



Catasauqua Borough | East Allen Township | Hanover Township
North Catasauqua Borough | Northampton Borough

RIVER CENTRAL MULTI-MUNICIPAL PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE Minutes from June 8th, 2021 – 7PM

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

ROLL CALL

Members

Bob Mills – East Allen Township
Brent Green – East Allen Township
Chris Cruz – East Allen Township
Mark Thomas – Hanover Township
Melissa Wehr – Hanover Township
Vicky Roth – Hanover Township
Peter Paone – North Catasauqua Borough

Others in Attendance

Becky Bradley – LVPC
Matt Assad – LVPC
Samantha Smith – LVPC
Jill Seitz – LVPC
Victor Rodite – Northampton Borough
Ryan Meyer – Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Becky Bradley introduces Matt Assad, an LVPC staff member who is joining the Plan River Central team effort.

Becky discusses the recent groundbreaking for a 1.5-mile section of the D&L Trail in North Catasauqua and Northampton boroughs. Pete Paone says he is looking forward to the ribbon cutting because the trailhead will be done by then as well.

Victor shares that Northampton Borough is reviewing RFP responses from three consultants for the trail to Nor Bath, and mentions an alignment concern from Main Street to the bridge north of Hockendauqua.

Melissa Wehr mentions the groundbreaking for the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority connector project. Ryan Meyer adds that it was a good event and is also looking forward to ribbon cutting for the TSA checkpoint expansion and ADA improvements. Melissa Wehr mentions the new Rockefeller building on Willowbrook Road and that the Township will be turning the road over to the State in the future.

Brent Green notes the Township is involved in a curative amendment challenge and mentions that the farmers market and open space committee is meeting monthly with 14-15 members, up from four. East Allen Township received a grant at the park and they are looking forward to groundbreaking in a year or two.

MINUTES – May 11th, 2021

The committee reviews the prior meeting minutes. Brent Green requests a motion to approve.

MOTION: By Chris Cruz. Second by Vicky Roth.

CHARETTE WEBSITE FEEDBACK

Jill Seitz reviews the updated Plan River Central website with charette results and asks for input. Bob Mills suggests reviewing the charette results periodically to ensure that the priorities remain relevant.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Samantha Smith reviews the methods of distributing the survey. Samantha states that the PDF version will be sent to Committee members and asks where else the paper copies need to go.

Brent Green mentions that he handed out cards at elections.

Pete Paone mentions potential engagement opportunities within North Catasauqua and Catasauqua boroughs.

Becky Bradley and Brent Green discuss the upcoming Paw Prints on the Canal event. Brent Green mentions that the school districts should be engaged, not just in the survey but in the overall project as well.

Samantha Smith asks if the Committee is ready to release the survey, and the committee indicates that they are.

Brent Green asks if the press can be notified. Matt Assad discusses press opportunities with the Committee, and states that he will try the Lehigh Valley Press and others.

Bob Mills asks about status updates of the survey. Becky Bradley states that LVPC will give a detailed and summarized report, with quick graphics that summarize the responses in an easy way as part of a communications package. The response rates will be monitored, with follow-up to the Committee via e-mail if there's an issue with low responses.

Samantha Smith reviews where the survey will be promoted on the Plan River Central website, and states that the survey will also be emailed to charette participants and invitees, elected officials, school districts and others for their feedback, and to request that they forward it to others as well. Samantha Smith asks if there are community groups the survey should be distributed to.

Brent Green discusses the need for the municipalities to gather any paper surveys, and to let LVPC know when they are ready to be picked up.

COMMUNITY DELIVERABLES

Jill Seitz states that municipal tours will be scheduled soon and asks individual committee members what day of the week is best, if the tour should be walking or driving, and if there are

others from the community that should be included.

Pete Paone states that Thursdays are not good, and a walking tour is preferred unless it's too hot. Bryan Cope should be involved, and potentially the Mayor, police chief or EMA director.

Brent Green says they are flexible in East Allen Township, and can move things around if need be. The Board of Supervisors and appointed boards should be asked if they have any interest in participating.

Melissa Wehr says Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are better days, and it will be a driving tour. Melissa would like to reach out to the Hanover Township Board of Supervisors.

Victor Rodite states that the tour can be Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, and he will talk to LeRoy Brobst tomorrow morning about people to attend.

Brent Green asks whether LANTA and LNAA should be included in identifying areas of concern. Becky Bradley replies that we will wrap up the charette, survey and tours before we reach out to others.

PROJECT SCHEDULE STATUS

Becky Bradley reviews project schedule status, including ongoing efforts pulling data on transportation and in-depth analysis on housing. In late summer and fall there is an engagement opportunity to conduct topic-specific round tables.

CLOSING REMARKS + ADJOURNMENT

Brent Green requests a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: By Pete Paone to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bob Mills.

Submitted by:
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission