



# Blue Valley Times

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

## Slate Belt Rising Annual Public Meeting 'The Past & The Future'



L - R SBR Dir. Vince Behe, CALV Dir. Dawn Godshall

By Slate Belt Rising - Michael Ortoski & Vince Behe

WIND GAP - Slate Belt Rising (SBR) Held their annual public at Wind Gap community center to talk about their past and their future.

SBR Dir. Vince Behe led the meeting with some exciting projects for the second six year cycle, thanked the funders and SBR committee members

Other speakers were Michael Ortoski who talked about the small group of grass roots members along with himself and previous Dir. Allen Joinings of CALV got Governor Tom Wolf to change the laws of

## ESSA Bank & Trust. ESSA contributes \$50,000 To Slate Belt Rising

By Vince Behe

WIND GAP - Slate Belt Rising (SBR) is a neighborhood revitalization initiative targeting the four boroughs of Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland, and Wind Gap. We strive to achieve community and economic development in the area and increase the quality of life for all, especially the under-resourced and underprivileged. Under our current six-year community plan, SBR has leveraged over \$1.4 million in public and private funds for investment in the region, generating tremendous positive impact in the community. Activities have included residential and commercial façade improvements, planting and maintenance of community gardens, streetscape improvements, scholarships for local high school students, and much more.

SBR's work wouldn't be possible without the generosity of various funders such as ESSA Bank & Trust. ESSA will be contributing a total of \$50,000 over the first two years of

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County Executive Lamont McClure

the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) to allow multi municipal participation. "SBR is the only NPP in the state of Pa. with four municipalities, Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor and Portland."

Ortoski then introduced Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure who has supported SBR since he first took office over four years ago. McClure when running for office pushed for more funding for the Slate Belt, and he has delivered!

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Vince Behe (2nd from right) new director of Slate Belt Rising accepts a generous donation from ESSA Bank & Trust yesterday at a Slate Belt Rising meeting held at Wind Gap Fire Co. Photo: Larry Cory

