



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes from the Thursday, April 26, 2018 Meeting

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission’s conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Mr. Repasch chaired the meeting.

Ms. Leonard took Roll Call – Quorum Obtained.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Percy Dougherty, Mike Gibson, Steve Glickman, Julio Guridy, Miriam Huertas, Kent Herman, Christina Morgan, Brad Osborne, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Christine Weaver and Donna Wright.

Northampton County

Debra Bodine, Gordon Campbell, Eugene Clater, Malissa Davis, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Darlene Heller, Jamie Horvath, Kevin Lott, William McGee, Pamela Pearson, Tina Roseberry, Tina Smith and Gerald Yob.

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Bob Elbich, Dennis Hower, Richard Molchany, Ray O’Connell, Owen O’Neil, Kevin Schmidt and Douglas Stewart.

Northampton County

Robert Donchez, Robert Lammi, Shawn Martell, Lamont McClure, Mitchell Mogilski, Salvatore Panto and Greg Zebrowski.

Staff Present: Becky Bradley, Mike Donchez, Brian Hite, Denise Leonard, Sue Rockwell, Jill Seitz, Tracy Oscavich, Geoff Reese, Chandra Parasa, John von Kerczek, Amanda Raudenbush and Matt Assad.

Public Present: None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: No Comments

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

New Commissioner Recognition

Mr. Repasch recognized Jamie Horvath – Northampton County, Greg Zebrowski - Northampton County, Miriam Huertas – Lehigh County, Gerald Yob – Northampton County, Debra Bodine – Northampton County and Malissa Davis – Northampton County.

MARCH MINUTES

Mr. Repasch stated that the minutes of the March 26, 2018 LVPC meeting are attached. Mr. Clater made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Herman seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Glickman and Ms. Weaver abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

1. Woodlands Model Ordinance Memo (Presentation by John von Kerczek)

LVPC is in receipt of two letters received from the Attorney General's office dated November 9, 2015 and April 13, 2016 addressing the submission requirements for a permit application for timbering, timber harvesting operations as well as timber harvesting regulations. Mr. von Kerczek highlighted several changes that we are noting and will make available on our website and will be distributing them to the municipalities. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments as presented. Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

2. Plainfield Township – Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Appalachian Trail Protection Provisions (Presentation by John von Kerczek)

Plainfield Township is proposing a zoning amendment in response to the Attorney General's letters discussed above. Mr. von Kerczek recommended several changes in response to the request after comparing the recommendations reviewed and accepted in Item 1. He identified one inconsistency with the Comprehensive Plan within the amended ordinance's steep slope regulations, however the township is coordinating its regulations with the comments of the Attorney General's office. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments as presented. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Ordinance/Plan Reviews Summary Sheet

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 as presented. Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Heller abstaining.

Environment Committee:

1. Reviews 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 as presented. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Davis and Mr. Elliott abstaining on item #2.

NOTE: Ms. Weaver has agreed to take over as chair of the Environmental Committee.

Transportation Committee

1. PA Automated Vehicle Summit Recap

Mr. Campbell led a team review of the 2nd Automated Vehicle Summit held in Pittsburgh. The event was attended by Mr. Campbell, Ms. Bradley, Mr. Donchez, Mr. Parasa and Mr. Hite. The team presented brief summaries of the main topics of the Summit including but not limited to:

- Uber incident in Tempe, Arizona and what should the safety standard be – it was determined that these vehicles should be as a standard vehicle.
- PENNDOT is unveiling an oversight plan for the testing of automatous vehicles
- How automated vehicles made safe – new emerging technology and is subject to tampering, invasion and hacking.
- Uses - Military use and for individuals with mobility issues.
- Financial Options including partnerships
- What can planner do to get ready – implications on how land use is developed.
- Mayor of Pittsburgh spoke largely about the rebirth and redevelopment of Pittsburgh from a steel to high technology companies.
- Co-existence with public transit.
- Fedex spoke about internal automation currently being used, drone usage and how to compensate for the driver shortage.
- Truck Platooning – trucks will be able to link up to reduce fuel costs and safety regulations.
- Careers and Opportunities

2. *Bike and Pedestrian Master Plans*

- Pennsylvania - Ms. Bradley, Mr. Reese and Mr. Donchez along with the Berks County Planning Commission will be attending the PENNDOT statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update meeting in Philadelphia.
- Lehigh Valley – LVPC received 8 responses back to the RFP that LVPC issued to do a Regional Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. The Master Plan will be looking at the connection between our on and off road system and where we might be able to support the development of an off road commuter network, gaps in the sidewalk network and LANta last feet to transit, as well as looking at the potential for a business model for regional bike share.

3. *Transportation Improvement Program*

Mr. Donchez gave a overview on The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is a federally mandated four year program containing high priority highway, bridge, transit, multi-modal and rail infrastructure projects within the two county region. This is really a ground transportation plan which covers all surface modes of transportation (does not cover air travel). Approximately 80% of the funds that go into the TIP are federal and the remaining 20% can be state, local, private or a combination of funds. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the traditional vehicle for entry of projects into the TIP. Every four years we will send out a request to the municipalities to let us know what their infrastructure needs are. We are going to combining the Comprehensive Plan with the LRTP. The selection criteria was reviewed and explained as part of the presentation. The draft TIP list of projects was released on Wednesday (April 4) at the Joint LVTS Technical & Coordinating Committee Meeting at Penn State Lehigh Valley Campus. Currently we are in the public review and comment period that lasts 30 days. The public review period started April 23 and ends on May 22. We will hold two public meetings: May 2 at LVPC (12:00 p.m.) and on May 8 at Bethlehem Public Library (6:30 p.m.). The TIP will go to LVTS for adoption June 6. When adopted it will go to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). Once USDOT approval is issued (expected late September) then funding will be available October 1 for four years.

OLD BUSINESS

1. *FutureLV: Regional Plan Committee*

The first meeting of the FutureLV: Regional Plan Committee will take place on May 21, 2018 (Time TBD).

2. Planning and Pizza

Ms. Bradley reported on the Planning and Pizza on April 17, 2018 on the Topic of Census 2020. There are a number of communities in the Lehigh Valley that had a very low response rate for the last census. This effects federal dollars to our Transportation and Investment Program, HUD dollars coming to both counties and cities, FEMA and PEMA funding into our regions and county eligibility for several other programs. Ms. Bradley presented a map which supported the lack of participation. LVPC plans to work with community planning directors to get the word out and to coordinate a citizen count committee.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 5th Annual LVPC Gala & Awards – October 10, DeSales University

Ms. Oscavich reported on the 5th Annual LVPC Gala and Award to be held on October 10th at DeSales University. The event is to honor planning projects throughout the valley. The Call for Nominations will be released in May.

2. House Bill 1699/Senate Bill 880

Ms. Bradley reported on the House Bill 1699/Senate Bill 880 which was passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The bill states that our municipal governments can't restrict tractor trailers on roads without meeting specific requirements as outlined by the state and federal governments including engineering and traffic studies.

3. Commissioner Information

Ms. Leonard provide a status report of the 2017 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests due on May 1, 2018.

CORRESPONDENCE

City of Bethlehem – Fireworks

Ms. Raudenbush provided an update on correspondence received from the City of Bethlehem requesting assistance from us with the Fireworks law changes. LVPC will put together a memo outlining the changes in the law as well as general zoning guidance.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Partnerships

Ms. Bradley provided an update on the following partnerships with LVPC:

- United Way – Alliance on Aging is seeking to get age-friendly community designation for the entire region.
- Workforce Board – Coordinating data with the potential for a joint website of regional information.

- Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor – Trail branding project for the region in partnership with the William Penn Foundation and Wildlands Conservancy.

2. *Lehigh Valley Business Journal Columns*

Ms. Bradley recapped a several articles published in the Lehigh Valley Business Journal by LVPC staff.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

1. *Local Technical Assistant Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office*

Ms. Oscavich explained the LTAP program and recapped the upcoming topics:

- Program Recognition Event – May 18 @ Canal Park, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – May 22, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Salt and Snow Management – August 7 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- Road Safety Audit – September 11 (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

2. *Public Participation*

- Lehigh Valley Chamber's 2018 Transportation Summit – May 17, 11:00 a.m. (Seats Available)
- Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Summit – June 21 & 22 @ Lehigh University, All Day (Seats Available)
- Women in Transportation + Government – Fall

3. *Hazard Mitigation Public Dialogue – July 10 @ Iron Works Municipal Building, Catasauqua, 7:00 p.m.*

4. *Delaware & Lehigh 30th Anniversary Founder's Day Homecoming – June 2 @ Hugh Moore*

Adjournment

With no further business Mr. Dougherty made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Repasch seconded the motion.

Submitted by:
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant