

LVPC PROJECT REVIEW SUMMARY SHEET

Comprehensive Planning

Date: May 2017

PROJECT	MUNICIPALITY	BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	LVPC COMMENT
1. Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Lower Nazareth Township	Medical Marijuana – Establishes a process and standards to allow for medical marijuana facilities	The proposed amendment is generally consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. However, the locational restrictions on grower/processor uses may be construed as being more stringent than those governing similar uses within the same zoning district.
2. Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Forks Township	Apartments in TC-1 Zoning District – Establishes a TC-1 (Town Center/Apartment) zoning district	The proposed amendment is generally consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.
3. Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Lehigh Township	Wireless Communications Facilities – Establishes uniform standards for the siting, design, permitting, use, and maintenance of Wireless Communications Facilities.	The amendment primarily addresses matters of local concern. However, the continued allowance for the development of WCFs on Blue Mountain conflicts with County Comprehensive Plan open space and natural features preservation goals as well as goals in the Northampton County Open Space Plan. Furthermore, the amendment does not address potential negative impacts of WCF collocation on historic buildings, structures and sites.
4. Zoning Ordinance Amendment	City of Bethlehem	Hospital and Treatment Centers – Clarifies regulations pertaining to Hospital and Treatment Centers	The proposed amendment is generally consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.
5. Zoning Ordinance Amendment	City of Bethlehem	Medical Marijuana – Revised amendment removes locational restrictions on grower/processor uses may be construed as being more stringent than those governing similar uses within the same zoning district	The proposed amendment is generally consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.
6. Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Portland Borough	Medical Marijuana – Revised amendment designates Medical Marijuana Facilities as a Principal Permitted Use (rather than a Conditional Use) to ensure regulations on grower/processor uses are not more stringent than those governing similar uses within the same zoning district	The proposed amendment is generally consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.

7. Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Lehigh Township	Medical Marijuana – Establishes a process and standards to allow for medical marijuana facilities	The proposed amendment is generally consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. However, the locational restrictions on grower/processor uses and the designation of this use as Special Exception may be construed as being more stringent than those governing similar uses within the same zoning district. Additionally, the designation of Dispensaries as a Special Exception use may also be construed as more stringent than designations governing similar uses within the same zoning district.
8. Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Catasauqua Borough	Commercial Communications Facilities – Establishes uniform standards for the siting, design, permitting, use, and maintenance of Commercial Communications Facilities.	The amendment primarily addresses matters of local concern. However, the LVPC notes that the IO-Industrial/Office Zoning District where such uses are allowed is designated for Natural Features in the County Comprehensive plan due to the presence of a 500-year floodplain.