

PLAN SLATE BELT



- Bangor • East Bangor • Lower Mount Bethel • Pen Argyl •
- Plainfield • Portland • Roseto • Upper Mount Bethel •
- Washington • Wind Gap •

SLATE BELT MULTI-MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 7:00 PM

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WE WILL NOT BE MEETING IN-PERSON.

You can participate via virtual web meeting:

- Link <http://tiny.cc/PSB1104> or via phone 1-872-239-5796 Conf ID: 764 611 042#

AGENDA

Open Meeting

1. Roll Call
2. Courtesy of the Floor
3. Minutes
 - April 1st, 2020 Meeting Minutes
 - October 7th, 2020 Meeting Minutes
4. General Issues and Opportunities Discussion
 - Known “Plan Activity” in Slate Belt Communities – September 2020 – October 2020 (see attachment)
 - i. Subdivision and Land Development Proposals
 - ii. Municipal Ordinances, Plans, Maps

Old Business

1. PROGRAMMATIC:
 - Zoning Diagnosis Discussion
2. PARTNERSHIP:
 - Heritage and Nature-based Placemaking/Economic Development – Adaptive Quarry Reuse Initiative Presentation

New Business

1. Project Discussion

Adjourn

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the SLATE BELT

April 1, 2020 – 7 PM, Virtual Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Attendees:

Bangor: Nate Dysard, James Kresge
East Bangor: Jason Huggan
L. Mt. Bethel: Susan Disidore, Jen Smethers, Sandra Newman
Pen Argyl: Robin Zmoda, Jeffrey Fox
Plainfield: Tom Petrucci, Stephen Hurni, Terry Kleintop
Portland: Lance Prator, Stephanie Steele
Roseto: Joe Angelini
U. Mt. Bethel: Anthony DeFranco
Washington: Justin Huratiak
Wind Gap: Louise Firestone

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Judith Henckel – Upper Mount Bethel Township
Gina Kormanik – Workforce Board Lehigh Valley
Andrew Kleiner – Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation
Bob Kilbanks – State Representative Joe Emrick
Marc Blau – Slate Belt Heritage Center
Cullen King – Slate Belt Heritage Center

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Becky Bradley – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Tracy Oscavich – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Sue Rockwell – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
David Towsey – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Simon Okumu – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Mahdis Modaresi – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Stephen Reider – Slate Belt Rising
Mark Hartney – Northampton County
Ellen Neises – University of Pennsylvania
Joshua Ketchum – University of Pennsylvania
Melissa Hough – Slate Belt Heritage Center

Ms. Bradley welcomed everyone to the first Plan Slate Belt Virtual Steering Committee meeting. The meeting was advertised in the Morning Call on March 27, 2020, promoted on the Plan Slate Belt website, and emailed to Steering Committee members and members of the public who participated in previous meetings. The agenda and meeting materials are posted on the website in the meetings section. Minutes of tonight's meeting are being taken via recording.

Roll Call

Mr. Petrucci asked for roll call to identify the communities that are participating in the meeting tonight. Ms. Rockwell took roll call.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Petrucci welcomed members of the public and asked them to state their name for the record. He asked if anyone would like to speak on an item not on the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Petrucci proceeded to the next agenda item.

Minutes from the March 4th Meeting

Mr. Petrucci called for a motion on approval of the March 4, 2020 meeting minutes, which were emailed to Steering Committee members and posted on the Plan Slate Belt website. Mr. Hurni made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Fox seconded the motion. Mr. Petrucci called for a roll call vote, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

Policy Development: Economic Development & Education and Workforce Development

Mr. Petrucci said that the Economic Development roundtable notes were distributed at the March Steering Committee meeting, and revised notes were posted to the project website. The Education and Workforce notes were emailed to the Steering Committee and any comments can be sent to Sue Rockwell (LVPC) by April 14. The notes will be finalized and added to the website after that.

New Business

COVID-19 Contingency Planning

Mr. Petrucci said that the COVID-19 pandemic has created limitations on the multi-municipal planning process, and the committee needs to discuss how the group should proceed with this planning effort. He asked if we should proceed with the virtual meeting sessions or temporarily put the meetings on hold, but break-out work assignments into sub-committees so that the LVPC could continue to gather information. Mr. Petrucci turned the discussion over to the committee. The committee consensus was to postpone the meetings until they can be held in person since the planning process is at a critical stage, and virtual meetings could be an impediment to some people, eliminating input from certain people. However, the committee would leave the discretion of establishing sub-committees to work on certain aspects of the plan to the LVPC. Mr. Petrucci said, since he hasn't heard a dissenting opinion, he would call for a motion to temporarily postpone the meetings and establish sub-committees to continue the work. Mr. Hurni made the motion, and Mr. Huggan seconded the motion. Mr. Petrucci called for a roll call vote, which passed unanimously.

