

Welcome to the October edition of our monthly report chronicling Washington Township's pursuit of Plan Conformance with the Highlands Regional Master Plan. It has been quite a busy month and much headway has been made. Complicating things is super-storm Sandy and the delays it's caused, with one being the publications of the October report.

For your information if any homes were affected by the storm please check the Washington Township's homepage and follow the link to apply for disaster assistance via FEMA along with additional information including storm debris clean-up.

October's been a month where we focused primarily on completion of the township's **Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)**. The ERI is as a baseline inventory of all resources in Washington Township and takes precedent over other Plan Conformance tasks. Introduced in our most recent report was Project Planner Angela Clerico, of Natural Systems Utilities. Angela met with the Environmental Commission (EC) in early October to discuss discrepancies & receive feedback and the results of this meeting are available on the Washington Township homepage under the **Highlands Plan Conformance tab** (located in the left-hand menu of Washington Township's municipal website) in PDF format. The meeting was very informative and we would like to thank the Environmental Commission members for their detailed input and observations. The next step is to appear before the Land-Use board in November with the updated ERI presentation. The Land-Use board is encouraged to provide feedback just as the Environmental Commission did. All comments regarding the draft ERI will then be collected and sent to the Highlands to finalize any discrepancies.

Another important task involved in Highlands Plan Conformance is the **Conceptual Centers Designation Planning**. Washington Township previously outlined three areas with the potential for infill development and redevelopment; both are consistent with available water supply and wastewater treatment capacities and are designed in accordance with center-based, smart growth development standards. The areas include portions of Port Colden, the Brass Castle commercial center, and the Hawk Pointe / Rt. 31 South corridor. A map will be made available on the Plan Conformance Web page that highlights the three prospective centers. All three areas are viable conceptual centers for Washington Township and are being looked at and the scope of work is being drafted by Angela Clerico. We want to establish a feasible course of action for identifying conceptual centers. The identifying map is not definite in its Center boundaries and as a result it is supported by an excel spreadsheet of all landowners in these areas where the landowner information was verified by the township tax maps. Public opinion is most important to the process and as we continue on with **Conceptual Centers Designation Planning**, workshops and public dialogue will continue to shape the outcome.

Thank you for reading the update! It's our hope that November will be a positive month where great strides will be made in Washington Township's quest for Highlands Plan Conformance.

If there are any questions or concerns feel free to contact us.

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