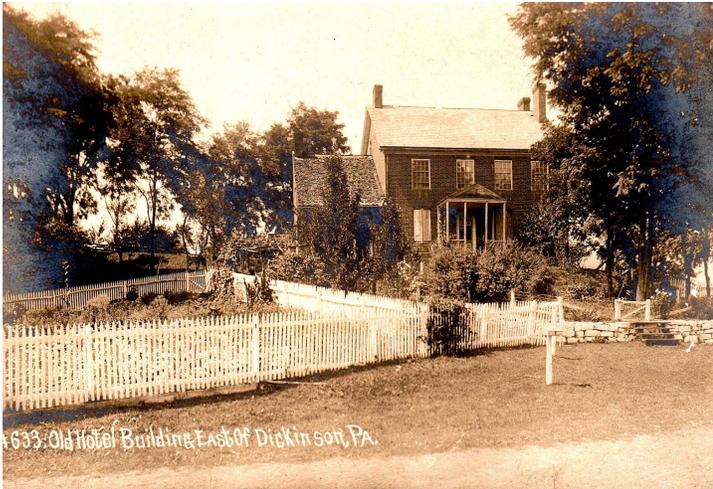
The Official Newsletter of Penn Township

VOL. 12 No. 1

www.penntwpcc.org

January 2015

“LET’S GO TO THE AUCTION”



Those were the words uttered to my wife and children that warm September morning of 2012 via a phone call and reluctance on her part to attend.

The Wednesday prior found myself looking for local auctions to attend for the coming weekend when I stumbled upon the “Old Tavern” up for auction located at 2675 Walnut Bottom Road. I called my friend MG William Davies USA ret. and asked if he would like to go along as I had arranged to meet the auctioneer on site that day. I knew both he and I would want to look at the property based on our mutual admiration of 18th century dwellings and history related to Cumberland County. As the two of us walked through the house, it was hard to imagine the grand splendor of the dwelling with the extent of damage that had been done through the years of neglect and enhancements made to make it a more comfortable dwelling for the 19th and 20th century families that had occupied the residence.

So here we were in the 21st century, staring at rooms blocked off, closets made where originally there were none, walls taken down to make rooms bigger, fireplaces re-done to reflect a Victorian era and botched attempts to make the house more heat efficient in the winter. Some of these “enhancements” included the use of a chainsaw to cut through the 1780 yellow pine wood, so a new modern door could be installed. Carpet and peeling wallpaper in all the rooms, that although were very expensive at the time, had endured many years of inside animals and leaks. So as you

can see, trying to imagine the house as it was in the 1700’s was very difficult to do. We joked, sighed and rolled our eyes at what would need to be done, but in the back of my mind, I began to put it all together. Didn’t sleep much those next couple of nights as all I could think about was the house.

Then comes that sunny and semi warm Saturday morning of the sale. Found myself at our local coffee shop as the normal routine would dictate and the subject came up about the house. We still had an hour or so until the auction, so there was an agreement made to take others around the table up to see the tavern and maybe stick around to see how much it goes for. It was at this time that I phoned my wife and my parents and stated “Let’s go to the auction”.

About ten of us ended up at the auction. My wife Angela, taking our twins Ian and Ava around to play and discover on the grounds, them not paying attention to the auction about to start or to the very small crowd gathered out of curiosity to see the old local house that had been talked about for many years, but never really seen up close. The auctioneer

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Penn Township Personnel***Zoning Hearing Board***

Holbert Myers - Chair
 Todd Vogel song - Vice-Chair
 Linwood Clippinger
 Joan Fordham—Voting Alternate
 Richard Mislitsky - Solicitor

Planning Commission

Dan Ries— Co- Chair
 Max Klein – Co-Chair
 Marcia Leeds - Secretary
 Victor Barrick
 Kathy Hughes
 Gary Cribbs

Fire Company Executive Officers

John Wardle— President 776-7266
 Tim Knepp, Sr. – Vice President
 Wayne Hockensmith – Treasurer
 Pat Sangialosi - Secretary
 Sally Miller -Assistant Secretary
 Cindia Whistler– Financial Secretary
 John Wardle Jr-Chaplain
 Cindia Whistler—Facility Contact