Policy Development and Partnership: Heritage and Nature-Based Placemaking/Economic Development - Adaptive Quarry Reuse Initiative

Mr. Petrucci said that this business item is a parallel effort that cross-supports the multi-municipal planning effort, especially the heritage and outdoor economy that has been prioritized during the roundtable discussions. He introduced Ellen Neises and Joshua Ketchum, University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design, and Melissa Hough, Slate Belt Heritage Center, who will provide a presentation on this initiative.

Ms. Hough said about five years ago the Slate Belt Heritage Center was introduced to the University of Pennsylvania School of Design's multi-year project to survey and evaluate

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underutilized sites throughout the Slate Belt. Students created visions for the future, showing how these sites had the potential to become economic drivers and add to the local quality of life. Other similar regions across the world have successfully transformed projects into centerpieces for development. With Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development block grants, the school will be able to refine the students' many ideas into several viable plans. Weaving the projects into local and regional plans will help inspire thoughtful development, while preserving the unique character of the region. She said that the Issues and Opportunities report points out that tourism/museum employment in the Slate Belt is far below the region and the nation. Local people go outside the area to visit heritage and recreation sites. Ms. Hough hopes this project can change that and become part of the Slate Belt's vision.

Ms. Neises identified two project goals:

- Heritage-based placemaking and economic development
- Enhancement of the Slate Belt as an outdoor recreation destination

Ms. Neises said they are at the very beginning of the project. The first step will be to talk to people about what the best options are then start looking at the sites, project types, constraints and opportunities, acquisition of sites, and feasibility of the projects. Once there is a project people are really interested in, then they can take the project to the next step, visualizing the site concept and connecting with sources of funding.

Mr. Ketchum presented successful projects from around the world with similarities to the Slate Belt:

- National Slate Museum and Dinorwic Quarry, Wales, UK: This was a phased project, with smaller projects that added up to be something significant. The quarries are used as attractions, with access for hiking, rock climbing and other features. The slate museum is part of Snowdonia National Park, the largest park in Wales. It includes multiple slate quarry sites and is comprised of 1,497 miles of public footpath. The slate towns provide food and lodging for visitors.
- Manitoga, Garrison, NY: This project is the site of a former granite quarry that was turned into a cultural destination, which hosts dance, art music and other events. There was not a lot of investment made in this project.
- West Point Foundry Preserve, Cold Spring, NY: This project tells the story of the site's industrial past as an iron forge. It is an attraction to the region, but is also important to the community: a place to have lunch, walk dogs.
- Quarry Garden, Crenshan Botanical Garden, Shanghai, China: This project provides visitors with access to the park and an up close view of the quarry walls and landscape.
- Allmannajuvet Zinc Mines, Sauda, Norway: This project is part of a larger network of cultural attractions on the tourist route. Visitors can get up close to the mines and walk around the trail system.
- D&L Trail/National Heritage Corridor: Whatever quarry project is selected, it needs to be part of a larger network that ties historic and heritage features to the community in the larger area. The D&L can serve as an anchor point and has a series of heritage markers.
- Bethlehem SteelStacks: Not much was done to the Stacks, however, access was provided to them, giving a view of the cultural heritage. A lot of development happened around them.

Mr. Ketchum said that the quarries in the Slate Belt, with their dramatic, incredible views, should be developed as attractions themselves. Visitors are coming just to the edge of the Slate Belt.

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There are over 3 million visitors per year to the Delaware Water Gap, as well as visitors to the Lehigh and Appalachian trails. Also, the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton are within a 20-30 minute drive from the Slate Belt, and there is potential to draw people from farther away.

Many ideas were generated after visiting sites and having conversations with local people over the past few years. Mr. Ketchum presented some of the ideas, which involved creating connections between the quarries and towns through trails.

