



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

LIESEL DREISBACH
Chair

STEPHEN REPASCH
Vice Chair

JOHN DIACOGIANNIS
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, January 26 at 7:00pm

LVPC Conference Room

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Minutes

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Ms. Willis took roll call.

Members in attendance:

Lehigh County

Karen Duerholz, Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Edward Hozza, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright

Northampton County

Gordon Campbell, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, George Gemmel, Darlene Heller, Tim Herrlinger, Robert Lammi, Kevin Lott, David O'Connell, Pam Pearson, Hayden Phillips, Tina Roseberry

Members absent: Percy Dougherty, Armand Greco, Steven Neratko, Brad Osborne, Sara Pandl, Julie Thomases, Christen Borso, Gene Clater, Charles Elliott, Thomas Nolan, Lynn Prior, Michael Reph

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, Tamara Mittman, George Kinney, Geoff Reese, Sue Rockwell, Tracy Oscavich, John von Kerczek

Public present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ, Certificate Planners (they left after special presentation)

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: none

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the December 22, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Ms. Wright. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dreisbach introduced David O'Connell as a new commission member representing the City of Easton.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Certificates were handed out to the certified planners with Ms. Dreisbach presenting the LVPC Certified Citizen Planners and Ms. Roseberry presenting the PMPEI Certificates. 52 people attended the four courses last year: Community Planning; Subdivision + Land Development; Zoning; and Zoning Administration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Bethlehem Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Brodhead Road Distribution Center

Ms. Mittman spoke about the proposed distribution center located on Brodhead Road. It sits on a 35 acre parcel and is located off of the interchange of Route 191 and Route 22. The proposed facility is about 513,000 square feet which exceeds the threshold for Land Uses of Regional Significance. The development itself is consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. In regards to the Monocacy Creek Act 167 Plan, the proposed Drainage Plan is found to be inconsistent with the Act 167 stormwater management ordinance so they will be resubmitting their stormwater plan for review. When comparing the facility to the impact on neighboring municipalities, the staff found that the site proposed was appropriate because it's on two major arterial roads and is separated from residential areas which protects residents from environmental impacts. The transportation section found that this project is in close proximity to an identified congested corridor, near a high crash intersection and with their traffic impact study, the township only looked at the existing traffic conditions and did not provide a design horizon year analysis. On-street truck queuing has been an issue so the township might want to have internal designated queuing areas or oversized truck parking spaces on-site. Internal sidewalks are lacking and should be considered to provide linkage from the street to the building. It is suggested that Norfolk Southern Railroad should be made aware of the proposed site development due to an upgrade on their rail crossing on Brodhead Road in August of 2018. The proposed land development plan includes a new sidewalk on the south side of Brodhead Road connecting the existing sidewalk to the west of the property all the way to the east side of the property. LANta recommends the installation of an ADA accessible bus shelter at the eastbound bus stop and also an accessible pedestrian path along the entrance driveway of the facility. After some discussion of the exact location of the proposed development site, Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the staff comments. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Duerholz abstaining.

Ordinance/Plan Reviews

Ms. Wright refers the commission to the summary sheet for an overview of staff comments on other proposed actions requiring LVPC review. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Environment Committee

Project Summary

Mr. Repasch went over the summary sheet's one item – (1) Application to Renew Approval of Existing Groundwater Withdrawal for Nestle Purina PetCare Company regarding a new well is proposed to replace an existing well, which will be abandoned. Groundwater allocations will remain the same. There have been no issues or complaints and the application is consistent with the county comprehensive plan. Mr. Repasch moved to accept the staff comments. Ms. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee

Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program Awards

Mr. Kinney stated that after a year, the state finally announced their Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program Awards. We previously awarded 6 regional projects – Bike Education Project in the City of Allentown for \$150,000; Jordan Creek Greenway and Trail Project in South Whitehall Township for \$292,366; Front Street Safety and Connectivity Project in the Borough of Catasauqua for \$292,126; Broadway and Delaware Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project in the Borough of Fountain Hill for \$59,950; Two Rivers Trail Gap in Bushkill Township for \$420,562; and Bike Path Crossing Safety Improvements in Palmer Township for \$56,630.

For the State Awards, there were 51 statewide projects. The region received 4 projects – Pedestrian Streetscape Project in the Borough of Macungie for \$542,288; Jordan Creek Greenway and Trail Project in South Whitehall Township for \$257,634; Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements in the Borough of Coopersburg for \$938,856; and Pedestrian Safety Improvements in the City of Allentown for \$297,274.

