



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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Executive Director

## LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, May 25 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, May 25, 2017 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

Percy Dougherty, Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Ed Hozza, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, Sara Pandl, Kevin Schmidt, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright

##### Northampton County

Gordon Campbell, Gene Clater, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Darlene Heller, Tim Herringer, Kevin Lott, Tom Nolan, Pam Pearson, Hayden Phillips, Michael Reph

**Members absent:** Karen Duerholz, Steve Neratko, Owen O'Neil, Brad Osborne, Kathy Rader, Steve Repasch, Julie Thomases, George Gemmel, Bob Lammi, David O'Connell, Tina Roseberry

**Staff present:** Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, George Kinney, Geoff Reese, John von Kerczek, Sue Rockwell, Brian Hite, Tracy Oscavich

**Public present:** Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:** none

#### **MINUTES**

After a brief review, the minutes of the April 2017 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Clater. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Weaver, Ms. Morgan and Ms. Heller abstaining.

**CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:** Commissioner Recognition – Armand Greco, Christen Borso, Lynn Prior

Ms. Dreisbach recognized and thanked former commissioners for their service towards the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. Ms. Dreisbach also made a note that there are a couple of accolades that have been awarded to the staff – the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation, which does bicycle advocacy training, awarded the staff at the LVPC first place in the Employer

category of support for their 2017 Bike to Work Week and also the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce will be awarding Becky Bradley as an Outstanding Woman in Business.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Comprehensive Planning Committee**

#### *Discover Lehigh Valley – Tourism + The Comprehensive Plan – Mike Stershic*

Mr. Stershic gave a presentation on Discover Lehigh Valley along with Tourism in the Lehigh Valley. He showed a brief video on what Discover Lehigh Valley is and how their goal is to increase the number of visitors and get them to stay a few nights in the Valley. He then talked about the Lehigh Valley being a great place for tourism with all the activities, historical sites and recreation. It is the fastest growing of all of Pennsylvania's 11 tourism areas.

#### *Lower Macungie Township – Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Elimination of Some Conditional Uses in ORLIC*

Mr. vonKerczek talked about reviewing the amendment for Lower Macungie Township. The proposed amendments, which modify regulations related to the eliminating of warehouse, wholesale, storage or distribution use as permitted use by condition in the Office, Research Light Industrial Center District and the Industrial District, was found to be matters of local concern. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the staff comments. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Pandl abstaining.

#### *Ordinance/Plan Reviews*

Ms. Wright referred the commission to the summary sheet for an overview of the staff comments on other proposed actions requiring LVPC review. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Heller abstaining #4 – City of Bethlehem's zoning ordinance for Hospital and Treatment Centers; and #5 – City of Bethlehem's zoning ordinance for Medical Marijuana; and Ms. Weaver abstaining #8 – Catasauqua Borough's zoning ordinance for Commercial Communications Facilities.

### **Environment Committee**

#### *Livable Landscapes – Lehigh County Park, Recreation, Open Space, Agricultural + Historical Resources Plan – Draft Plan*

Mr. Reese talked about the Lehigh County Livable Landscapes draft plan currently being created. This plan will help in future funding for park and recreation facilities. The plan is just about complete and will be finalized by the end of June. A draft was presented to Lehigh County and feedback is expected this week. The Steering Committee will also be taking a look at the draft on June 1<sup>st</sup> where they can provide feedback as well. The staff still needs to reduce the amount of material within the plan to make it more reader friendly while still maintaining all the main pieces. This plan is similar to the Northampton County Livable Landscapes Plan with the exception of three components: the future trail opportunities mapping, the municipal side of parks and recreation, and more in depth consideration of farmland issues.

#### *Project Review – Summary Sheet*

Mr. Clater refers the commission to the summary sheet where Lower Saucon Township submitted a Major Permit Modification for the IESI Bethlehem Landfill Southeastern Realignment and East Allen Township submitted a Sewage Facilities Planning Module for TBI Active Adult development along Bath Pike. Mr. Clater made a motion to approve the staff comments. Ms.

Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Elliott abstaining to #1 – Major Permit Modification for the IESI Bethlehem Landfill Southeastern Realignment.

### **Transportation Committee - None**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### *Slate Belt Pop-Up Exhibition – Tolino Vineyards*

Ms. Bradley stated that there was a pop-up exhibit on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Tolino Vineyards for the graduate students from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Landscape Architecture where they showcased their work, which explores alternative futures for the reuse and revitalization of the Slate Belt. There were over 30 community members at the exhibit. Ms. Bradley showed the commission the Slate Belt book which can be found on the home page of LVPC's website. This is the kickoff to the Slate Belt Comprehensive Plan which encompasses 10 communities. The work is now on display at the Slate Belt Heritage Museum.

#### *PlanSWL – Southwest Lehigh Comprehensive Plan Draft*

Ms. Bradley stated that PlanSWL has been 1 ½ years in the making with six communities involved – Borough of Alburkis, Borough of Emmaus, Borough of Macungie, Lower Macungie Township, Lower Milford Township, Upper Milford Township. The Steering Committee is currently reviewing the plan and will be moving to adoption. The LVPC is hoping to start the county review process as soon as they will authorize us to do so. There is a 45-day process that starts with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and goes out to the 11 communities and two school districts that touch the six communities in Southwest Lehigh to start their 45-day clock before the communities can have a Public Hearing to move towards adoption. Any comments on this plan can be sent to Mr. vonKerczek by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS - None**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### *Meals on Wheels – Thank you note*

Ms. Bradley mentioned receiving a thank you note from Meals on Wheels of Northampton County for the Jeans for a Cause donation of \$74.00 which helps pay for nutritious meals for seniors or person with a disability based on dietary needs.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### *Bike to Work Week Award*

Ms. Bradley mentioned that we worked with the Coalition for Alternative Transportation (CAT) during their Bike to Work Week. Some staff members attended the various activities happening in the Valley that week. Also, the LVPC staff took a bike skills training course to prepare for the Active Transportation Plan which we just received funding for. The LVPC was awarded first place for Employer Participation in Bike to Work Week from CAT.

#### *RCN Community Spotlight – Lehigh Valley Sustainability Network – Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30pm; Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm; Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> @ 8:00pm*

The LVPC is part of the Lehigh Valley Sustainability Network which was asked by RCN to be part of their Community Spotlight. As LVPC is one of the key partners, Ms. Bradley went over to RCN for their taping of the Community Spotlight. She talked about the regional comprehensive plan, among other things. The episode will air three separate times.

*Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber 2017 Excellence in Business Awards – Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm – Saucon Valley Country Club*

Ms. Bradley was nominated and won the 2017 Outstanding Woman in Business Award being presented by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.

*Delaware Green Building Council Sustainability Awards – Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-8pm – Allentown Brewworks*

Ms. Bradley mentioned that the Delaware Green Building Council Sustainability Awards is being held at the Allentown Brewworks. This award ceremony celebrates transformative leadership in the green building community and industry in the Lehigh Valley.

*Society of Professional Journalists Award*

Ms. Bradley noted that new staff member Craig Kackenmeister, Graphic Designer + Publications Coordinator, was awarded third place by the Society of Professional Journalists for his work at the Morning Call.

## **EVENTS + INFORMATION**

*FutureLV Strategy Labs @ LVPC Office*

Ms. Oscavich stated that the next strategy labs coming up are Hazard Mitigation/Resiliency on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am as well as Energy Conservation/Climate Change at 10:30am. Education + Training will be moved to a TBD date in July.

*Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office*

Ms. Oscavich mention that the next LTAP courses coming up are Principles of Paving on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 8-3pm and Sign Retroreflectivity Inspection on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 8-12pm.

*Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Transportation Summit @ ArtsQuest – Musikfest Café – Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am*

Ms. Oscavich noted that the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Transportation Summit will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at ArtsQuest where Pulitzer-Prize winning author, Edward Humes will discuss the contents of his book, *Door to Door*. She encouraged everyone to rsvp if they have not done so already.

## **ADJOURN**

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

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