The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

**Members in attendance:**

**Lehigh County**

- Norman Blatt
- Percy Dougherty
- Steven Glickman
- Richard Molchany
- Christina Morgan
- Sara Pandl
- Kathy Rader
- Stephen Repasch
- Kevin Schmidt
- Donna Wright

**Northampton County**

- Christen Borso
- Gordon Campbell
- Luis Campos
- John Diacogiannis
- Liesel Dreisbach
- Darlene Heller
- Kevin Lott
- Thomas Nolan
- Pamela Pearson
- Hayden Phillips
- Michael Reph
- Tina Roseberry

**Members absent:** Shannon Calluori, Karen Duerholz, Armand Greco, Kent Herman, Edward Hozza, Julie Thomases, Eugene Clater, Charles Elliott, George Gemmel, Robert Lammi and Lynn Prior.

**Staff present:** Becky Bradley, Geoff Reese, Eric McAfee, George Kinney, Sue Rockwell, Tracy Oscavich, Teresa Mackey, Gabe Hurtado and Ngozi Obi.

**Public Present:** Matt Malozi, Wanda Gruber, Brent Stringfellow, Diana Donaher, Don Heiney, Robert Scott and Keith Zehner.
COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the December 17, 2015 meeting were moved for approval by Ms. Wright. Mr. Repasch seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Pandl, Mr. Lott and Ms. Borso abstaining.

SPECIAL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

New Commissioner Introduction

Ms. Dreisbach introduced new Commissioner, Luis Campos, who is representing John Brown from Northampton County. The Commission members and staff introduced themselves to Mr. Campos.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Lower Nazareth Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Route 33 Logistics Center (also Merritt Brown)

Mr. McAfee said the review letter for the Route 33 Logistics Center is on pages 11-12 of the agenda attachments. The letter had to be mailed out in order to meet the 30-day review period deadline. He asked that LVPC would review the letter since it is considered a land use of regional significance. In the case of industrial/warehouse buildings, anything over 500,000 square feet is of regional significance. Anything that falls into this category goes to the Comprehensive Planning Committee and the LVPC for review.

In this case, we are dealing with a project that is largely of regional significance almost exclusively because of its size, not because there are any other prevailing concerns, issues or inconsistencies. The project does not conflict with the County Comprehensive Plan. If this Board has any comments, or if any issues need to be addressed, we can issue a second follow-up letter pending the Commission’s approval.

Mr. McAfee said this project is located just north of Hecktown Road and abuts Newburg Road. It is at the northeast corner of the interchange of Route 33 and Hecktown Road. There are no major points of ingress or egress on Newburg Road.

He said the review letter notes the presence of surface depressions and karst formations. Surface depressions are indicators of potential sinkhole activity and could prove to be a problem. He passed out several copies of a map showing potential locations of surface depressions. The LVPC reviewed the Traffic Impact Study, which didn’t show any broad concerns. The LVPC also wanted to make the applicant aware of other development in the area and the installation of another traffic light at Hecktown Road and the northbound ramp at Route 33. Mr. McAfee said, because this is a land use of regional significance, we sent the plans to LANta for their review. LANta does not plan to service this area in the near future. However, they noted that several transit routes are in close vicinity to the project. They encourage additional pedestrian connections in case there may be transit extension in the area.
Mr. McAfee said he has one other review letter to discuss in regards to the Merritt Brown tract. A copy of the letter was provided to Commission members. This subdivision allowed for the creation of the Route 33 project site. The minor subdivision plan notes the possibility of using on-lot sewage disposal, which would conflict with the General Land Use Policies of the County Comprehensive Plan. This subdivision resides within an area suitable for urban development, and anything of this magnitude would typically be provided with public sewer service. There was no further reference to on-lot sewage disposal in the actual Route 33 land development plan, so it could have been a mistake. We wanted to point this out because it is clearly inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. McAfee said one item discussed at the Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting was overnight truck parking. A prevailing concern is that all of these large warehouse developments don’t have places for long-term idling or overnight parking. It is going to become more and more of a concern as the regulations regarding the number of hours truckers can work may result in the need for more overnight parking or truck stops. As more and more land in this area is used for warehousing, it could lead to widespread illicit parking.

Ms. Rader asked if they have sufficient stacking distance if trucks can’t unload right away. This is a problem in certain areas of Upper Macungie Township. They end up parking on the road if they can’t get in. Ms. Wright said she brought this concern up at the Committee meeting because this was a big discussion at the Southwest Regional Plan Meetings. The County Comprehensive Plan doesn’t address this issue. This might be a consideration in the Transportation section of the County Plan update. She said it was the consensus of the Committee to bring this to the LVPC meeting to consider sending a second letter asking the applicant to consider having a place for trucks to stack up or provide long-term parking.