- A Bangor to East Bangor park system project, happening over time, involved proposed development and trails around the quarries, which would be used as attractive features.
- Another project connecting quarries to the Appalachian Trail involves the North Bangor Quarry that would be used as a campsite for visitors.
- A project involving the American Bangor Quarry would allow visitors to be level with the water. Historical markers, lighting and paths are added features.
- The Wind Gap quarries could be integrated into future development, which would surround the quarries (used for managing stormwater and habitats).
- The Dally Quarry in Pen Argyl could allow for viewing platforms to watch operations at an active quarry site.
- A project about the people in the Slate Belt that still have knowledge of how to cut stone, and employing those skilled craftsman to create a park and new path systems.

Mr. Ketchum said that, after speaking with the Heritage Center, they thought the best way forward was to develop one of the quarries and tie it to a trail system as a heritage and economic development strategy. He discussed the three quarries they thought had the strongest potential: North Bangor Slate Quarry, American Bangor Slate Quarry and Pen Argyl Slate Quarries.

Mr. Ketchum discussed a number of project considerations:

- Potential to create an anchor destination
- Visibility of quarry works and cultural landscape
- Addition to character and amenity of the Slate Belt communities
- Local interest and importance of the place
- Potential for investment and partners
- Quarry can be acquired at reasonable cost
- Site can be redeveloped at reasonable cost (not too challenging to make safe)
- Proximity to town centers
- Proximity to trails and other area destinations (Delaware Water Gap, etc.)
- Central to all or most Slate Belt communities, potential for linkage
- Scale and options to phase development of the project

Mr. Ketchum turned over the discussion to the committee for questions and feedback.

Mr. Huratiak thought it was a great presentation. Recreation is a key part to bringing economic development to the Slate Belt, allowing the town centers to prosper from tourism. It would also be a way to build up the communities without too much impact from industry. The Steering Committee should drive more in-depth conversation on what kind of recreational activities they would like to see. He thinks that they need more than a museum feature to pay for development.

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Mr. Kleintop asked if the presentation has been shown to state senators and PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). He thinks these are great ideas that would move the area forward in a positive direction. What they are seeing up to this point, however, are trucks dumping polluted soil from the tri-state area into the quarries. Mr. Ketchum responded that they have not. They wanted to start the conversation with the Slate Belt municipalities first. Mr. Kleintop also believes that the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Northampton County Parks would be interested in the presentation. Ms. Neises said that Bryan Cope, Northampton County, was involved in many of the discussions all along. The aim is to reach out with help from the LVPC and others. Ms. Hough said that this is a positive direction. There are other things that can be done to make the quarries real assets to the area.

Mr. Hurni asked if the Dally Quarry is owned by someone in Scranton now. Ms. Zmoda responded that it is no longer owned by the Dally family. A large portion is owned by Waste Management, who uses the quarries to mine for their temporary cap. They have indicated that they plan to continue that process for many years. Ms. Zmoda said that creates a lot of pressure from outside agencies, resulting in conflicts between the needs of the whole versus the wants of the whole. Mr. Hurni agreed. He said that one thing for him is an attraction tied to water. He asked whether anyone had any thoughts on that. Mr. Kleintop said to keep in mind that these areas are tremendous natural recharge areas and fresh water aquifers that could also serve as real tourism attractions if properly used.

Mr. Prator said that they are working on the Liberty Water Gap Trail, a 146-mile trail from the walk bridge in Portland to the Statue of Liberty and are trying to extend it to the Delaware Water Gap. Also, a few years ago, Northampton County Parks and Recreation completed a study on the Northern Tier Trail, which extends from the walk bridge in Portland to the other end of Northampton County. In between, it stops at Lake Minsi and through East Bangor and Bangor, where quarries are located.

Ms. Neises said they also thought the Martins Creek Cement Quarry would be a great site since it's on the Delaware, but thought the focus should be on developing a slate quarry before a cement quarry to assert the region's identity.

Mr. Hurni asked if they need a motel, such as Red Roof or Holiday Inn Express, to attract this tourism. Ms. Bradley said they don't necessarily need a brand name. They could build the overall economic base from using existing opportunities like Airbnb, Vrbo and other vacation rental places. Once established, then the chain motels will want to come in.

Ms. Neises asked if anyone had any thoughts on the American Bangor or North Bangor quarries. Mr. Huratiak said he thought the American Bangor Quarry has the most potential for a museum site with a lot of infrastructure in place.