Fire Company Line Officers

Robert Kough, Jr. – Fire Chief
 Chris Alleman – Deputy Chief
 Doug Stum - Assistant Chief
 Ryan Finkey - Captain
 Tyler Wardle—Lieutenant
 Tim Knepp, Sr. – EMS Captain
 Joe Miller - EMS Lieutenant

Fire Company Auxiliary

Mary Wert – President
 Evie Seiders – Vice President
 Sandy Morrison – Secretary
 Joyce Wardle – Assistant Secretary
 Marcia Leeds – Treasurer
 Kay Kann – Financial Secretary

Fire/Police Members

Jim Sheaffer - Captain	Ron Tritt
Ricky Stitt - Lieutenant	Ira Wagner
Leon Kitner	John J Wardle Jr
Art Danner	Robert Alleman
Wayne Hockensmith	Grace Hernandes
Steve Cohick	Pamela Sheaffer
Richard Cook	

Fire Company Trustees

Jim Sheaffer	Sean Conaway
Denny Shoff	John J Wardle
Tim Knepp	

Emergency Management Coordinator

Robert Kough, Jr. – 226-6537 Ernie Beecher - Deputy

Codes Enforcement Officer

Tim Knepp, Sr.	Jim Sheaffer—Assistant
Paul Seiders—Assistant	

Vacancy Board

J. Michael Ickes - Chair

Loan Grant Coordinator

Buck Shuller

2015 Township Calendar

All meetings are held at the Township building , 1301 Centerville Road, Newville, PA at 7:00 pm unless otherwise stated.

January

5 Board of Supervisors Meeting
 10 PTVFC Meat Raffle
 14 Zoning Hearing Board
 19 Planning Commission Meeting
 25 PTVFC Breakfast

February

11 Zoning Hearing Board
 12 Board of Supervisors Meeting
 14 PTVFC Meat Raffle
 16 Planning Commission Meeting
 22 PTVFC Breakfast

March

7 PTVFC Soup Sale
 11 Zoning Hearing Board
 12 Board of Supervisors Meeting
 14 PTVFC Meat Raffle
 16 Planning Commission Meeting
 22 PTVFC Breakfast

NOTE: Fire Company BINGO is held every Friday night, 7:00 at the Fire Hall

**PENN TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY AUXILIARY
 SOUP SALE
 March 7, 2015**

Ham Bean and Beef Vegetable Soup by the Quart

\$5.00 per Quart (containers will be provided)

Soup Will be Available to be picked up between 12:00 PM (Noon) and 1:00 PM

ADVANCED ORDERS ARE STRONGLY SUGGESTED

ORDER BY CALLING 717-776-3089 OR 717-249-4667
 Please Order by February 28, 2015

Board of Supervisors

The complete minutes of the Supervisors' Meetings are available, once they are approved, at the Township Building or on our website, www.pennwpcc.org.

September 2014

- Approved Resolution Prinsen Subdivision Plan
- Approved Cohick Subdivision Plan
- Approved Verdekal Subdivision Plan

November 2014

- Approved reduction of rent for District Magistrate's office
- Approved change of health insurance carrier
- Approved submission of I-81 Exit redesign plan to HATS
- Adopted 2015 Budget
- Approved Resolution 2014-20 allowing Secretary to

register for PennDOT Business Partner ID

- Approved naming driveway back to Civil War Cemetery Hassinger Drive.

December 2014

- Approved advertising RFP for 2015 Township Engineer
- Adopted Ordinance 2014-05 Health Insurance Trust Agreement
- Adopted Ordinance 2014-06 Pension Trust Agreement
- Adopted Ordinance 2014-07 Unemployment Compensation Trust Agreement
- Adopted Pennsylvania Municipalities Pension Trust Act 44 Disclosure Form
- Approved purchase of tractor in 2015

ROADMASTER'S REPORT

Please watch for snowplows. Remember, the driver often times is unable to see you, so please watch for him.

PROJECT UPDATES

Cornman Drive, Kutz Road and South Side Drive were tarred and chipped in the early Fall.

Township personnel have been working on sealing cracks in many of the Township roads again this Fall.

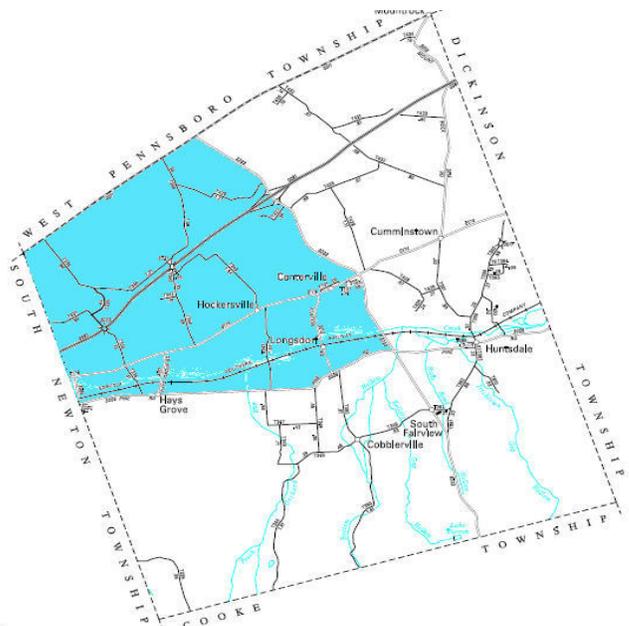
ALARM SYSTEMS

In an attempt to curb the number of false alarms the Fire Company responds to, the Penn Township Board of Supervisors has passed Ordinance 2015- 03 regulating alarm systems in the Township. The Ordinance requires the registration of alarm systems with the Township and establishes the fines for false alarms and failure to register alarm systems.

There is no fee to register a residential alarm and a \$25.00 fee to register apartments and businesses. If you have a fire and/or burglar alarm installed on David Griffie your premises please contact the Township Secretary for a copy of the Ordinance and a registration form.

DISTRICT 1 MANDATORY SEPTIC PUMPING

If you live in the shaded area below, your septic tank was to have been pumped by December 31, 2014. If you have not had it done, please make arrangements to have pumped immediately. If you take no action, the Township will be forced to take legal action.



Auction (Continued from page 1)

spotted me in the crowd and came up and asked if I was interested in the house. I stated of course I was, but only out of curiosity. He asked me what I thought the house was worth and I stated the price for which he replied "Well that's where we can start at" and hence the auction commenced and a little less than a half hour later, the price was stagnate as he tried desperately to get a price he thought was more realistic. Long story short, I had the high bid and I grasping thought that I may end up with a house that I had no intentions of buying! The auctioneer stopped the bidding as the owner indicated that the price was too low. My parents being the wonderful people they are, asked me if I wanted the house. I desperately looked around to find my wife and children, but they were off exploring the grounds. My mother took my moment of silence as a "yes" and the next thing I know, we are sitting around a table with the Mennonite family in negotiations for a final price.

In the meantime, my wife started looking for me because she and the kids were ready to go. They found all of us in the house and said the kids were restless and she was ready to leave for which I exclaimed back "Honey, we just bought the house". The look from her is one that I will see continually for the next year and a half as we line up contractors and change course many, many times.

During our family gathering for Christmas, that year of 2012, my Grandmother who was 98 at the time was sitting at the table and as always, I was trying to get as much out of her as possible regarding family history. My Grandmother started to talk about her Great Grandmothers and one in particular named Rebecca and she couldn't recall her last name. Being all about family history, I pull up 'Ancestry.com' on my phone and it turns out her maiden name was "Weakley". What a coincidence since it was Samuel Weakley who in 1786, adds onto an existing structure to create the "grand tavern on the hill" or what became known as the "Weakley" tavern. Through a little research we were able to determine that Rebecca's father (my 6th great grandfather) and Samuel were brothers, making him my 6th Great Uncle. Their father James, who was the original builder and owner of the Barnitz mill, was/is my 7th Great Grandfather and came to the new country around 1734 and at one time owned lands 7 miles long and three miles wide. Having a family connection to the house, now put things in a different perspective as we strived to make the house as original as we could, taking into mind that we had two small children and would need some modern amenities to make it comfortable for them.