Mr. Phillips agreed and said they are putting a lot of warehouses along Hanoverville Road. It was okay when there was just one, but now they are stacking these warehouses back to back. He said he actually called up the Colonial Regional Police and told them Hanoverville Road is backed up because they are staging there. In addition, they want to put another Logistics Center on Hecktown Road just west of this, so there will be more demand for staging on that road. We have to address this issue because it is a safety hazard. He said this is the time to address it, not after the fact. Mr. Diacogiannis asked if there is something that could be done in an ordinance to require these developers to have on-site facilities. Ms. Wright said provisions could be included in the municipal parking regulations.

Ms. Bradley said this is exactly why we have a Freight Advisory Committee meeting on February 3rd. A number of these issues were flagged in the Freight Plan that was adopted last year by the LVPC and Lehigh Valley Transportation Study. Ms. Bradley said we want to continue to have these conversations with the municipalities, and we hope you come to that meeting. The private sector also wants to work with the local communities, and this is the appropriate forum. Ms. Roseberry asked if private industries will also be involved with this committee. Ms. Bradley said yes; it is a completely open table with private sector people, all municipalities, etc. She said over 100 private entities were targeted. Mr. Glickman asked if this could be a model ordinance topic. Ms. Bradley said we are talking to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania about including that in our unified work program. Ultimately, they have to decide if they would pay for it.

Ms. Wright made a motion for staff to prepare a second letter that would include a comment for the applicant to consider adding a layover area for trucks on the plan. Mr. Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the original letter. Ms. Rader seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Ordinance Reviews

Ms. Wright said there are three summary sheet items on page 13 of the agenda attachments. Mr. McAfee said item #2 should be Lower Saucon Township, not Wind Gap Borough. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the staff comments with the correction. Ms. Pandl seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Nolan abstaining on item #1.

Environment Committee

Northampton County Livable Landscapes Plan Update

Mr. Reese said, for the past year, we have been providing reports to the LVPC on the Open Space Plan for Northampton County. We have been working with Northampton County to create this plan. As of November of last year, this Commission agreed to forward the document on to Northampton County Council for their consideration and adoption. The County had their first reading back in December. On January 7th, they had a second reading. At the conclusion of that meeting, we are pleased to report that Council adopted the plan.

Transportation Committee

Freight Advisory Committee Meeting Announcement

Mr. Kinney said we developed our first ever Regional Freight Plan last year. The Freight Advisory Committee was one of the recommendations that came out of that Freight Plan. The Freight Advisory Committee has been formally adopted and implemented by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS). We had them adopt a set of by-laws and resolution for the Committee. As Ms. Bradley mentioned earlier, these by-laws weren’t intended to create a concrete committee. It was intended to be very open. We are patterning that process after our sister communities, including the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. We attend their meetings regularly and hope they will attend our meetings. They run their committees like a soft committee that has some membership input into it, but is also open to anyone that wishes to attend and participate. Mr. Kinney said hopefully you have all received an invitation regarding next Wednesday’s meeting.

Mr. Kinney said the by-laws have a small authority section. In the authority section it talks about what the Committee will do. It is advisory to LVTS. The intent of the discussion and outreach is to ultimately help us with our planning and funding decisions. The Committee will be an information and technology exchange forum where we are going to be able to sit down with industry and public sector professionals and talk about both public and private interests and initiatives. It is also intended to promote intermodal capabilities and capacity and to develop a regional goods movement strategy. The focus is movement of freight to and from manufacturing sites. How are we doing this now? How can we better do this? Do we need to think about a methodology that talks about first and last mile improvements? What kind of infrastructure improvements do we need? How do they move freight to and from downtown? We will discuss intermodal facilities, warehouse facilities and other facilities that will impact our regional freight network, including our roads, rail and air transportation. The geographic area we intend to cover includes Lehigh and Northampton counties, but it is also meant to go beyond that. We hope to develop connections regionally, statewide and possibly internationally.

Mr. Kinney said the Committee is going to meet four times over the course of 2016, starting on February 3rd at 11:30 a.m. It will follow the normally scheduled LVTS Coordinating Committee meeting. Our Committee Chairs are Chris Kufro from the Pennsylvania Department
of Transportation (PennDOT) District 5 and Brian Hare from Central Office. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission staff will support the Freight Advisory Committee as it does with LVTS.

The meetings will include staff presentations, guest speakers and member updates. The Committee is open to everybody and consists of LVTS members, Truck Drivers, Law Enforcement Officials, State Officials, Local Officials, CDL Training Organizations, Insurance Risk Management Providers, Freight Warehouse Distribution Shippers and Receivers, Railroads, 3rd Party Logistic Supply Chain Companies, Industrial Development Organizations, Federal Agencies, Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, Economic Development Organizations, Chambers of Commerce and Regional Bus Operators. This is just a start, and we hope to have this build over time.

Mr. Kinney said some of the presenters we want to have include FedEx and UPS, especially to discuss their downtown delivery logistics. What kind of technology do they use? How do they deliver to downtown businesses? Also, we want to have supply chain logistics presentations. Mr. Kinney said at the first meeting on February 3rd we are going to have Dan Walston from Federal Highways, who will talk about freight initiatives at the state and federal levels. Mr. Kinney said we received a suggestion to set up a tractor trailer in our parking lot and set up obstacles. You sit in the truck and see what the truck driver can’t see. We want to do something like that as an educational opportunity. Upper Macungie is rolling out a program called The Good Neighbor Coalition. We want to have them talk about that program and how it can transfer to other communities. LANta could talk about their Bus Rapid Transit Initiative. The Airport Authority has a lot of things going on, including their Master Plan Update. PennDOT might talk about their State Rail Plan. The State Police have expressed interest in doing a motor carrier enforcement program.

Mr. Kinney said at our first meeting we will talk about the purpose of the Freight Advisory Committee, its authority and by-laws. We will talk about the Lehigh Valley Regional Freight Plan, what it says and what the task of this Committee will be moving forward. Again, we will have Dan Walston here to talk about both national and Pennsylvania rail freight and motor freight initiatives. We will finish with a brief discussion on other topic and meeting ideas. Mr. Kinney concluded his discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*PlanSWL Comprehensive Plan Charrettes and Public Meeting*

Ms. Bradley said during the first two weeks in January we met with about 200 people from the Southwest Lehigh communities. Southwest Lehigh is made up of six communities: Alburtis, Emmaus and Macungie boroughs and Lower Macungie, Lower Milford and Upper Milford townships. This is an update to their existing multimunicipal comprehensive plan that was done in 2005. Mr. Bradley said, during the information gathering sessions, we had amazing discussion with great turnout and participation. The plan is moving very quickly. We are now going to release a statistically valid survey. We will ask the communities to prioritize what we heard and ask if we missed anything. We will then start drafting goals, policies and implementation tools. Ms. Bradley said the implementation tools are a key piece to this plan so the communities have something they can use and build upon. Then, by April or May, we should have a draft plan together. In June we will be finalizing that plan and working with the communities on adoption and their Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement. We have been experimenting with some community engagement strategies with significant success. We will bring you updates as we move along.
**NEW BUSINESS**

*Lehigh Valley Government Academy Course Completion Recognition*

Ms. Bradley said we have been offering the Government Academy courses for about 20 years. We were only offering Subdivision and Land Development and Zoning courses. These courses are offered through the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute's training program. Over the last few years we have been offering more opportunities for people who serve on planning commissions and local zoning hearing boards. This year we offered a course in Community Planning, as well as Subdivision and Land Development and Zoning. Ms. Bradley said you can become a Certified Citizen Planner if you complete all three of the courses.

Ms. Dreisbach and Ms. Bradley proceeded to give out the certificates to the people who completed all three classes.

*Publications*

Ms. Bradley said Alice Lipe, our Graphic and Publications Coordinator, manages the master list of publications that the Commission has available. The list identifies whether a document is available on the website. The list is now updated and current.

*Planning + Pizza*

Ms. Oscavich said over the last two years we started doing some informal information sessions. They have been successful, so we have eleven planned for this year. The first two to be held are the Housing Market Report on February 24th and Integrated Water Resources Management on April 6th.

*Local Technical Assistance Program*

Mr. Hurtado said this year we will provide 16 Local Technical Assistance Program courses in partnership with PennDOT. These are free transportation training courses for public works employees, engineers, local planners, etc. There will be a spring session and a fall session. The first two courses are listed on the agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

*2016 Development Outlook*

Ms. Bradley said the Lehigh Valley Business Journal asked a number of people in the Lehigh Valley to write about what is happening in the region. A few weeks ago, she submitted an article, and it was published.