Vehicle Automation

Mr. Kinney talked about how Pennsylvania is becoming a leader with vehicle automation technology and is one of three states in the country that is leading the autonomous vehicle effort along with Michigan and California. Since there's not a lot of policy out there yet, one of the things we've been trying to do at the MPO level is start to get our hands around what does this mean from a transportation planning perspective. Only about 6% of communities nationally have considered the impacts of autonomous vehicles on a day-to-day basis. There are about 33 auto manufacturers that are currently developing and testing autonomous technology both in vehicles and trucks. There are six levels to this with zero being the human does everything, through six being the human does not have to do anything. There are a lot of different technologies on the vehicles to enable the automation – radar, LIDAR, video, short range communication, GPS, etc. Currently there are about six million accidents annually with 95% being contributed to human error. Out of those six million accidents, 33,000 are fatalities which cost \$836 billion annually. It's estimated through the policy document that if we had 90% autonomy, we would reduce that 33,000 by 2/3 which would bring that annual cost down significantly. Government impediments can include roadway infrastructure, congestion, traffic law updates, legal insurance, driver training, etc. From a trucking standpoint, the issues are hours of service, driver retention, truck parking, electronic logging laws and device mandates, driver distractions, etc. Mr. Kinney then showed a video of a level 4 autonomous truck making a 120 mile cross-state delivery in

Colorado. Mr. Kinney stated that this is coming fast and we will continue to monitor what's going on and report back frequently. PennDOT who is overseeing the technology on the automobile side said that they expect to see driverless vehicles showing up in driveways within a 5-year period. Most industry experts say at least 10-years out but you will continue to see this evolve. Mr. Molchany asked if this is going to be an all or nothing proposition or will we see this staged gradually into the different levels or tiers of automation? Mr. Kinney says he believes this will be incremental – we are already seeing this in vehicles now.

Freight Advisory Committee Meeting @ LVPC Office – February 1 @ 11:30am

Mr. Kinney stated that there will be a Freight Advisory meeting coming up on Wednesday where he will show this video along with a couple more including an automated motorcycle. Mr. Diacogiannis encouraged those who have not, to please sign up before the space is gone. Items being discussed is autonomous vehicles, the adoption of the Critical Urban Freight Corridors for the Valley and lastly the President of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association will talk about a national truck parking study.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Amendments to Statement of Purpose, Functions and Services and Bylaws

Mr. Repasch talked about the changes made to the Proposed Amendments to Statement of Purpose, Functions and Services and Bylaws document. Mr. Molchany mentioned Article VI, Section 8, asking who is going to generate the request to remove a commission member. He said that we have some commission members that show up maybe 3 times a year and to him, they should be removed. Mr. Repasch stated that they are now keeping strict attendance at all committee and commission meetings and if they find someone who isn't attending their required number of meetings, we will forward that to the county Executive. Then it will be up to them on how to proceed. Ms. Bradley said that we are required to issue a letter to both county Executives but instead of waiting to do that on an annual cycle, we will update the county Executives at every commission meeting on a monthly basis.

Mr. Repasch continued to talk about another change to the bylaws under the Statement of Purpose, number 8 – changing the term “create data” to “collect data”. Mr. Herman made a motion to accept the updated bylaws. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Events + Information

Ms. Bradley mentioned that we are having a Planning + Pizza at the LVPC office on January 31st at 6:00pm. This is our nighttime meeting for the kickoff to the FutureLV update of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

We also have Strategy Labs which are based on specific topics about our community. We already had Environment and Water discussions earlier this week. Coming up on February 7th is Community Utilities and Community Facilities.

There is Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) classes coming up with Risk Management Strategies on February 8th and Temporary Work Zone Traffic Control on February 22nd.

CORRESPONDENCE

Second Harvest Food Bank

Ms. Bradley talked about how we held a food/supply drive in December of last year and collected 127lbs of goods for the Second Harvest Food Bank. We also raised close to \$100 with our Jeans-for-a-Cause to donate to them as well. She wanted to share their thank you letter with the commission.

Alice Lipe

Ms. Bradley mentioned that Alice Lipe sent in a thank you note to the commission for the beautiful frame that was given to her for her retirement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual Statement of Financial Interests

Ms. Bradley said the Pennsylvania Ethics Commission require all commissioners and senior staff to submit a Statement of Financial Interests which we emailed all commissioners earlier this week. This form needs to be complete and send back by May 1, 2017.

ADJOURN

Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Duerholz seconded that motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,
Erin Willis, Executive Secretary for
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director