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Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes from the Thursday, September 27, 2018 Meeting

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, September 27, 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.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Tom Nolan.

Ms. Leonard took Roll Call – Quorum Obtained.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Mike Gibson, Steve Glickman, Kent Herman, Rick Molchany, Stephen Repasch, Chris Weaver and Donna Wright.

Northampton County

Debra Bodine, Gordon Campbell, Eugene Clater, Janell Connolly, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Jamie Horvath, Robert Lammi, Kevin Lott, William McGee, Tina Smith and Gerald Yob.

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Percy Dougherty, Bob Elbich, Julio Guridy, Dennis Hower, Miriam Huertas, Christina Morgan, Marty Nothstein, Ray O'Connell, Owen O'Neil, Lathy Rader, Kevin Schmidt and Douglas Stewart.

Northampton County

Malissa Davis, John Diacogiannis, Robert Donchez, Darlene Heller, Shawn Martell, Lamont McClure, Salvatore Panto, Pamela Pearson, Tina Roseberry and Greg Zebrowski.

Staff Present: Matt Assad, Becky Bradley, Mike Donchez, Denise Leonard, Chandra Parasa, Geoff Reese, Jill Seitz, and John von Kerczek.

Public Present: None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: No Comments

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

1. National Community Planning Month – October 2018

Mr. Repasch proclaimed that Monday, October 1 is the start of the 2018 Community Planning Month which recognizes all the hard work and commitment that the citizen planners do to make their communities better.

MINUTES

Mr. Repasch stated that the minutes of the August 30, 2018 LVPC meeting are attached. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Elliott and Ms. Weaver abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

1. Ordinance/Plan Reviews

a. Crackersport Road and Eck Road – South Whitehall Land Use of Regional Significance

Ms. Seitz presented the review of Crackersport Road and Eck Road – South Whitehall Land Use of Regional Significance. The project is situated mainly in South Whitehall Township with a portion of the site in Upper Macungie Township where Route 476 and 22 cross. The application proposes the construction of three new industrial building, totaling 907,205 square feet, which surpasses the 500,000 square feet which makes it Land Use of Regional Significance. The proposed development is estimated to generate approximately 1,400 trips per day with 132 peak a.m. and 151 peak p.m. trips. LVPC determined that none of the three routes currently serving this site are adequate to support truck traffic. It is recommended that truck traffic be restricted on the northern portion of Eck Road because the road becomes too narrow, and the stop sign controlled intersection at Eck Road and Chapmans Road is low visibility and also tight. It is further recommended that trucks be restricted from traveling westward on Crackersport Road toward Blue Barn due to road narrowing, and trucks will not be able to navigate this S-Curve; this intersection is already notoriously dangerous. The Eastern route to Hausman Road would be the recommended route since it is the widest and the most likely to be adapted for the truck infrastructure. A recommendation was made at the committee meeting to send an additional letter adding language with regards to LANta bus stops to help reduce non-truck trips. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments for an additional letter as proposed. Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Lehigh University Bridge West – Land Use of Regional Significance

Mr. von Kerczek presented the review of Lehigh University Bridge West – Land Use of Regional Significance. The proposal is for the demolition of the existing dormitory consisting of 240 beds and replacing them with two clusters of dorms totaling 765 beds totaling 258,290 square feet. The project site is located within the Catasauqua Creek watershed; more specifically the Catasauqua Creek and Lehigh River sub-basin floor. LVPC has recommended retaining some existing pedestrian crossings to avoid potential increase in pedestrian travel times. The proposed development is anticipated to generate a total of 1,654 trips per weekday with 81 peak a.m. and 138

peak p.m. trips. While LANTA does not currently provide public transportation to the site. LANTA and Lehigh University are in discussion regarding plans to provide transit service to the site. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments as presented. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. *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. Mr. Clater seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Elliott abstaining from item # 3.

Environment Committee:

1. *Pennsylvania Agriculture: A Look at the Economic Impact and Future Trends*

Mr. Reese presented on the Pennsylvania Agriculture: A Look at the Economic Impact and Future Trends which takes a look at Pennsylvania Agriculture. The report documents \$135.7 billion associated with agriculture in Pennsylvania and that includes not just the products themselves but also the facilities that process those products. Agriculture supports one out of every ten jobs and the organic segment has been rapidly expanding; nationally second in sales and fourth in the number of farms. The document takes a look at not only the economic impacts but the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats. The details and data contained in the document is strictly a statewide viewpoint with no breakout of individual county data.

Transportation Committee

Mr. Clater provided a recap of the Build a Better Mousetrap contest presented at the Transportation Committee meeting by Brian Hite. It's a statewide contest where municipalities compete to build a structure using material currently on hand. Last year Whitehall Township took first place with their innovative salt shed cover and this year Bath Borough won second place for a storm drain lifter mechanism. The last six years someone from our region has won first or second place.

1. *I-78/Adams Road Point of Access Study Update*

Mr. Parasa provided an update on the I-78/Adams Road Interchange project in Upper Macungie Township just west of State Road 100. The working group met last week to discuss the possible expansion of the scope of study. Prior to this discussion the study only looked at Adams Road portion of Route 100. A recommendation was made to analyze the roadways between State Road 863 and State Road 100, and the impact of expanding I-78 to three lanes in each direction and/or a truck climbing lane (I-78). All-in-all a number of alternatives are recommended by the US Department of Transportation and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be explored by Upper Macungie Township. Upper Macungie Township is considering these recommendations and the dialogue between parties is productive. Ms. Bradley noted that the transportation system is compound-complex and that the conversations on the management of infrastructure take time and effort. Staff is supportive of the continued dialogue.

2. *Transportation Improvement Program Approval*

Ms. Bradley announced the approval of the Transportation Improvement Program authorizing LVTS to spend over \$500 million as of October 1, 2018; the beginning of the federal fiscal year. This means that money can flow to the counties for their bridges, municipal governments,

LANTA and PennDOT. The US Department of Transportation approved the funding plans for all of the regions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which is a testament to how well Planning Organizations work with PennDOT.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 5th Annual LVPC Gala & Awards

a. Wednesday, October 10 @DeSales University

Ms. Bradley provided an update and reminder to register for the 5th Annual LVPC Gala and Awards on October 10th. Ms. Bradley also thanked the members who volunteered their time to help with the judging. The idea behind the awards is that it takes a village to make great communities.

b. Community of Distinction Sign Unveilings

i. Bushkill Township (2015) – Thursday, October 4 @ Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Bradley provided a recap of the previous unveilings with the final unveiling to take place on October 4th at the Board of Supervisors Meeting for Bushkill Township. The fifth award recipient will be announced at the Gala.

2. FutureLV

a. Working Group Meeting – Developable/Preserved Land

i. Tuesday, October 16th @ LVPC, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Bradley announced the next working group meeting will take place on October 16th @ LVPC from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. LVPC will be presenting calculations on the amount of land that is developed, undeveloped and farmed. This is a key component to the development of the General Land Use Plan along with sewer and water, travel patterns etc.

b. Planning Action Team Meetings

i. Debrief of Meetings Held to Date

Ms. Bradley provided an update on the Planning Action Team Meetings which included 37 municipal governments since last month. Ms. Bradley provided a recap of the municipalities along with the dates of the upcoming meetings documented on the agenda. The October 18th Slate Belt meeting will most likely be rescheduled due to the community Halloween parade scheduled for the same evening. Once all the meetings have been completed we will compile the notes and present them to the Commission. The major themes to date, focus on the fear/uncertainty in the following areas: rapid growth, stormwater requirements, police/fire services, water/sewer services, and raising taxes. Multi-municipal cooperation was seen as a strength and opportunity.

NEW BUSINESS

1. evoLve: What's Now and What's Next. Date Release and Purpose

a. Partnership with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday, December 5 @ ArtsQuest, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Bradley introduced the next brand: evoLve which is the result of the growth and evolution of DataLV which was released last December. The new brand will be released on

December 5th and will include DataLV updates on commuting patterns, traffic volumes, equity and inclusion, and development in our region.

2. *Multimodal Working Group @ Northampton Community College/Fowler Family Southside Center, Room 605, 511 E. 3rd Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015*

Ms. Bradley provided a recap of the first multimodal working group meeting was held on September 26.

- a. *Transportation Safety Coordination – Wednesday, October 17, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.*
This meeting will focus on the behavioral side of transportation which will focus on topics ranging from driving drunk to car seat safety.
- b. *Walk/BikeLV: Existing Conditions – Wednesday, November 28, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.*
Our consultant Toole Design will speak on existing conditions.

3. *Walk/BikeLV: Active Transportation Plan Update*

Ms. Bradley provided an update on Walk/BikeLV: Active Transportation Plan. LVPC, Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) and a host of partners that have signed on to help with the project along with the consultant; Toole Design Group and Traffic Plan Design. Last year LVTS formed a multimodal working group whose goal was to advise the Technical and Coordinating Committees and LVPC on things related to pedestrian, bicycle and transit needs. Ms. Bradley also provided a flowchart which illustrated the plan approval process. Ms. Bradley provided a demonstration on how to access and use the wikimap which can be found by going to the Active Transportation Page on our website. Mr. Reese gave a presentation on why the time is right for this kind of process. One of the main reasons that the time is right is to bring together the Comprehensive Plan and the Long Range Transportation Plan into one document. A plan Open House will be held, Wednesday, November 28 @ Northampton Community College/Fowler Family Southside Center, Room 605, 511 E. 3rd Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. *Federal Communications Commission Small Cell Order*

Ms. Bradley and Mr. Assad provided a recap of the Federal Communication Commission Small Cell Order which governs wireless carrier requests to deploy 5G cell installations. Information will be distributed to the LVPC communities.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Bradley recapped the upcoming Public Engagement and Participation Events:

1. *2018 Eastern PA Greenways & Trails Summit*

Several LVPC staff members will be speaking at the 2018 Eastern PA Greenways & Trails Summit on October 1 – 2.

2. *2018 PA Brownfields Conference*

Ms. Bradley will be speaking at the 2018 PA Brownfields Conference on October 1 – 3.

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

- Road Safety Audit – September 11 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- Project Overview – September 13 (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- Salt and Snow Management – Will now be held on November 13 @ City of Allentown

LVPC is currently in the process of requesting 2019 classes, and are hoping to put together a series on Stormwater.

4. *Lehigh Valley Government Academy @ LVPC Office – 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*

- Community Planning – Thursday, September 6, 13, 20
- Zoning Administration – Thursday, October 16, 23, 30
- Subdivision and Land Development Review – Thursday, November 1, 8, 15

Classes ended last week for Community Planning. Zoning Administration will begin on October 16. If anyone is interested in signing up please let staff know.

5. *All Community General Assembly – October 30*

6. *Women in Transportation and Government*

The date has been set for the Women in Transportation and Government Event. Secretary Richards is available on November 27. Please mark your calendars.

Adjournment

With no further business Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion.

Submitted by:

Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant