



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, January 25, 2018 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 25, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Mr. Repasch chaired the meeting.

Ms. Willis took roll call.

Members in attendance:

Lehigh County

Percy Dougherty, Steve Glickman, Julio Guridy, Kent Herman, Ed Hozza, Christina Morgan, Douglas Stewart, Owen O'Neil, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt, Christine Weaver, Phillips Armstrong

Northampton County

Gordon Campbell, Gene Clater, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Darlene Heller, Bob Lammi, Kevin Lott, William McGee, Tom Nolan, Pam Pearson,

Members absent: Rick Molchany, Brad Osborne, Sara Pandl, Donna Wright, Charles Elliott, Shawn Martell, Lamont McClure

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, Geoff Reese, Amanda Raudenbush, John von Kerczek, Jill Seitz, Tracy Oscavich, Matt Assad, Sue Rockwell, Elena Tucci, Chandra Parasa

Public present: Mark Hartney, Bob Elbich, Charles Dertinger, Mike Prendeville, Bob Nolter, Tom Eighthy, Justin Burkner, Cameron Smith

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: none

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the December 2017 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Herman. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Repasch recognized the Lehigh Valley Government Academy's 2017 Certified Citizen Planners. Those honored were Becky Bradley, Geoff Reese, Justin Burkner, Thomas Eighmy, Robert Nolter, Michael Prendeville and Cameran Smith. Absent was Hannah Haubert. Mr. Repasch also recognized new Commission member William McGee and the new Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong. There were also two new LVPC staff members, Chandra Parasa and Elena Tucci recognized.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Bethlehem City – Land Use of Regional Significance – Majestic Bethlehem Center (Phase 5 Building)

Mr. von Kerczek reviewed an application that proposes the consolidation of Lots 4 and 5 and the construction of a 508,821 square foot warehouse on the former Lot 5. The proposed development is part of the larger Majestic Bethlehem Center, which is anticipated to include 8 million square feet of storage and distribution space on a 436 acre brownfield site. The LVPC considers Storage Facilities projects in excess of 500,000 square feet to be Land Uses of Regional Significance. The subject application is consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed development repurposes an existing brownfield site in an area designated for Urban Development in the General Land Use Plan and will be served by existing water, sewage, and transportation infrastructure. Due to its location away from residential areas and near compatible land uses and existing infrastructure, the proposed development minimizes negative impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. A copy of the highway occupancy permit letter for Commerce Center Boulevard stated that the Majestic Realty property traffic is accounted for in the highway occupancy permit for Commerce Center Boulevard. The LVPC agrees with that conclusion and offer no additional traffic comments. For LANTA's review, the proposed plan for Building 5, essentially, includes a crosswalk over Commerce Center Boulevard, connecting the previously proposed sidewalk along Lot 6 and Lot 7, to the proposed sidewalk on the north-west side of Commerce Center Boulevard, which connects to the proposed pedestrian walkway along the length of Building 5. This allows access for pedestrians and transit riders to safely connect from the proposed transit stops at Lot 6 and Lot 7 to the main entrance of Building 5. LANTA recommends staying engaged with LANTA's Planning Department to coordinate the proposed bus stops as we develop the most efficient bus routing throughout the Majestic complex. The project site is located within the Saucon Creek watershed. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to accept the staff comments. Ms. Rader seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance/Plan Reviews

Ms. Dreisbach referred the commission to the summary sheet for an overview of the staff comments on other proposed actions requiring LVPC review. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to accept the staff comments. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Rader abstaining to #7 – Zoning Map Amendment in Upper Macungie Township and #8 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment in Upper Macungie Township; Ms. Heller abstaining #6 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment in Bethlehem City.

Environment Committee

Project Review – Summary Sheet

Mr. Repasch referred the commission to the summary sheet for an overview of the staff comments on proposed actions requiring LVPC review. Mr. Repasch made a motion to accept the staff comments. Ms. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Hozza abstaining to #4 – Application to Renew Approval of Existing Non-Contact Cooling Water Discharge in Whitehall Township.

Hazard Mitigation Public Meeting – February 20, 7:00pm

Mr. Reese mentioned that as part of the required public outreach for the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, there will be a public meeting on February 20th at 7pm at Pinebrook Family Answers in Allentown. This will be the first of three public meetings. The plan must be completed and adopted by at least one municipality by October 10, 2018.

Transportation Committee

Public Participation

LANta Ads

Mr. Assad mentioned that, as part of the required public outreach for the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, the LVPC created bus cards (both in English and Spanish) directing people to the Hazard Mitigation portion of the LVPC website, which will be put on all 83 LANta busses to help get the public attention to attend the Hazard Mitigation Public Meeting. Mr. Clater suggested asking municipalities to advertise the public meeting on their websites as well as their bulletin boards.

Planning + Pizza

Ms. Bradley noted that there will be a Planning + Pizza for the Transportation Improvement Program on May 2nd at LVPC. This is the first Planning + Pizza scheduled so far but there will be more to come as they get scheduled.

Freight Advisory Committee – February 7, 11:30am

Ms. Bradley said the February 7th Freight Advisory meeting will be held here at LVPC and will feature speakers Rudy Husband, Director of Public Relations for Norfolk Southern Corporation and Anne Strauss-Weider, Director of Freight Planning for North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach – February 27, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Ms. Bradley mentioned that on February 27th there will be a two-hour training session on the PennDOT Connects initiative regarding better interaction between municipalities and PennDOT that was put forth by Secretary Richards. This is for municipal officials to attend. This more strategic approach to engagement will ensure that local priorities and issues are effectively considered as transportation needs and investments are planned and developed.

