



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

RIVER CENTRAL MULTI-MUNICIPAL PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE Minutes from September 14th, 2021 – 7 pm

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

ROLL CALL

Members

Steve Travers – Catasauqua Borough
Brent Green – East Allen Township
Chris Cruz – East Allen Township
Mark Thomas – Hanover Township
Melissa Wehr – Hanover Township
Vicky Roth – Hanover Township
LeRoy Brobst – Northampton Borough

Others in Attendance

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

MINUTES – August 10th, 2021

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

MOTION: By Melissa Wehr. Second by Chris Cruz.

MUNICIPAL TOURS

Matt Assad reviewed the status of the municipal tours which are now complete following the Catasauqua Borough tour on August 18th. The LVPC met with Borough Manager Steve Travers to talk about the Borough's challenges and opportunities. Matt Assad highlighted the major assets and issues or priorities identified while on the tour. This information will be utilized throughout the Comprehensive Planning process to guide the priorities and ultimately policy development.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Jill Seitz reviewed a presentation detailing the results for each question in the Community Survey. Major themes that emerged included a community preference for parks, trails and open space, and a high rate of walking and biking as modes of transportation. Warehouses, truck traffic and traffic congestion were the most indicated for what the community likes least about the area. The committee discussed the significance of biking and walking found in the survey results, mentioning that those results were somewhat surprising, though there has been an

observed increased in the use of local trails lately. Since COVID trails have really picked up, and bikes were on backorder during the peak of the pandemic as well. Brent Green shared that many people bike on back roads and there are group rides on Airport Road from Route 329 south. East Allen Township has been receiving more requests for walkability in that area. Chris Cruz added that there have also been bikers on Airport Road beyond recreation. Steve Travers commented that the price of gas can be a driving factor for increased commuter bicycles.

Jill Seitz review^{ss} the demographics of survey respondents compared to the Census demographics of the River Central area. Becky Bradley states that the demographics of respondents is very close to the real demographics of the area, the best alignment the LVPC has ever seen. This supports the validity of the survey and ensuring that the survey is representative of the population.

Jill Seitz state^{ss} that the draft Vision and Guiding Principles is the next step, now that the initial public input has been collected. The quantitative survey results will be compared with the qualitative information from the municipal tours and charettes to establish a first draft of the plan's vision and goals, which will become the foundation for decisions and policies and actions that make up the plan.

PROJECT SCHEDULE STATUS

Becky Bradley review^{ss} the project schedule status. Next meeting we will have a first cut of the goals and guiding principles, and then start rolling up our sleeves on detailed conversation topics. Becky Bradley asks the committee if there are people missing from the table, that are knowledgeable within the community, that should be invited to participate in forming the plan. The committee discusses possible subject experts, including emergency services, and police departments that can provide input on problem areas for each municipality. Chris Cruz mentions that a lack of services is also an issue that should be discussed. Becky Bradley states that LVPC will come up with a list of subject matters to potentially schedule for round-table discussions.

CLOSING REMARKS + ADJOURNMENT

Brent Green requests a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: By LeRoy Brobst to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Melissa Wehr.

Submitted by:
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission