

Heidelberg Township
Lowhill Township
Lynn Township



NORTHERN LEHIGH PLAN

Slatington Borough
Washington Township
Weisenberg Township

The Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan

June 1, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Steering Committee Attendees:

Dawn Didra – Heidelberg Township
Janice Meyers – Heidelberg Township
Steve Bachman – Heidelberg Township
Brian Carl – Lowhill & Weisenberg Townships
Brian Dietrich – Lynn Township
Dan Steven – Slatington Borough
Linda Gorgas – Weisenberg Township
Tony Werley – Weisenberg Township

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Becky Bradley – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Samantha Smith – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Michael Hanes – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Brian Hite – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Teresa Mackey – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Members of the Public:

Chris White – Slatington Farmer's Market / Marketplace

Minutes:

Introductions

Steering Committee attendees took roll call.

Becky Bradley introduced Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) staff in attendance.

Courtesy of the Floor

Ms. Bradley welcomed the committee to the Slatington Farmer's Market. She mentions the idea that the next meeting be in Washington Township to allow LVPC to present to the Washington Township Supervisors because their meetings are the same day. Committee is supportive but needs to confirm with Washington Township. Ms. Smith requests back-up options – Lowhill, Slatington and Heidelberg representation all volunteer to host.

Mr. White, of the Slatington Farmer's Market, gave an introduction and briefly explained the layout of the Slatington Farmer's Market and anticipated opening on June 20, 2021. He thanked the Steering Committee for holding the meeting at the Marketplace. Mr. White explains the target audience and discussed the market's strategic location to trails and hopes to partner with local communities. Ms. Bradley says the LVPC will send contact info for the D&L Trail. Mr. White mentioned that he had fliers available that can be shared with the municipalities for distribution.

Presentation of the Land Use Plan Maps and Discussion

Ms. Bradley explained the series of maps and asset evaluation. She stated that micro versions of the maps will be sent to each municipality by the end of the week and asked that committee members view and mark-up the maps, and jot down any questions, concerns or missing items.

Ms. Bradley turned the discussion to Ms. Mackey to review the maps.

Ms. Mackey reviews Map 1 with the location of 100- and 500-year flood plains in the region. Mr. Stevens provides input.

Ms. Mackey reviews Map 2 with the location of endangered species and habitats. Mr. Bachman, Ms. Meyers, Mr. Carl and Mr. Werley provide input, with Ms. Mackey answering questions.

Ms. Mackey reviews Map 3 with the regional locations of natural resources of priority. Mr. Bachman provides input with Ms. Mackey responding.

Ms. Mackey reviews Map 4 with farmland preservation. Mr. Werley asks a question with Ms. Bradley responding.

Ms. Bradley reviews Map 5 and 6, with existing land uses. Mr. Werley, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Bachman provide input and ask questions, with Ms. Bradley responding.

Ms. Mackey reviews Map 7 with land cover data.

Ms. Mackey reviews Map 8 with the regional trail system. Ms. Bradley asks the Committee about other trail concepts or ideas. Ms. Mackey reminds the Committee to provide input. Mr. Bachman and Mr. Stevens provide input with Ms. Bradley and Ms. Mackey responding.

Mr. Hite reviews Map 9 with traffic count locations. Ms. Bradley provides additional context. Mr. Werley, Ms. Meyers and Mr. Carl provide input with Ms. Bradley responding.

Mr. Hite reviews Map 10 with truck traffic percentages of vehicles counts. Ms. Didra, Mr. Carl, Mr. Dietrich, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Bachman provide input with Ms. Bradley responding.

Ms. Bradley reviews Map 11 with residential types and asks the Committee for information about residential proposals. The Committee indicates that tracked information isn't available. Ms. Didra, Ms. Meyers and Mr. Bachman provide input. Ms. Bradley asks the Committee to send estimates of acreage.

Ms. Bradley reviews Map 12 with the history of built commercial and residential structures by year range. Ms. Bradley explained the most significant new clustering of residential was forming in Lowhill, Weisenberg and Lynn Townships. Mr. Bachman provides input.

Ms. Bradley review Map 13 with historical structures and properties, and dismissed the common misconception that historic preservation costs more. Mr. Steven concurred. Ms. Bradley mentioned that Lynn and Heidelberg Historical Society did a survey that is not represented in the State's database. Ms. Bradley asked Committee members to include what historical structures they deem to be relevant. Ms. Mackey provides information about the state records. Ms. Meyers inquired if cemeteries are considered historic. Ms. Bradley explained that cemeteries are not considered historically significant per federal and state wide significance, but reinforced the Committee members to add cemeteries to their list of historically significant places. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Bachman provide additional input with Ms. Bradley responding.

The map discussion concluded with Ms. Bradley asking the Committee if they would prefer a website to review maps for the whole area. Mr. Carl responded he would appreciate the ability to see what the other communities have, since they're only getting paper copies of their individual communities. Mr. Carl also added that Mr. Friebolin should be given the maps for Washington Township, and requested that Mr. Friebolin also be sent the draft version of the goals, policies and actions via email.

Additional Discussion

Ms. Bradley informed the Committee that LVPC staff will be taking pictures of the area during the next month.

Ms. Bradley confirmed that LVPC staff will make efforts to make the maps available online on a private website and asked Committee members not to share the link once provided.

Ms. Meyers asked if zoning maps should be updated, and Ms. Bradley advised that is not recommended at this time until a regional land use plan has been finalized.

Mr. Carl discussed potential development proposals after indication of development pressure from outside the region.

Ms. Bradley confirmed that the next meeting will occur in July as planned, with the site to be determined, but aiming to hold it in Washington Township.

Adjournment