

DENNIS HAMEISTER

<http://www.drhameister.com>

VISION STATEMENT

Harris Township residents overwhelmingly indicate a desire for a high quality of life. Residents prefer a small-town atmosphere with ties to our historic past. Residents are generally satisfied with our current police services and fire protection, low crime rate, charming scenery, clean air, proximity to farmland and open space, and controlled development.

Public transportation, well-maintained local roads and efficient municipal services are important. Responsible and effective spending of tax dollars to maintain these services is equally important to Township residents. Harris Township's strengths will continue to be a mix of old and new, continuing strong community spirit, and neighborhoods that are connected.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Does Harris Township desire a resident base with a diverse income or do we wish to concentrate on large-lot developments? Most Harris Township residents have stated that they do not oppose affordable workforce housing in our Township. A challenge facing Supervisors is integrating workforce housing into neighborhoods. As we have done in the past, I believe that Harris Township should appeal to families with varied income levels and respond by providing some housing options suitable for lower and middle-income families.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Safe, efficient, and affordable transportation systems are important to Harris Township residents. Whether this includes sidewalks or bike paths that connect neighborhoods and parks, or whether it includes complex and costly highway systems, all residents depend - to a degree - on transportation. Current issues include factors such as interconnectivity, location and frequency of use of public transportation such as CATA, replacement of unsafe bridges, as well as major safety improvements to U.S. Route 322 in Harris Township and Potter Township.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN HARRIS TOWNSHIP

Implementing wise growth strategies in Harris Township will ensure that we retain our small-town atmosphere and provide essential services at a reasonable cost. Controlling growth requires that development occur within the public sewer service area and that building lots remain a reasonable size. Increased building lot size contributes to urban sprawl, which translates into increased vehicle traffic on state and local roads. Within the rural area, Harris Township allows for Rural Cluster Zoning, which permits controlled development of farmland.

Harris Township should continue the infill development pattern within the Regional Growth Boundary. Additionally, the Township should encourage use of Planned Residential Developments to promote open space preservation with a mix of housing types, on smaller lot sizes. Demonstrating that growth is proceeding in our Township, from 2012 to the end of 2014, Harris Township issued 183 zoning permits for over \$37,000,000.

SPRING CREEK WATERSHED and OPEN SPACE

Spring Creek is an asset that provides a great natural feature. A Riparian Buffer Ordinance and a Ridge Overlay Ordinance are in place to protect water quality and natural features. Harris Township was the first municipality in the Spring Creek Watershed to adopt the Centre County Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance. I serve as chairman of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission.