

## **Ligonier Borough receives award for revised zoning ordinance**

*By Jennifer Sopko, For The Latrobe Bulletin  
June 11, 2010*

Ligonier Planning Commission member Patti Campbell, who along with former planning commission chair Scott Lieb and councilman Tom Freeman recently accepted Ligonier Borough's 2010 Smart Growth award for its comprehensive zoning ordinance update, Thursday night presented the award to Ligonier Borough Council.

Ligonier Borough was honored as a 2010 recipient of the award and "quintessential Smart Growth community" for its comprehensive zoning ordinance update. The award will be placed on display in Town Hall.

Campbell explained the significance of the award to council members, noting that the project's combination of the borough's planning objectives, maintenance of Ligonier historical character and promotion of smart growth principles earned the honor.

Campbell, Lieb and Freeman accepted the award on behalf of Ligonier Borough at the annual Smart Growth dinner on May 27.

"I think we have a really good project that we took on," said Campbell. "It was difficult at times, but I think we really did a good job... We do thank you for entrusting it to us."

This honor comes after more than two years of work on revising the ordinance by the planning commission and its consultant, Environmental Design and Planning (EDP). Council expects to approve the revised ordinance at its July 8 meeting.

Since 2003, the Allegheny/Smart Growth Partnership award has been presented to communities that have best exemplified Smart Growth characteristics and principles in their development projects. The Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County is a nonprofit planning resource organized to help communities throughout the county focus on development that serves the economy, community and environment.

Jim McDonnell reported that the planning commission has accepted the minor changes and remarks discussed at the May 17 public hearing. One new addition to the ordinance is the zoning permit application timeline, which stipulates that applicants would have one year to initiate their project and one year to complete the project. The planning commission is awaiting new language from Atty. Richard Flickinger that will be submitted to EDP.

New business discussed on Thursday night included council's approval of a right of way across St. Clair St. for Ligonier Township's sewer project and removal of a Do Not Enter sign at East Bank Alley and North St. Clair Street. Council also set a public hearing for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 8, to discuss a conditional use application for a beauty salon, gift shop and residence at 322 W. Main St.