



Upper Delaware Council

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Damascus Township Joins UDC

DAMASCUS – The Damascus Township Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on July 21 to join the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC), becoming the non-profit organization's first Wayne County, PA municipal member.

“We are delighted that Damascus Township has exercised its option to join the UDC,” said 2008 Chairperson Alan Bowers, who represents Westfall Township, PA.

“Unity among the river valley municipalities is important as we continue advocating for the conservation of our resources and the protection of the quality of life that we enjoy here. I thank the Board of Supervisors and the citizens of Damascus for their decision to work with us,” he added.

Damascus Supervisors Jeff Dexter, Charles Grady and Jason Roberts had attended UDC meetings as observers, and recently invited UDC officials to attend their July 21 monthly meeting to discuss membership issues. UDC Executive Director Bill Douglass and Shohola Township, PA Representative George J. Fluhr offered a presentation and answered questions posed by the supervisors and the audience.

Township Board Chairman Dexter noted that the supervisors “did our homework” before taking the action to join the UDC.

A survey taken over the winter of 2007 to provide research into the development of the East Central Wayne County Comprehensive Plan revealed that 67% of Damascus Township residents and 75% of non-resident respondents favored joining the UDC.

“People had been asking us, ‘When are you going to do it?’ We attended meetings, asked questions, and came away impressed with the types of discussions and the amount of information that was available. You have

Working together to conserve the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

*Town of Hancock • Town of Fremont • Town of Delaware • Town of Cohecton • Town of Tusten • Town of Highland • Town of Lumberland
Town of Deerpark • Lackawaxen Township • Shohola Township • Westfall Township • State of New York • Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Delaware River Basin Commission • In partnership with the National Park Service*

everyone there together at the table. We feel it's important to keep ourselves educated, present our views, and have our say in what goes on in the river valley," Dexter said.

The *Final River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River* (November 1986) recommended the establishment of an Upper Delaware Council as the oversight body responsible for the plan's coordinated implementation among local, state, and federal stakeholders in the river valley.

Full membership would consist of the 15 towns and townships that border on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, along with the State of New York, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Delaware River Basin Commission, the National Park Service, and the former Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council.

During the Council's first year of incorporation in 1988, local membership included five NY towns located in the counties of Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange Counties (Hancock, Delaware, Cohecton, Lumberland, and Deerpark) and three PA townships in Pike County (Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall). In 1990, three additional Sullivan County, NY towns joined (Highland, Fremont, and Tusten).

Following Damascus' decision to become the UDC's 12th local member, the Townships of Berlin, Manchester, and Buckingham remain eligible to join.

Each municipal member appoints a representative, backed up by an alternate, to attend the Council's monthly full meeting and any committee meetings to which they wish to belong. Members receive a monthly stipend and travel reimbursement for the attendee.

Membership entitles municipalities to participate in the UDC's annual Technical Assistance Grants program, which has awarded \$609,692 in cumulative funds since 1988.

As the UDC celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2008, the organization continues its primary mission to conserve the river through the cooperative efforts of local individuals, governments, and state and federal agencies, using existing authorities.

For more information on the UDC, visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org, call (845) 252-3022, or stop by the office at 211 Bridge St. in Narrowsburg, NY.

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