Spring forward a little more than two years, and we have put the house back "almost" to original. We were able to track down, purchase back, and re-install the original doors in the upstairs that would fold together at night to shut down the

grand ballroom and make it into three rooms for sleeping. We found a long ago plastered over fireplace that brought the total to 8 in the house. We took down the added brick to uncover the original walk-in fireplace and restore it to its grand splendor. We hired Sam McKinney (Of the local Dill's tavern restorer) to rebuild an exact replica of the long torn down Squirrel Tail Oven. We were very lucky to have hired Kevin Hallowell as the person to restore the property. He is a second generation restoration contractor and his father had accumulated enough local period wood to replace all that was rotten, missing or soiled. We hired master craftsman Rick Reighard to mimic and remake moldings, doors and cupboards original to the house and to also create a unique kitchen designed around furniture that would have been crafted in the area during the 18th century and to make them "fit" together on the walls and floors (As the kitchen evolved, they early settlers of the area would take furniture and hang it on the walls).

And through all of this, we've been able to prove two structures stood on the property in 1766. One is what we now call the Summer House (which was restored this past year) and the original house on the hill, which is now our dining room. Based on extensive research (A large percentage done by Bill Davies), we now know these houses date prior to 1766 and so we continue our quest to put an exact date on the structures. And we couldn't have done it without our unbelievable support from our families, friends and new friends we have created along the way. Almost weekly, there is some new small detail of history presented to us via local residents or research and with it comes another corner to turn in our restoration. But for now, we are very happy to be living in Penn Township with our small family, pre 1766 houses and spring house, our 1786 added on Tavern, our 1839 barn built by Benjamin Kurtz, two hand dug wells, three springs and our ever expanding collection of animals. So if you're driving by, wave or better yet, stop by for a spell. For what we've done wasn't just for us, it's for everyone to glimpse, or hear about a piece of history not lost to time or elements. History like where it is written that George Washington ate his noon time meal on his way to quell the Whiskey Rebellion, or how Gen Ewell's 8 thousand troops camped on the grounds as they "invaded" Carlisle on their way to capture Harrisburg.

Respectfully : Randy, Angie, Ian and Ava Heishman

*The Heishman's journey was captured in every step of the way and can be viewed at the Facebook page; "The Historic Weakley Tavern".

THE PENNSYLVANIA SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Pennsylvania's Local Government System consists of 2,600+ General Purpose local governments consisting of the following political subdivisions:

Townships of the Second Class	1,455
Boroughs	962
Townships of the First Class	92
Counties	67
Cities	56
Town (Bloomsburg)	1

Penn Township, Cumberland County, is classified as a Second Class Township (less than 300 people per square mile). There are 17 Penn Townships in Pennsylvania.

Townships of the Second Class are the oldest form of government in the U.S. and are governed by a Board of 3 or 5 Supervisors serving overlapping 6 year terms. The Supervisors are the final decision makers for legislative and administrative issues in all Township matters.

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) set policy; adopt appropriate plans & regulations; approval for all ordinances and amendments, re-zoning requests, conditional use applications, and sub-division and land development plans.

The BOS are responsible for recruiting and appointing key people for the following positions:

Zoning Officer
Planning Commission
Zoning Hearing Board
Park & Recreation Committee

The **Zoning Officer's** duties include the issuance of zoning permits and enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance and are appointed yearly.

The **Planning Commission** consists of 7 members serving 4 year staggered terms. The planning Daniel Rhoads commission makes recommendations to the BOS on all planning matters, including but not limited to the following:

- **Comprehensive Plan** – The Comprehensive Plan is the “Roadmap for the Future” detailing the objectives of the municipality concerning its future develop-

ment; a plan for land use; a plan to meet the housing needs of present and future residents; a plan for community facilities and utilities; and fire protection.

- **Zoning Ordinance** – The Zoning Ordinance regulates land use, location of structures, and intensity.
- **Sub-Division and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)** – The SALDO establishes standards for land development
- **Official Map** – The official Map reserves land for future public purposes

The **Zoning Hearing Board** consists of 3 members, and 2 voting alternates serving staggered 3 year terms. The Zoning Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial body that rules on requests for variances, special exceptions, and curative amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

The **Park & Recreation Committee** recommends improvements to the public parks and manages organizations utilizing the facilities.

The members of the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, and Park and Recreation Committee must be residents of Penn Township. They are a vital part of the development of the policies that govern our municipality today, and planning for the future of our community.

We currently have 1 vacancy on the Planning Commission, 1 open Voting Alternate on the Zoning Hearing board, and several openings on the Park & Recreation Committee. If you are a community-oriented individual interested in helping to guide Penn Township through the challenges that lie ahead, please complete and submit a position application, on the reverse of this page, or call the Township office during normal working hours (M-F





**PENN TOWNSHIP
CUMBERLAND COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**1301 Centerville Road
Newville, PA 17241**

Email: penntwp@kuhncom.net

Tel: 717-486-3104

Fax: 717-486-3522

Website: www.penntwpcc.org

POSITION APPLICATION

Date of Application: _____

Position: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Do you have a valid drivers license? Yes / No (circle one)

List your skills, qualifications and interests that relate to this position, or attach personal resume, if applicable:

Email Address Collection -

The township is collecting email addresses to be able to efficiently deliver the newsletter and emergency information to our residents.

If you are interested in receiving information by email, please sign-up at

www.penntwpcc.org

- Community Information
 - Newsletter
- (sign up or cancellation of subscription)

Like us on Facebook for emergency alerts and information on road closures.



Newsletter Advertising

The PENN TIMES is published quarterly (January, April, July, and October), and offers area businesses the opportunity to advertise their businesses to all of the residents of the township. Advertisements may be changed to fit the seasons. Seasonal businesses may choose to advertise in the issue that is closest to their peak season.

The following are the prices for advertising in the 2014 PENN TIMES:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Cost/Issue</u>	<u>Cost/Year</u>
1/8 Page (Business Card)	\$50	\$175
1/4 Page	\$100	\$350
1/2 Page	\$200	\$700
Full Page	\$400	\$1400

Contact the township office at 486-3104 to reserve your space and for newsletter deadline.

PENN TOWNSHIP SERVICES

- * Photo copies \$.25 each
- * Faxing \$1.00 first page— \$. 50 each additional page
- * Laminating \$1.00 per item
- * Notary work \$2.00 a seal (No DMV forms or titles)

The township will accept residential waste oil from vehicles

All services offered during normal business hours

Find Your Name

The names of two Township residents, selected randomly from township records, are “hidden” out of context somewhere in this newsletter. Find your name and we will treat you to a \$20 gift certificate to Saylor’s Market in Newville. If you find your name, claim the reward by stopping by Saylor’s Market before February 1. Our thanks to Curt Saylor for his donation to the newsletter.

CAN YOUR HOME BE EASILY IDENTIFIED BY EMERGENCY VEHICLES??

There is a Township Ordinance that requires all homes to have the street number three inches high so that emergency vehicles can easily find your home. These street numbers are available for only \$10 from Bob Kough, 385-2179. This is not-for-profit, and Bob does this as a favor to the fire department.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Penn Township Board of Supervisors is looking for residents to serve on either the Planning Commission or as a Zoning Hearing Board Alternate. Planning Commission meets on the third Monday of the month and Zoning Hearing Board on the second Wednesday of the month when needed

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact the Township Secretary at 486-3104 or speak with a supervisors.

Penn Township
1301 Centerville Road
Newville, PA 17241

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #583

If you know of a Township resident who did not receive this newsletter, extra copies are available at the Township office.

Penn Township

Address:

1301 Centerville Road
Newville, PA 17241
Phone: (717) 486-3104
Fax: (717) 486-3522

Office Hours:

January 2—March 21, 2015
Monday—Friday
7:00 AM — 2:00 PM

March 22—October 17, 2015
Monday—Thursday
7:00 AM — 4:00 PM

Township Staff

Board of Supervisors

Gary Martin, Chairman
Ken Sheaffer, Vice-Chairman
Amos Seiders, Supervisor

Township Engineer

Brehm-Lebo Engineering, Inc.

Sewage Enforcement Officer

Vincent Elbel

Township Secretary

Vicki Knepp

Township Tax Collector

Mable Stitt

Zoning Officer

Tim Knepp, Sr.
Paul Seiders, Assistant
Jim Sheaffer, Assistant

Township Treasurer

Martha Sheaffer

Road Master

Jeff Gillaugh

Township Auditors

Charles Leeds, Chairman
James Proctor, Secretary
Ron Tritt

Township Solicitor

Marcus McKnight, III

Employee

Ernie Beecher