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Catasauqua "Distinctly" Committed to Good Planning

Anyone who has ventured into the heart of Catasauqua Borough's business district knows that it looks very different than it did just a year ago.

That kind of change didn't come without vision and a commitment to solid planning principals, not to mention an \$11 million investment.

Catasauqua was named the 2017 "Community of Distinction" Tuesday during the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's 4th Annual Planning + Development Gala at DeSales University Center.

Portland Borough, Heidelberg Township and Bethlehem Township were also nominated for the award, but Catasauqua won on the strength of its Waterfront Redevelopment Project.

"To be nominated in this category, a municipality has to be doing a lot of things right. This particular borough is doing just about everything right," said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. "Catasauqua has long fostered a strong foundation in community planning, but it carried its commitment to another level through its Waterfront Redevelopment Project."

The centerpiece of the project is the \$11 million borough building and fire station that opened in August, but the masterplan also included improvements to the busy intersection at Front and Bridge streets, business district streetscape enhancements and transportation improvements that included the conversion of Front Street to two-way traffic.

The awards were announced during an event attended by nearly 250 municipal, business and community leaders who gathered to help celebrate excellence in planning and National Community Planning Month.

Other categories and winners were:

- **Plan, Planning Policy or Ordinance** – Easton, AKRF, Inc. and Metropolitan Urban Design (MUD) Workshop for Easton's Comprehensive Plan 2035.

- **Land Development** – Easton, Lafayette College, KSS Architects, Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Spillman Farmer Architects and Allied Building Corp. for the Lafayette College Williams Arts Campus.
- **Revitalization** – Bethlehem, Bethlehem Redevelopment Authority, Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Valley Community Land Trust, Community Action Development Corp., HDC-MidAtlantic and Wells Fargo for the Hayes Street Corridor Improvements.
- **Open Space** – Upper Milford Township for its Open Space Initiative.
- **Outdoor Recreation** – Allentown, JMT, Jordan Heights Neighborhood Association, Old Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association, Semmel Excavating, Inc., U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the Stevens Park Master Plan and Park Design.
- **Transportation Infrastructure** – Allentown, Michael Baker International, IEW Construction Group, PennDOT and U.S. Department of Transportation for the Design and Rehabilitation of the Albertus L. Meyers Bridge.
- **Transportation Planning** – Northampton County, Northampton County General Purpose Authority, Norris McLaughlan & Marcus, Alfred Benesch & Company, Kriger Construction and Greenman-Pedersen Inc. for Northampton County's Public/Private Bridge Partnership.
- **Multi-municipal Cooperation** – Plainfield Township, Wind Gap Borough and Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the Shared Road Maintenance Intermunicipal Agreement between Plainfield and Wind Gap.