

THE POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Taking a hard look at the COG

Back Mountain municipalities deciding whether or not to back Master Plan

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Post Correspondent

For almost three years, the Back Mountain Council of Governments – which consists of Dallas Borough, and Dallas, Kingston and Lehman townships – has been working to develop a Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Master Plan with a goal of improving the quality of life in the Back Mountain.

The BMCOG hired planning consultants Kise, Straw and Kolodner, Cahill Associates, and Edwards and Kelcey at a price tag of \$200,000 funded by multiple grants, to draw up the plan which outlines recommendations for each of the four municipalities. The plan provides a demographic overview of the area and addresses the many issues of each municipality.

"The round-about is one of the alternative plans that have been suggested to us, in terms of retaining our downtown," Dallas Borough manager Joe Moskowitz said, referring to a proposed traffic pattern near the intersection of Route 415, and Lake, Church and Main streets. It also makes

recommendations for major traffic issues in the other municipalities.

Another element of the plan is designed to protect sensitive environmental areas and to balance development. Moskowitz said the comprehensive plan has the least impact on the borough, noting its size of 2 square miles.

"We don't have lots of land to develop. We're a borough," he said. "We're a small village and we want to maintain that quality of life. That's what's in this plan for us."

At their May 2 meeting, the Dallas Township board of supervisors rejected the plan. Their decision was based on a unanimous recommendation of the planning and zoning boards that advised the township to develop its own independent comprehensive plan. The boards cited the plan as being unduly intrusive on the role of the township in the development of its land resources.

"I don't believe they read it," Moskowitz said, referring to Dallas Township's rejection of the plan. "If they do their own plan, they're going to come up with the same conclusions. If there were parts that they didn't like, we could have looked into revising it. It is mind-boggling that the township is so opposed."

The Dallas Township's board

"We have to be responsible to maintain this beautiful environment for future generations."

Joe Moskowitz
Dallas Borough manager

of supervisors had planned to use \$25,000 in leftover funds from a creek project to develop their own plan. The federal funds came from a Community Development Block Grant, administered by Luzerne County. Andy Reilly, director of the Office of Community Development, said the township's request to use the funds for the plan was denied by the county commissioners.

"The commissioners are strong proponents of the COG and their efforts to create a master plan," he said, pointing out that the plan is a draft that can be changed. He also said he believes the township rejected the plan without fully reviewing it and added that he recently received "unofficial" communication that the board of supervisors plan to use township money to finance their own plan.

"We would like the township to sit back down with the other communities and work the issues out," Reilly said. With the help of

the Municipal Cooperation Commission – created by the commissioners – he said the county and the township could get together and work out an agreement with the municipalities.

Dallas Township vice chairman Frank Wagner said he doesn't agree with the board of supervisor's rejection.

"I'm for the plan," he said. "I'm kinda mad about it. I can't see spending taxpayer's money doing another comprehensive plan. If they don't like a couple of things in there, they can omit them. I think they should take a look at it."

At their May 15 meeting, the Lehman Township board of supervisors said they were disappointed Dallas Township rejected the plan. Ray Iwanoski said Lehman Township would most likely adopt the plan, but was not ready to make a decision. Chairman Dave Sutton said there isn't

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Dallas High School Honors Society president Liz Hines addresses her classmates at the annual honors banquet.

Academic success rewarded Dallas H.S. honors excellent students

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. – Jack Wolensky has been involved in many special events during his nearly three-decade career in the Dallas School District.

But the guidance counselor says there's nothing quite like the high school's annual Honors Banquet.

More than 400 students, family members and faculty attended the event earlier this week at Irem Temple Country Club. The banquet has been held each year since 1984. The event is organized by the school's guidance department, in conjunction with the main office.

"I really think it's the nicest night we have here," said Wolensky, who has worked in the district for 27 years, including the last eight in the high school guidance office. He's also the school's athletic director. "It makes you realize how many great kids we have at Dallas. We have lots of students who do so many things in our community.

This is a great way for us to honor the best in our school."

The banquet was started as a way for outstanding students to receive recognition, says Wolensky.

"For a long time, the school focused on banquets that didn't focus on academics," he said. "This is a nice way to do something for the top academic students in the school. We also honor many of our students who do great things for others as part of community service."

First-year high school principal Deborah Morgantini made her debut appearance at the banquet. And she was very impressed.

"I think it's a very nice thing to do," she said. "The students deserve every honor that is bestowed upon them. I'm very proud of the students. It really is an all-around good experience."

During the banquet, which lasted more than three hours, several scholarships were awarded – including three named in honor of former Dallas

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Mothers and daughters get together at church



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Colleen Reynolds and her daughter Mikayla enjoyed a cup of tea at the Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church.



Bryce Van Deuschhad tries her first taste of tea.

Enjoying a cup of tea

It certainly was a night out for the ladies.

An overflow crowd of approximately 100 mothers, daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters attended the annual Mother-Daughter Tea at the Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church on Mountain View Road.

Six people sat at each table, with one person serving as the hostess. One person was also responsible for decorating the table. There were different themes, including antiques.

Back Mountain resident Lois Hughes attended the event for the first time. The president of the Dream Houses in Miniature Club of Harveys Lake brought a miniature tea set to be used as a centerpiece.

"It was very nice event," said Hughes. "I had a lovely time."



Students and guests enjoy an outdoor buffet dinner as part of the banquet.

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