FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Trish Carothers, Executive Director
570-522-7259
tcarothers@susquehannagreenway.org

Susquehanna Greenway PARTNERSHIP
201 Furnace Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-522-7211
www.susquehannagreenway.org

Public Invited to Jersey Shore Visioning Workshop

The newly formed River Town Revitalization in Jersey Shore is inviting the general public to a workshop at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 25 at the Wheeland Community Center, 1212 Locust Street. Residents and business owners in the borough and surrounding townships interested in sustainable community development are asked to come and participate in the workshop.

"Green infrastructure" creates opportunities for community beautification and economic growth while addressing local needs such as flood hazard mitigation, stormwater management, and water quality protection. Jersey Shore has already taken several steps toward a green infrastructure-based future. The extension of the 65-mile Pine Creek Rail Trail to downtown Jersey Shore has just opened. The Borough is working with SEDA-COG's Community Development staff on a major upgrade of the Thompson Street Recreation Complex.
Designs for a new Public River Access Site near the PA Route 44 Bridge have been prepared and only $34,000 in additional funding is needed to fully complete this project.

In recognition of these efforts, the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) has designated Jersey Shore as a Susquehanna Greenway River Town. SGP has provided technical assistance for community project development. As a result, several other projects have been proposed including downtown revitalization and the beautification of Allegheny Street, involving the reuse of vacant properties where flood-damaged structures have been demolished. Rebuilding in the flood zone is strictly limited, however measures can be undertaken to increase water infiltration on these sites and mitigate stormwater impacts. Trees, shrubs, plantings, bike racks and benches offers the potential of making the Borough and its downtown business district more appealing and economically viable.

SGP assisted the community in establishing a River Town Revitalization Team, which is hosting the workshop on October 25. "Equally important as the Revitalization Team's involvement," said Trish Carothers, executive director of SGP, "is the general public's participation. Consensus is needed for any type of successful, appropriate community growth to occur."

Three similar sessions will follow this month's workshop. Participants will identify "green infrastructure" needs within the community as well as potential projects. The prioritization process will include development of a scope of work and budget for each one. The intent is identify priority projects, plan and implement them.

According to Carothers, "Jersey Shore is drawing attention across Pennsylvania. For example, it was recently the subject of a feature article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. There's great promise here and the West Branch Susquehanna will play a big part as the community shapes its future and reaches its potential."

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