Women in Transportation + Government – March/April

Ms. Bradley said that Secretary Richards is concerned that there are not enough women in transportation and government so she and the Governor's wife, Lady Wolfe are going around the Commonwealth and working with their MPO partners to put together a variety of events to provide information and discussion with girls and college-aged women in our communities on

career opportunities in transportation and government. Secretary Richards asked if the LVPC would be a host of one of these events. Ms. Bradley put together a great group of women leaders from the Valley who will help put together the event. More information will come as the event formalizes.

Lehigh Valley Chamber's 2018 Transportation Summit – May 17, 11:00am

Ms. Bradley talked about partnering with the Chamber of Commerce for the annual Transportation Summit which will be on May 17th at Mack Trucks. This will focus on autonomous vehicles and how that will effect transportation planning and the transit system.

Freight Summit – June 21

Ms. Bradley noted that the Lehigh Valley will host the first Pennsylvania Freight Summit on June 21st. Lehigh University Mountaintop Campus will be the venue of the summit. The LVPC will be the official host along with the PA Dept of Transportation. This event will talk about the growing needs in freight in Pennsylvania. More information will be provided to the committee at a future meeting.

2nd Annual Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit – April 9-10 in Pittsburgh

Ms. Bradley mentioned that the 2nd Annual Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit will be held in Pittsburgh again. Ms. Bradley and Mr. Campbell attended last year's summit and were able to drive in a fully automated vehicle. This summit will be a public discussion on critical issues facing community and regional infrastructure planning and workforce development of automated vehicles.

OLD BUSINESS

FutureLV Event

Ms. Bradley talked about how the Future Forces Event was the mid-point event for the comprehensive plan. Keynote speaker, Peter Leyden's presentation is now up on LVPC's website on the home page. Ms. Bradley encouraged anyone who was not at the event to watch his presentation as he talks about the future of technology, transportation, economics, etc.

Second Harvest Food Bank

Ms. Oscavich mentioned that the LVPC held a food/supply drive in December and with the help of our Commissioners, we were able to donate 172lbs. This was a big increase from last year's 127lbs. This is something we hope to continue with each year.

NEW BUSINESS

Statement of Financial Interest

Ms. Bradley noted that per the Pennsylvania Ethics Act, public officials and public employees are specifically required to file the Statement of Financial Interest each year and as a member of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Commissioners are considered a public officials. The filing deadline is May 1st and paperwork will be kept in a locked drawer.

2017 Web Hits

Ms. Oscavich went over the summary of website statistics in 2017 for the LVPC website. The top page hits were the Home page with 14,186 views; Lehigh Valley Awards 2017 page with 1,740 views; Map Gallery page with 1,530 views; Municipal Profiles page with 1,520 views; DataLV page

with 1,419 views; Subdivision + Land Development page with 1,382 views; Water Resources page with 1,330 views.

2018 Workplan Promotions

Ms. Bradley was interviewed by Sally Hanlon from WDIY where they were able to discuss all the work that the LVPC is doing this year. A lot of great questions were asked from the Transportation Improvement Program to the Comprehensive Plan to Hazard Mitigation, etc. Ms. Bradley also recorded a Business Matters taping with WFMZ where annually they bring together the LVPC, LVEDC, Discover Lehigh Valley and Air Products to discuss what is happening in the region. This will air on January 29th at 7:30pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

Coalition for Appropriate Transportation – Thank you letter

Ms. Bradley mentioned the Scott Slingerland from the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation sent a thank you letter to the LVPC for our Jeans for a Cause donation of \$144. This will help with their mission to promote appropriate transportation in the Lehigh Valley

Commission – Thank you note

Ms. Bradley noted that Hayden Phillips sent in a thank you note for the gifts that were presented to him as he ended his appointment with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. He really enjoyed his time on the Commission and is grateful to have learned so much.

Delaware + Lehigh National Heritage Corridor – Thank you note

Ms. Bradley said that Elissa Garofalo sent a thank you for allowing the use of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's facilities and appreciates the partnership LVPC provides. She looks forward to continuing the partnership and what that will bring to the future.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

General Assembly Meeting – January 30, 7:00pm at Penn State Lehigh Valley

Ms. Bradley talked about the General Assembly meeting coming up on January 30th. All elected officials as well as the managers received an invite letter requesting attendance by at least one elected official and any staff that official would like to bring. This is a platform for all 62 municipalities to be able to communicate about what is happening in their communities. Each community has specific needs and this is where those discussions can happen. We will also be showcasing the projects the LVPC will be working on this year.

EVENTS + INFORMATION

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office

The upcoming Local Technical Assistance Program classes are Work Zone Temporary Traffic Control on January 30 from 8am-12pm, Stop Signs + Intersection Traffic Control on February 6 from 8am-12pm and Safe Driver on February 15 from 8am-12pm – all at LVPC.

Freight Advisory Committee

The next freight Advisory Committee will be held on February 7th at 11:30am here at LVPC and will feature speakers Rudy Husband, Director of Public Relations for Norfolk Southern Corporation and Anne Strauss-Weider, Director of Freight Planning for North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

PennDOT Connects Municipal Training – February 27, 1:00pm

On February 27th at 1:00pm, there will be a two-hour training session on the PennDOT Connects initiative regarding better interaction between municipalities and PennDOT that was put forth by Secretary Richards. This is for municipal officials to attend. This more strategic approach to engagement will ensure that local priorities and issues are effectively considered as transportation needs and investments are planned and developed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Lott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Campbell seconded that motion. Mr. Repasch adjourned the meeting.

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