

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

This past year saw the completion of the City's newly revised Master Plan. The work was done in concert by the Master Plan subcommittee and guided by Jeffrey H Taylor & Associates finished in March 2010. The Planning Board has already begun reviewing individual chapters to keep the information current. A considerable amount of time was spent by many individuals to shape a relevant economic development chapter and a new vision for the community. This document will help guide not only development in the community but assist in obtaining grants, shaping the City's zoning, and other planning documents. The hard work of the Planning Board and community members on this plan is to be commended as many evenings were spent formulating this plan and the hard work of everyone involved is evident throughout the document.

Berlin Industrial Development and Park Authority (BIDPA) continues to be very active especially in downtown development. After acquiring the former Rite-Aid building through a donation from the property owner last year, the board is on its way to adding a pocket park south of the building for the community and will be doing exterior work to the building to enhance its appearance this fall. The members of the board have been extremely involved in all aspects of the redevelopment and play a role in several different economic initiatives. They are taking time to review the possibilities for their next downtown endeavor.

Several big projects dominated the local planning and zoning landscape one of which was an energy facility project that went through a State siting process instead of the local site plan review process. The Planning Board took the time to follow the project, invite the developer to board meetings, and attend local public hearings. This all led to the Planning Board working to lend input to the conditions that may be placed on the

project. These large projects while challenging have given the Planning Board great insight into a complex review process which does not normally occur in this region of the State.

Both the Zoning & Planning Boards had an active year with several applications and cases that appeared before each board. Any citizen wishing to participate can come forward to volunteer for one of the many boards in the community. The Planning Department is home to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and the Berlin Industrial Development and Park Authority. All three boards encourage citizen involvement and welcome the community to participate or observe during their meetings. Visit the City's website regularly for information about our meetings, view the Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance or other Planning & Zoning documents.

Respectfully submitted,  
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City Planner

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