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Executive Director

## LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

### Minutes from the Thursday, November 29, 2018 Meeting

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, November 29, 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. Vazquez took Roll Call.

#### **Members in Attendance:**

##### **Lehigh County**

Percy Dougherty, Bob Elbich, Steve Glickman, Kent Herman, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt, and Donna Wright.

##### **Northampton County**

Gordon Campbell, Malissa Davis, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Jamie Horvath, Robert Lammi, Steve Melnick, Pam Pearson, Tina Smith and Gerald Yob.

#### **Members Absent:**

##### **Lehigh County**

Phillips Armstrong, Mike Gibson, Julio Guridy, Dennis Hower, Miriam Huertas, Marty Nothstein, Ray O'Connell, Owen O'Neil, Kathy Rader, Douglas Stewart and Chris Weaver.

##### **Northampton County**

Debra Bodine, Eugene Clater, Janell Connolly, Robert Donchez, Darlene Heller, Kevin Lott, Shawn Martell, Lamont McClure, William McGee, Salvatore Panto, Tina Roseberry and Greg Zebrowski.

**Staff Present:** Matt Assad, Becky Bradley, Valarie Discafani, Tracy Oscavich, Chandra Parasa, Geoff Reese, Sue Rockwell, Jill Seitz, Bethany Vazquez and John von Kerczek.

**Public Present:** Kevin Kalman, Bethlehem Township Fire Co. and Steve Althouse, WFMZ.

## **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:**

NONE

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

*1. New Commissioner: Steven Melnick – Northampton County Citizen Member*  
Mr. Repasch introduced Steven Melnick, Northampton County's new Commissioner. Mr. Melnick provided a brief overview of his prior experience.

## **MINUTES**

Mr. Repasch stated that the minutes of the October 25, 2018 LVPC meeting are attached. Ms. Pearson made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Davis, Ms. Morgan, Ms. Wright and Mr. Campbell abstaining.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Comprehensive Planning Committee**

Mr. Repasch referred the Commission to the attached Summary Sheet. Items were reviewed together and passed as one item. Abstentions are noted below:

*For the following items, Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments. Ms. Driesbach seconded the motion.*

- 1. Lower Saucon Township – Zoning Ordinance Amendment*
  - a. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Hanover Township (NC) – Zoning Ordinance Amendment*
  - a. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Diacogiannis and Mr. Campbell abstaining.
- 3. Lower Nazareth Township – Zoning Ordinance Amendment*
  - a. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4. South Whitehall Township – SALDO Amendment*
  - a. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Elbich abstaining.
- 5. Allen Township – Zoning Map Amendment*
  - a. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6. Washington Township (LC) – Zoning Ordinance Amendment*
  - a. The motion passed unanimously.
- 7. South Whitehall Township – Zoning Ordinance Amendment*
  - a. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Elbich abstaining.

### **Environment Committee:**

- 1. Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Status Report*

Mr. Reese presented an update on the adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. In October, it was reported that the plan was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on October 10<sup>th</sup> and that eight municipalities had adopted the plan. As of November 27<sup>th</sup>, 40 municipalities

have adopted the plan, along with Lehigh County. Mr. Reese reminded the Commission that the municipalities have a year, from October 10<sup>th</sup>, to adopt the plan. It was requested by Mr. Herman that the LVPC send the Commission a list of the remaining municipalities that have yet to adopt the plan.

## **Transportation Committee**

### *1. Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan Update*

Mr. Reese gave a report on the status of Walk/RollLV. The plan's name was changed from Walk/Bike to Walk/Roll in an effort to be more inclusive to people of all abilities such as wheelchairs and other non-bike modes of transportation. The second meeting of the multimodal working group took place on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The plan's consultant, Toole Design, presented information on the existing conditions of the area's walking and biking facilities at the 4:00 p.m. meeting. Directly following the multimodal meeting was an Open House to further explain the plan, encourage public participation, and better visualize the existing data gathered for the region. Mr. Reese presented a video of a bike trip taken with the consultants earlier that day, visualizing the conditions for the Commission.

### *2. LVTS Technical, Coordinating, and Freight Advisory Joint Committee Meeting*

Ms. Oscavich reminded the Commission that the Joint LVTS Technical, Coordinating, and Freight Advisory Meeting will be taking place on December 5, 2018 at Catasauqua Borough Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *1. FutureLV*

#### *a. Planning Action Team Report*

Mr. Assad reported that the Planning Action Team Meetings have concluded for the 2018 year, and gave a short summary of the main ideas gathered from different communities. Potential dates for 2019 are currently being discussed. Mr. Molchany requests that the Commission be sent the summary comment document for the Planning Action Team Meetings.

#### *b. Call for Transportation Projects and Plans*

Ms. Bradley reported on the current status of the Call for Transportation Projects and Plans. Information Sessions for Call for Projects is mandatory prior to application. If attendance is not made at one of the two available sessions, project will not be able to apply. The required sessions will take place on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the LVPC office located at 961 Marcon Blvd., Suite 310. Session one will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. and Session two will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m.

#### *c. Working Group Meeting*

Ms. Bradley reviewed the purpose of the FutureLV Working Group Meetings. The next meeting will take place on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the LVPC office.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *1. evoLVe: What's Now and What's Next. Date Release and Purpose*

Ms. Bradley provided an overview of evoLVe, an update of DataLV which includes housing, commercial, industrial, and retail development data, commuting trends, traffic trends, and an equity analysis. In partnership with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, the LVPC will release the data during an event on December 5<sup>th</sup> at ArtsQuest. The event doors will open at 4:00 p.m.

### *2. THE LINK Trail Network*

Mr. Reese gave a short summary of THE LINK Trail Network. The purpose of this program is to create a brand for the Trail Network in the Lehigh Valley. THE LINK was unveiled on November 1<sup>st</sup>, where LVPC staff presented some remarks.

### *3. Draft 2019 Commission Schedule*

Ms. Bradley brought the Commission to the attention of the proposed 2019 meeting calendar. With there being no objections, it is agreed by the Commission to meet on the designated dates for the 2019 calendar year.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Bradley brought the Commission to the attention of three letters of gratitude that were presented to the LVPC.

- 1. Appalachian Trail Conservancy*
- 2. Community Bike Works*
- 3. Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### *1. Moving Women Forward*

Ms. Bradley gave a summary of the Moving Women Forward Event. There were 150 people in attendance. The event was livestreamed and covered by multiple media outlets. All feedback on the event has been positive.

### *2. PA WalkWorks with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and University of Pittsburgh*

Ms. Bradley gave a report of the PA WalkWorks Grant Program. The goal of PA WalkWorks is to improve active lifestyles and health outcomes. The LVPC has applied for the PA WalkWorks Grant at the end of October. As a result, the LVPC was awarded \$20,000 to be used for Photoshop renderings of the Lehigh Valley for places that have high accident rates for bikes and pedestrians, as well as areas with low health outcomes, and how these spaces can be physically redesigned to low

injury rates and improve health. This project will become a special section under the FutureLV plan.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION:**

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

### *1. evoLVe*

- As a review, the LVPC will be partnering with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce to host their evoLVe event at ArtsQuest on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

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

Submitted by:  
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and  
Bethany Vazquez, Program Associate