



BOROUGH OF
LEWISBURG
PENNSYLVANIA

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

“Agnes Day” Proclamation

Background and Purpose

A mayoral proclamation from the mayor of Lewisburg Borough, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Tropical Storm Agnes (1972), announcing the creation of “Agnes Day” on June 24 every year. “Agnes Day” recognizes and nurtures key values in Lewisburg: public safety, community service, volunteerism, neighborliness, civic engagement, respect for nature, preparedness, forward-thinking, and the need for flood resilience.

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Agnes remains Lewisburg’s worst flood, with the river cresting at 34.2 feet and floodwaters inundating large swaths of the Borough, devastating homes and small businesses, and taking the lives of three residents;

WHEREAS, the response to Tropical Storm Agnes spanned multiple generations and is still ongoing, from initial rescue and relief efforts, to the rehabilitation of lives and livelihoods after the floodwaters receded, to the redevelopment and restoration of floodplain areas to reduce the risk of flood damage going forward;

WHEREAS, the ‘doers’ of the Agnes generation cannot live forever, and the wisdom and experience they gained the hard way ought to be shared with the next generation of municipal leaders, emergency management personnel, first responders, and residents;

WHEREAS, the fact of living with creeks and a river in our Borough means that the question of flooding is not if it will happen, but when it will happen next;

WHEREAS, our Commonwealth’s leading scientists have observed a significant increase in the number of intense rain events over the last 50 years, and

anticipate in the next fifty that Tropical Storms will become stronger, more frequent, and more likely to make landfall;

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article 1, Section 27 states that “Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;” and

Now, therefore, be it here stated:

That it is imperative for the Borough of Lewisburg and all businesses and individuals within it to act to address the threat that flooding poses to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

That municipal policy in Lewisburg aimed at building flood resilience will be pursued in a transparent, fair, and economically responsible manner; and

That each Lewisburg resident can play a part in this by learning about local flood risks, understanding current emergency management plans, engaging with comprehensive planning efforts, and, when disaster strikes, following emergency response guidelines and helping neighbors in need; and

That such actions promote safety and resilience in Lewisburg, while encouraging sustainable economic growth that balances smart development with protection of the floodplain; and

That, to recognize and nurture these actions and values, from this day forward, June 24 shall be known as “Agnes Day” in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Kendy Alvarez, Mayor
June 21, 2022