

# **The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the SLATE BELT**

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

**July 17, 2019 – 7 PM, Weona Park Community Center, 25 S. Main Street, Pen Argyl, PA 18072**

### **Steering Committee Attendees:**

Bangor: Brooke Kerzner, Nate Dysard, James Kresge  
East Bangor: Jason Huggan  
L. Mt. Bethel: Sandra Newman  
Pen Argyl: Robin Zmoda  
Plainfield: Tom Petrucci, Stephen Hurni, Terry Kleintop  
Portland: Lance Prator, Stephanie Steele  
Roseto: Joseph Angelini, Carl Renna, Cathy Martino  
U. Mt. Bethel: Richard Fisher, Anthony DeFranco  
Washington: Robert Smith  
Wind Gap: George Hinton, Louise Firestone, David Hess

### **Members of the Public in Attendance:**

Judith Henckel – Upper Mount Bethel Township  
John Buck – Washington Township  
Adrienne Fors – Waste Management  
Andrew Kleiner – Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation  
Justin Huratiak – Washington Township  
Sherry Acevedo – Northampton County Parks  
Stephen Reider – Slate Belt Rising  
Mark Hartney – Northampton County  
Brian Fenstermaker – Senator Scavello  
Paul Levits – Plainfield Township

### **Planning Partners in Attendance:**

Peter Barnard – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC)  
Charles Doyle – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC)  
Tracy Oscavich – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC)  
Sue Rockwell – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC)

## **Minutes:**

### **Roll Call**

Ms. Rockwell took roll call.

### **Minutes from the June 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Mr. Petrucci called for a vote on the June 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes, which are attached to the agenda. Mr. Angelini made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Prator seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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### **Stakeholder Charrettes**

Mr. Barnard provided a summary PowerPoint presentation of the three stakeholder charrettes held in June, including the discussion results from each charrette. The charrettes will assist with developing the draft vision and goals for the plan. The discussion results yielded 25 themes, however, due to similarities, the themes were narrowed to ten priorities.

Mr. Barnard said a survey was created through SurveyMonkey that lists the ten priorities and a link to the survey was provided to Steering Committee members, municipal stakeholders and charrette attendees. Respondents were asked to rank the ten priorities. A comment box is provided at the end of the survey. Any additional priorities can be included in the comment box. Only one response per email address is allowed. The response to the survey to date has been low. Mr. Barnard encouraged committee members to complete the survey and encourage stakeholders to do the same. The survey closes on August 4<sup>th</sup> and results will be provided at the August Steering Committee meeting. Mr. Barnard asked the committee if they had any comments on the charrettes. Ms. Newman thought they were well done. Ms. Henckel agreed and added that group facilitators were able to draw out comments from a number of people.

Mr. Kleintop thought that one concern was not really identified in the priorities: warehouses in the Lehigh Valley. Mr. Barnard said that, while freight was identified as a concern, it was not identified as a high priority and generally falls under two other themes: traffic management concerns and balancing land preservation and development. If anyone thinks it should be listed as a priority, it can be added in the survey comment box. Mr. Reider asked if the survey will be released to the public. Mr. Barnard said that, for now, the survey will only be available to Steering Committee members, municipal stakeholders and charrette attendees. Public comment will be sought once the draft vision and goals have been developed.

### **Call for Data**

Mr. Barnard said that the majority of the data requested from municipalities has been provided and thanked them for their assistance. Ms. Rockwell noted that a few items are still outstanding, however, the municipalities are working on the data.

### **Steering Committee Charrette**

Mr. Barnard explained the process for the Steering Committee charrette. For the first session, each municipality will place stickers on a map to identify potential redevelopment, development and investment sites in their community. Each municipality will receive one sticker per category. Municipalities also need to indicate why they chose each site. Mr. Barnard defined the categories for the committee. Redevelopment sites are developed areas that should get rehabilitated or replaced. Development sites are undeveloped areas that would be appropriate for development. Investment sites are community facilities that need to be created or improved.

The purpose of the second session is to identify transportation concerns. In the first round, each municipality will receive three stickers to identify on a map the three biggest issues in their community. For the second round, each municipality will identify the three biggest issues in the Slate Belt. Examples of concerns include traffic, road quality, speeding, unsafe crossings, safety, etc.

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Steering Committee Members discussed where to put their dots for both exercises within their respective Municipalities before placing them on the map. Every municipality participated in both activities and gave good notes about each location and issue. Once every municipality participated, Mr. Barnard brought the group back together. Mr. Barnard said that the charrette results will be digitized and provided to committee members for review to ensure the information is correct. If possible, the mapping will be emailed with the agenda next week.

### **Next Steps**

Mr. Barnard said that the results of the survey and the analyses will be presented at the August Steering Committee meeting. The meeting will also include a discussion of the draft goals and vision, which can be revised throughout the project. At the September meeting, a draft of the first section of the plan will be presented, and two weeks will be provided for review and comment. Based on comments received, the section will be revised by the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline and used as the public version.

Mr. Hartney commented that the data presented at the meeting needs to be readable. The data presented in the PowerPoint this evening was difficult to read. He suggested possibly making hard copies for the next meeting. This idea was supported by Ms. Kerzner. Mr. Barnard said staff will consider the best option. Mr. Petrucci asked if the information can be emailed before the meeting. Mr. Barnard responded that, because of the timeframe for sending out the agenda two weeks in advance of each committee meeting, we may not be able to send out the information beforehand. For the August meeting, the agenda must be sent out by July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Barnard informed the committee that the regional comprehensive plan, FutureLV, will be released for public comment on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. LVPC staff will be presenting the draft plan to the Slate Belt Region on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be open to all community members. Mr. Kleintop asked how the transportation concerns identified during the committee charrette will fit in with the regional transportation plan. Mr. Barnard responded that they will be a starting point for possible future projects. Projects need to be identified locally first before being considered for the Long-Range Transportation Plan or any other potential transportation funding.

Ms. Oscavich and Mr. Barnard informed the committee that *FutureLV: the Regional Plan* is nearing completion and will be presented locally on August 13<sup>th</sup>. After the meeting, it was brought to their attention that there was a conflict with the Blue Valley Farm Show on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and the meeting was rescheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The meeting will be held at the Weona Park Community Center and start at 7:00 pm.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Petrucci called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kleintop made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Newman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Attachments**

- June 5, 2019 Steering Committee Minutes

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.