

The Northern Lehigh Multimunicipal Comprehensive plan

Update Meeting

November 5, 2019 - 5:30 pm, Lowhill Township Municipal Building

Steering Committee Attendees:

Dawn Didra – Heidelberg Township
Steve Bachman – Heidelberg Township
Robb A. Werley – Lowhill Township
Brian Carl – Lowhill & Weisenberg Townships
Brian Dietrich – Lynn Township
Jason Ruff – Slatington Borough
Linda Gorgas – Weisenberg Township

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Becky Bradley – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Charles Doyle – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Bethany Vazquez – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Simon Okumu – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Minutes:

Introductions

Miss Bethany took roll call.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Doyle introduced new Planning Partners members Bethany Vazquez and Simon Okumu to the Steering Committee.

New Business

The committee members pointed out that there is a need for 4 way stop sign on Werleys corner Road in Heidelberg Township or even construction of roundabout was raised as a way to help mitigate traffic incidents, they also pointed out that there are not enough shoulders on the Eastern side Werleys corner Road and Route 100 intersection that will be needed for either for 4 way stop sign or roundabout construction. See figure 1.1 attached below. One of the committee members suggested that a meeting should be convened at the Slatington Borough meeting and a tour early 2020.

Issues & Opportunities Paper-Progress update

The issues and opportunities paper will be presented in the next steering meeting on December 4th, 2019. The Committee members spoke on the need for innovative policies and actions that will help improve the agricultural economy of the Northern Lehigh Region. These policies and actions should look at creating an environment where local farmers can generate more income. Various Committee members spoke on the need for lobbying state representatives and senate

on the importance of green future funds for farmland preservation, and how they can be utilized to address local water issues, encourage public participation, and promote the agriculture workforce to the next generation.

2004 Comprehensive Plan Review Exercise **Action Program Summary**

A committee member raised the issue of adopting annual meeting and community branding (currently one community is doing this in the region). The need for fine tuning the old Northern Lehigh Multi-municipal list and make it more specific was also floated by Miss Bethany. One of the committee member plus the enlistment of historical, cultural features and the environment in the Northern Lehigh

Compare and contrast past successes

A committee member suggested the need to look for contacts for the Organizations that are dying in the area. Mrs. Becky asked if the committee members can find out on who can be contacted and talked too about the Scenic routes in the area and see how public transportation can be improved, some ideas floated around included ride share, sponsored uber etc. The need to located designate Businesses, property owners and residents that are located in a KOZ, that are eligible to receive significant state and local tax benefits. Check if KOZ has other opportunities in Slatington Township. Take a look at the Bill (Dairy opportunity zone- (HB1223) that is being worked on, on ways that it can benefit the farmers was also raised by one of the representatives from the Townships.

Previous Chapter Overviews

- Are they still relevant?

Check for policy loophole in economic development.

- Expectations for future plan

A meeting was set up for January in Slatington Township, and also after a proposed meeting if it is possible to have a walk around and identify places or areas of economic importance.

1. Figures

- Figure 1.1



Adjourn

The meeting was then adjourned by Mr. Doyle.

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.