Ms. Bradley said the housing market has substantially changed. In the past, we had seen primarily single family detached dwelling proposals. Now we see higher density proposals, such as apartments and age-restricted communities. One of the biggest issues we need to talk about in terms of long-term housing sustainability is that in the future we may not have enough people to occupy the 55 and over developments that are on-line now or proposed for development. This is a conversation we need to have as part of the update of the regional comprehensive plan. There is also definitely a strong demand for modern apartments in our urban areas and the suburbs. Ms. Bradley said, in our recently released Housing Market Report,
we analyzed every housing transaction over the last five years in Lehigh and Northampton counties and found out our housing sales values are flat.

Ms. Bradley said, in terms of transportation, the passing of the Fast Act will continue to bring federal funding resources into our region. She said 80% of all the road, bridge and transit money used in our region is federal; 20% is state. There is no local contribution through the Long Range Transportation Plan required as of yet, but our needs far exceed the resources that come into our region. We have already started partnering with a number of municipalities including Upper Macungie Township on some potentially exciting public/private partnership projects, as well as rolling out some transportation alternative programs, which should help with crosswalks, last mile trail connections, etc. We continue to follow the federal requirements for investment, which are not always politically popular. Another important piece is that there are three pots of money that come to us. There is a transit pot, a highway pot and a bridge pot. This money cannot be moved around. It is against federal law. Ms. Bradley said in the future we are going to have to look at the resources available to us and again continue to assess those investments and what that means to land use and economic development.

Web Hits

Ms. Bradley said, in terms of things that are popular, the population and employment forecasts are some of the most popular items. In terms of reports and plans, our model development and environmental ordinances are the most popular. We had over 93,000 hits in over a three month period on just that information alone. The Comprehensive Plan always sees a fair amount of activity, as does the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Regional Housing Plan has gotten a lot of activity with over 17,000 hits. Our stormwater management reports had over 13,000 hits. This is what people are interested in. Ms. Rockwell said, at our December meeting, we released the Housing Markey Report and Livable Landscapes Plan. In just a few weeks, the Housing Market Report had almost 1,000 hits and Livable Landscapes had about 4,300 hits.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dougherty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Nolan seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Kathleen Sauerzopf for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
February 25, 2016

MINUTES

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance:

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Members absent: Karen Duerholz, Armand Greco, Kevin Schmidt, Luis Campos, George Gemmel, Pamela Pearson, Lynn Prior, Tina Roseberry and Adam Waldron.

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Geoff Reese, Eric McAfee, George Kinney and Sue Rockwell.

Public Present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR
MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the January 28, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Ms. Pandl. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Clater, Mr. Hozza and Mr. Elliott abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

New Commissioner Introduction

Ms. Dreisbach introduced new Commission member Brad Osborne, who is also a Lehigh County Commissioner. Mr. Osborne said this is his first year of his second term as County Commissioner. He previously served as a South Whitehall Township Commissioner and on the South Whitehall Authority. When he was a South Whitehall Commissioner, he realized the importance of a comprehensive plan. He said the Township engaged a consultant and came up with a plan. At that time, he realized the real value of planning. The Commission members and staff introduced themselves to Mr. Osborne.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Majestic Phase 4 – City of Bethlehem – Land Use of Regional Significance

Mr. McAfee said this is another phase in an on-going multi-phased development in South Bethlehem. The project is just north of I-78, south of the river and close to the Lower Saucon Township boundary. The proposal includes extinguishing some property lines to make the development possible. The development’s primary entrance will be on Commerce Center Boulevard. The primary building will include nearly 1 million square feet, with a couple of ancillary buildings that should push it well over 1 million square feet.

The Comprehensive Plan states that any warehouse facility proposal over 500,000 square feet is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance and must be reviewed by the Comprehensive Planning Committee and full Commission. The draft letter, on pages 8-9 of the agenda attachments, generally states that the project is consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan and rests thoroughly within the urban classification in the General Land Use Plan. By that standard, this is a suitable development in terms of scale and its use of public water and sewer. One major consideration in terms of natural features is a small portion of land that rests just to the east of the easternmost lot line to be extinguished. According to LVPC data, this area contains a wetland. The LVPC recommends that the applicant investigate this site for possible wetland conditions. Also, we coordinated with LANta to get their perspective on the suitability of this site for public transportation. LANta states that have they have one bus route, #105, along PA Rt. 412/Hellertown Road, and it deviates into the Majestic Bethlehem Center along Commerce Center Boulevard and stops at Lot 2. LANta encourages a safe pedestrian path to the entrance of the facility. This also includes a safe pedestrian access from the existing and proposed parking areas to the facility entrance. LANta recommends noting and clarifying where sidewalks, crosswalks and bus stop locations are proposed on the plan to help further depict the proposed pedestrian and bus transit circulation. The applicant also submitted a Traffic Impact Study, which included a copy of the Highway Occupancy Permit. Traffic associated with this project is accounted for in the Highway Occupancy Permit. We agree with that conclusion and offer no additional comments. Beyond that, the one other item of considerable interest is some of the previous phases west of this site include a small light rail spur just to the north of Commerce Center Boulevard.
Mr. McAfee said we have an extension of the stormwater plan. Pending approval of the letter tonight, it should go out in the next 24 hours. Ms. Wright said she has to apologize we talked about the problem with truck parking at last month’s meeting, and we did not discuss that with this project. Ms. Wright said if the board feels that a comment should go in the letter, we could do that. Mr. Molchany said he thought we previously discussed adding that language to all letters for large warehouse project. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the letter with the additional language. Mr. Glickman seconded the motion. Mr. Molchany said the issue of air quality and increasing air quality regulations means that every little bit helps. He asked Mr. Kinney if that is going into effect now. Mr. Kinney said the National Ambient Air Quality Standards were reduced for ozone from 75 parts per billion to 70. Anything we can do to mitigate truck idling will help. About 65% of ozone pollutants are the result of auto emissions.

