

THE ORIGIN OF ONEIDA TOWNSHIP

Oneida Township has existed for over 165 years, but how was it established?

William Penn established Pennsylvania's units of government through a charter from King Charles II of England which gave Penn the power to divide the land into counties, townships, cities and boroughs. These municipalities are each grouped according to their population. Huntingdon County, where Oneida Township is located, was created from Bedford County on September 20, 1787, and was named for its county seat.

Townships are the oldest form of government in the United States, dating back to the 17th century. Township government was in existence 140 years prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. By order of the Mayflower Compact, the Pilgrims were able to establish townships, which became the first political subdivisions of the New World. A township government, established in Providence, Rhode Island in 1636, is the oldest existing unit of government still serving in the United States. Rodger Williams and a few of his buddies from Salem, Massachusetts, began a new settlement in Rumford, Rhode Island on land bought from Chief Massasoit of the Wampanoag Tribe. They adopted a covenant of local self-governance that stressed the separation of religious and civil affairs.

William Penn began establishing townships in Pennsylvania in 1683. There are two classes of townships. By default, the majority of townships are second-class, like Oneida Township. To become a township of the first class, a second-class township must have a population density of at least 300 people per square mile. And voters would need to approve this change by referendum.

Second-class townships have a governing body of a Board of three elected Supervisors. And additional two Supervisors may be elected as part of the Board, if voters choose to do so by referendum.

Oneida Township began as settlements around 1786. It was incorporated on August 20, 1856 from parts of Henderson and West Townships. On July 20, 1953 a portion of the Township, known as Taylor Highlands, was annexed to Huntingdon Borough.

Being mostly rural, Oneida Township is made up of agricultural lands and small residential areas. There are several small businesses that are a part of the Township. It also benefits from being close to urban areas such as Altoona and State College, with several colleges and universities nearby, such as Juniata College and Pennsylvania State University.

ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 8, 2022

7 AM TO 8 PM @ THE FIRE HALL

THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

IN ONEIDA TOWNSHIP IS:

OCTOBER 31, 2022 6-8 PM

Oneida Township now has a website::

Oneidatwp.com

Oneida Township
PO Box 406
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Have you checked our website?

Here's what you'll find:

Meeting dates and times

Personnel

Past Newsletters

Agendas & Meeting Minutes

Ordinances:

Subdivision & Land Development

Zoning

Zoning Map

Muddy Run Storm Water

Oneida Township Personnel:

John A. Skipper, Chairman

**James E. Ferrenberg, Vice-chairman,
Roadmaster**

Stephen R. Magill, Supervisor

Chris L. Carper, Road Maintenance

Henry W. Strong, Treasurer

Doris Hayden, Secretary

Nicholas Newfield, Solicitor

Lindsay Honn, Tax Collector

Ed Habbershon, Building Code Officer

Oneida Township

PO Box 406

Huntingdon, PA 16652

Phone: 814.643.3116

Fax: 814.643.0524

Hours: M,T,TH 9:30-3:30