Ms. Bradley asked if they would like to establish a sub-committee to keep discussing the heritage and nature-based placemaking initiative. Mr. Petrucci said yes. As part of the Northern Tier Trail study, the communities involved are in the midst of forming an inter-municipal committee to study trail connections and that a sub-committee should be formed to look at this further and partner with the Northern Tier project. It should also tie in with the Lehigh Valley Greenways, DCNR and DEP so that all important stakeholders are aware of what is going on, as well as potential funding sources for master site planning. The task for the sub-committee would be to bring this to stakeholders. Ms. Bradley said LVPC staff are the planners for Lehigh

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Valley Greenways, which is an initiative of DCNR. Also, the LVPC is the regional connection to DEP. In addition, the LVPC communicates with Bryan Cope often. She said the idea of connecting with the Northern Tier and Liberty Water Gap Trail groups would be beneficial to all. Mr. Kleintop noted that a major artery of the Northern Tier Trail is the Plainfield Trail. There are many quarries located along the trail. In addition, the Gall Farm will be developed into a county park, which will include 3-4 quarries. Tying them into the park is a topic of discussion.

Mr. Petrucci asked if a sub-committee should be set up now or offline so momentum is not lost. Ms. Bradley said the LVPC could send out an email survey to identify who wants to be part of the working group. She will inform Bryan Cope about this discussion since he is a key partner at the county.

Mr. Kleintop asked if anyone has an inventory of quarries. Ms. Hough said yes. The Slate Belt Heritage Center website under Slate History includes the history and shows many of the quarries and all aspects of them. Ms. Neises said that students and preservationists documented, surveyed and mapped the quarries, in addition to identifying fantastic slate walls, slate roofs on period buildings and other maps and drawings on water features, habitat systems and how the quarries fit in. This was developed about a year ago.

Next Steps

Policy Development – Shared Services & Infrastructure

Mr. Petrucci said that the shared services and infrastructure discussions are on hold, but the LVPC is collecting information on partners to be involved in the discussions. He asked the municipalities to provide partner contact information if they haven't already.

Site Tour

Mr. Petrucci said the site tour of southwest Lehigh County has been postponed until further notice.

Adjourn

Mr. Petrucci said the May 6th Steering Committee meeting will be cancelled, but the group will stay in touch on the next steps via email and the website. The LVPC will reach out to individuals to obtain information and about working on the sub-committee. He thanked everyone for participating in the virtual meeting and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hurni made a motion to adjourn.

Attachments

- March 4, 2020 Steering Committee Minutes
- Education and Workforce Development Roundtable Notes

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the SLATE BELT

October 7, 2020 – 7 PM, Virtual Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Attendees:

Bangor: Brooke Kerzner, James Kresge
East Bangor: Jason Huggan
L. Mt. Bethel: Susan Disidore, Sandra Newman
Pen Argyl: Robin Zmoda, Janell Connolly
Plainfield: Tom Petrucci, Stephen Hurni, Terry Kleintop
Portland: Lance Prator, Stephanie Steele
Roseto: Not in attendance
U. Mt. Bethel: Not in attendance
Washington: Not in attendance
Wind Gap: Louise Firestone, George Hinton, David Hess

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Judith Henckel – Upper Mount Bethel Township
Don Moore – Plainfield Township
Nancy Dischinat – Workforce Board Lehigh Valley
Gina Kormanik – Workforce Board Lehigh Valley
Andrew Kleiner – Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation
Bob Kilbanks – State Representative Joe Emrick
Jane Mellert – Plainfield Township
Joe LeDonne – Pen Argyl Borough
Lisa Amy – State Representative Marcia Hahn

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Tracy Oscavich – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Sue Rockwell – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Simon Okumu – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Mahdis Modaresi – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Stephen Reider – Slate Belt Rising
Mark Hartney – Northampton County
Alan Jennings – Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley
Melissa Hough – Slate Belt Heritage Center

Roll Call

Mr. Petrucci asked for roll call to identify the communities that are participating in the meeting tonight. Ms. Rockwell took roll call. Three municipalities are not represented at the meeting: Roseto Borough, Upper Mt. Bethel Township and Washington Township. Mr. Petrucci asked the committee if they should proceed since three municipalities are not on the call and noted the requirement to have unanimous voting. Mr. Huggan said that since the quarry project, which is partially located in Washington Township, is on the agenda tonight, the Township should be on the call. Mr. Petrucci was concerned that three out of the ten municipalities were not in attendance. Ms. Oscavich thought that the meeting could proceed, and tonight's meeting minutes would be sent to everyone.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Petrucci asked members of the public to state their name for the record and asked if anyone would like to make a statement.

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Mr. Moore said that a few things have happened over the past month that he would like to bring to the committee's attention. His first concern was the Upper Mt. Bethel industrial park zoning amendment adopted a few weeks ago by the Township that was reviewed by the LVPC, which identified serious environmental and traffic concerns. The Township held a workshop the night before the amendment was adopted. At the workshop, the Township engineer strongly recommended the Township not approve the amendment without changes. The next evening, the engineer spoke out again, but the amendment was adopted by the Township. However, five days later, the Township announced that there will be another amendment to the amendment. He said that the second amendment may have addressed one of the LVPC's concerns. His concern is that the Township is one of the ten Plan Slate Belt communities, and they withdrew from the Slate Belt Council of Governments (COG) at the beginning of the year and are not in attendance tonight.

Mr. Moore said his second concern relates to the requested landfill expansion in Plainfield Township. The Township received a letter from Wind Gap at the beginning of September, two months after the Township Supervisors voted to not pursue the expansion request. He said the current zoning and boundaries of the solid waste district match the future land use plan in the current joint comprehensive plan with Wind Gap and Pen Argyl. Wind Gap did not attend the February or July meetings on this topic held by the Township or send a letter. After the Township turned the request down, the letter sent by Wind Gap said the Borough strongly encourages approval and mentioned they would have to raise taxes by 25% when the landfill closes. He said he has two concerns: 1) We have a joint comprehensive plan. The planning that went into the boundaries of the plan went far beyond what the Township or the residents wanted, but legal counsel advised them that they should allow for future expansion. 2) Township taxes will go up, too. The Township has a trust fund they are investing in and will draw upon. He estimates taxes will go up 25-30%, even though they will be drawing on the trust fund. He asked what has been discussed if anything about solid waste being in the multi-municipal plan future land use plan, and will it be the same as now, or since the Township is not in favor of the expansion, will one of the ten municipalities have to consider having it in their municipality.

Mr. Petrucci said he can speak to the solid waste issue on behalf of Plainfield. He said the Township cannot be expected to shoulder the responsibility of providing for the solid waste use through this planning process. It is his understanding that the sentiment of the Board of Supervisors is that they have shouldered that responsibility long enough and have had its fair share of solid waste or similar uses. They will honor what is there now but are not prepared to take solid waste or similar uses beyond what is provided for under the current solid waste processing and disposal district. Mr. Moore said his only concern is whether this is something that will be on a future agenda at a point that you come up with future land use planning.

Ms. Henckel wanted to reiterate what Mr. Moore said about the Upper Mt. Bethel zoning amendment. She said a good number of residents are not in agreement with Township leaders. They obtained 500 signatures on a petition in opposition of the amendment.

Mr. Kleintop asked, since Upper Mt. Bethel dropped out of the COG and representatives are not in attendance tonight, are there any indicators that they are in the process of dropping out of this planning effort? Mr. Petrucci said that question is for the Township to answer. He said as Chair of this committee, he would reach out to the Township. Mr. Huggan said they should also be made aware of the concerns from the public about their current status.

Minutes from the April 1, 2020 Meeting

Mr. Petrucci asked if the committee was legally allowed to approve the April 1st minutes since we need unanimous voting and not all municipalities are represented, or should the vote be tabled. The committee recommended that the vote on the minutes should be tabled. Mr. Petrucci tabled this item.

General Issues and Opportunities Discussion

Ms. Oscavich said a summary of the subdivision and land development, municipal ordinance, plans and map activity for the region from January through September was provided with the meeting packet. Ms. Newman said that the zoning amendment attributed to Lower Mt. Bethel Township for the Industrial Plan Design & Construction Requirements was not submitted by the Township and needs to be corrected. Ms. Rockwell said staff will address that error.

Ms. Oscavich informed the committee about a LANTA survey regarding Route 33 and, since this is directly related to their communities, encouraged them to participate. The LVPC will send a link to the survey after the meeting.

Old Business

1. Administrative: Proceeding with Plan Considering Extended Nature of the Pandemic

- Continuing Virtual Steering Committee Meetings

Mr. Petrucci asked the committee for their thoughts on continuing with virtual meetings and considering the technical difficulties we are having. The question was raised about holding it at the Pen Argyl Community Center and just practice distancing. Ms. Oscavich said the capacity threshold recommendation from Governor Wolf is 25 people indoors, and the LVPC is adhering to that recommendation. Mr. Petrucci said an order by the Governor was just issued that says 20% of a building's occupancy allowed under normal circumstances. Ms. Zmoda said at this time the community center is not being used for outside uses. Any change to that restriction would have to go to Borough Council. Mr. Petrucci said we would have to research possible locations based on the Governor's restrictions and come back to the committee. The committee sentiment was to meet in person if possible. Ms. Oscavich said we typically have 35-40 people at a meeting.

Mr. Petrucci said Mr. Kresge had a question about the intent of unanimous voting applying to only municipalities present at a meeting. Does anyone remember those discussions? Do all ten have to vote or only municipalities present? Mr. Hartney said he thinks it depends on what the vote is for. If it affects all municipalities, then you would want them all voting. We need to make sure we have full participation at the meetings. Mr. Hurni thought it worked on the presumption that since there are three representatives from each community, there would be at least one representative in attendance. Mr. Petrucci said it was his recollection with zoning and land use matters that we would need all ten voting. The issue being if not all municipalities were on board with the approach or vote, it would go to the governing body, and there could be an issue approving it. Ms. Oscavich said under the Steering Committee section of the Intermunicipal Agreement that "... the foregoing Steering Committee recommendations shall be unanimous consent of the members present with respect to the content of the plan. Final adoption of the plan shall be the province of the governing bodies of each municipality." Based on the agreement, Mr. Petrucci said you have the right to vote, but

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the governing bodies have the final say. However, the responsibility of a committee member is to bring back something that can be approved by the governing body. Ms. Oscavich said she will get in touch with the municipalities not in attendance to see if they need any help, especially if we continue with virtual meetings.

- Project Timeline Adjustments

Mr. Petrucci asked Ms. Oscavich if anything contractually needs to occur regarding the project timeline. Ms. Oscavich said she did not think so. The revised project schedule was provided with the meeting packet. She walked through the schedule with the committee. The project is about six months behind due to the pandemic. She said the Community Preferences Survey will begin this fall and continue through spring of next year. The draft plan will begin early next year, with a final plan by the fall of next year.

New Business

1. Programmatic

- Zoning Diagnosis Work

Ms. Oscavich said the zoning diagnosis is underway and is being headed by the LVPC GIS department. It is intended to identify gaps in uses not covered in municipal zoning ordinances. GIS mapping was displayed to show some of the work completed so far. For each municipal zoning ordinance, a list of permitted, conditional and special exception uses was created and will be mapped. By clicking on a municipality and then a zoning district, all the uses will be shown for that district. Ms. Oscavich said the first step is to get the information in this format before completing the analysis to identify gaps. The timeline to complete the analysis is April 2021. A more detailed discussion will be provided at the next meeting.

- Scheduling Topic Specific Meetings on Shared Services and Infrastructure

Ms. Rockwell said that complete contact information, including sewer and water authorities, EMS, public works, parks & recreation, was still needed from municipalities prior to scheduling meetings. A list of contacts received to date will be emailed to each municipality after the meeting with a request to fill in any blanks. Ms. Oscavich said in the past we held these sessions during the regularly scheduled committee meetings but was thinking to hold them separately to get them done. Mr. Petrucci thought that made sense and asked if anyone had an issue with that approach. Ms. Oscavich said for now the meetings will probably be virtual. Mr. Petrucci thought the smaller breakout sessions are more conducive to being virtual, but meetings covering things like in-depth discussions on zoning and land use matters should probably be in person. We should try to do that and get information on how it can be done and report back to the committee.

2. Partnership

- Heritage and Nature-based Placemaking/Economic Development – Adaptive Quarry Reuse Initiative Report

Ms. Hough provided a brief overview of the project. A more complete presentation with images will be provided at the November meeting. Through a Northampton County

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Department of Community and Economic Development grant, the Slate Belt Heritage Center engaged with PennPraxis to review and refine ideas for the adaptive reuse of underutilized industrial spaces in the Slate Belt. The goal of the project was to create a heritage site that would become an outdoor destination, economic driver and enhance the amenity of the area. From May to August, a subcommittee of stakeholders met to work on a vision for a site. Through meetings, site visits and research, the site was narrowed down to one possible site: the American Bangor Quarry. The quarry is centrally located and met all the criteria for a site, including environmental and heritage preservation, revenue generation and recreation. It could link to the entire Slate Belt through a network of existing and proposed trails. Based on discussions from the meetings, PennPraxis created a visualization for the site, which Ms. Hough displayed for the committee. She said that there was not a lot that needs to be done at the site, the project protects water quality and living space for surrounding neighbors, and there would be no heavy industrial traffic.

Ms. Hough said since August, they have presented the visualization to Plainfield Township Supervisors, Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce and some potential contributors and plan to meet with Washington Township Supervisors, as well as other municipal leaders and state representatives. They are working with Wildlands Conservancy and others to work on challenges to make economically viable, create a business plan and timeline for action. The committee had questions about cost estimates, who will own/operate the site, if the project is self-sustainable and to what extent have the benefits to all the municipalities been looked at. Ms. Hough said they have cost estimates for initial footwork that must take place. They are looking into ownership now and think they will create an entity that will be the initial owner. Wildlands Conservancy is assisting with this to help see what options are available. She said she believes the project is self-sustainable. They are looking at long-range funding, advocacy and the potential through foundations and conservancies. She believes the project will benefit the entire region. The project is distinct from anything else in the area, is not in competition with existing parks, would link into existing and future trails and, long range, will connect with municipalities and residential areas. Combined with other attractions in the area, it will bring people to stay and participate.

Ms. Oscavich reminded everyone about the upcoming LVPC Gala and Awards being held virtually on October 13. The program is an hour long and features speakers from across the Lehigh Valley. If interested in attending, please contact the LVPC.

Adjourn

Mr. Petrucci said we can assume the next meeting will be virtual for now, but we will work toward in-person meetings. He called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kerzner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hurni seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments

- April 1, 2020 Steering Committee Minutes
- Slate Belt Communities' Activity Log
- Plan Slate Belt Project Schedule

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.

Slate Belt Communities' Activity Log

Subdivision, Land Development, Municipal Ordinances, Plans & Maps Sent to LVPC for Review

September-October 2020

*Acronyms List: SALDO = Subdivision and Land Development, MPC = Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code

| MUNICIPALITY | PROJECT NAME | DESCRIPTION | TYPE | DATE ACCEPTED | DATE MAILED |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| East Bangor Borough | Vasko & Esposito LLA | Adjustment of property lines to conform to zoning regulations and for property owners to claim their portion of the adjacent alleys. Located at 35 Hazen Avenue. | Lot Line Adjustment | 8/10/20 | 9/9/20 |
| Pen Argyl Borough | Railroad Avenue Development | Construction of 14 multi-family dwelling units at 12 Railroad Ave. | Land Development | 10/15/20 | |
| Plainfield Township | Uses Not Specifically Provided Ordinance Amendment | Amendment to zoning ordinance to revise and replace standards for uses not specifically provided. | Zoning Ordinance Amendment | 9/16/20 | 10/16/20 |
| Portland Borough | Weidman Minor Subdivision | Subdividing existing parcel into 2 lots on Delaware Ave. Existing building on both lots; no construction proposed. | Subdivision | 9/8/20 | 10/5/20 |
| Upper Mount Bethel Township | Horne / Shotwell Subdivision | Subdivision 2 lots from existing parcel. 2 lots to be single-family residential lots and remaining area has existing single-family home. | Subdivision | 9/21/20 | 10/20/20 |

| MUNICIPALITY | PROJECT NAME | DESCRIPTION | TYPE | DATE ACCEPTED | DATE MAILED |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------------|-------------|
| Upper Mount Bethel Township | Amendment to Planned Industrial Parks | Series of changes to recently adopted Planned Industrial Parks use. | Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance | 9/30/20 | 10/30/20 |
| Washington Township | Marlatt Subdivision | Subdivision of .95 acres from existing residential lot. No construction proposed at 7708 Penn Street. (PIN 555149268526) | Subdivision | 9/28/20 | 10/22/20 |
| Washington Township (NC) | Lobb, Joseph LLA | Transfer of 1.26 acres from agricultural (Act 319 property) to residential lot. (E10 9 15A and E10 9 15) | Lot Line Adjustment | 10/1/20 | 10/27/20 |