Mr. Dougherty said he is glad to see that the rail portion was added in terms of a recommendation from the Committee. He asked how this would be described on the plans. Mr. McAfee said we can look at how it appeared on the previous phases. Mr. Dougherty said he attended a meeting where a right-of-way was shown, and a Metes and Bounds survey was done. He asked if we really need something that extensive, or do we just need a note on the plan. Mr. McAfee said we would probably do whatever is necessary to see where the rail currently terminates and show how it could be continued and show that as the proposed right-of-way. Mr. Clater said this is a trivial thing for an engineer to do. All you have to do is show the right-of-way. Ms. Wright said the big thing is the notation on the plan. Mr. Clater said if you put the easement and right-of-way physically on the plans, nothing else is needed. Ms. Heller said the area of the right-of-way is just the length of the cul-de-sac. The intermodal is south of Commerce Center Boulevard. She said we always hope every end user will use rail. Ms. Pandl asked if there was a fueling station on the site and what the City was requiring of the applicant to protect water quality. Ms. Heller said the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection watches this site very closely because it’s a brownfield site. Mr. Clater said it’s a mirror image of all their sites, which have separate containment areas on concrete for washing and fueling. He is sure this site will have that also.

Mr. Hozza asked if this is for FedEx Ground. Ms. Heller said yes. Mr. Hozza asked if we know the percentage of tractor trailers and if the majority are coming in and exiting by I-78. Ms. Heller said that is correct, and it is something the City was very attentive to because they don’t want tractor trailers going downtown. There is a very small percentage that do not go on I-78. Mr. Hozza asked where the current FedEx Ground Facility is located and where those trucks are pulling out of. Mr. Clater said it is presently located off of Township Line Road. Mr. Hozza said that is the traditional FedEx. He said he thought they were the contract trucks. Mr. Clater said both the FedEx and contract trucks come out of that site. Mr. Hozza asked if the City made provisions for any deliveries to that facility in Hanover Township not to take 3rd Street to Rt. 378. Ms. Heller said the traffic study shows they are not. Ms. Dreisbach called for the vote. The motion carried with Ms. Heller and Mr. Herman abstaining.
Ordinance Reviews

Ms. Wright said there are five summary sheet items on page 10 of the agenda attachments. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Clater seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Pandl abstaining on Item #4.

Environment Committee

Integrated Water Resources Management

Ms. Bradley said she serves on the County Planning Directors Association of Pennsylvania. Every County Planning Director does, and we meet quarterly. This is a position paper on what are the issues associated with water and the need and desire to work on them in a comprehensive way, which is ultimately called Integrated Water Resources Management. We did this work on behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, and this will go to Mr. Dougherty’s Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee hopefully sometime in early March.

Mr. Reese said we want to talk about what we accomplished with the report. The Committee set out Statewide to craft a position paper on this topic. They provided some draft text to us. Our role in this process has been to edit the text and to design the report. In terms of editing the text, we basically were trying to focus the report into what the main ideas are as clearly as we could. For that purpose, on page 15 it talks about three basic ideas we want to get across that are associated with Integrated Water Resources Management, or more simply put 1 H2O or 1 Water. Those three pieces include Linking Land Use Planning with Integrated Water Resources Management. There are two main parts to that. One of them is looking at the different sides of water together—stormwater management, sewage disposal, water supply and all those different elements that tend to get looked at in isolation—and linking them all together as we look at water issues and consider all of those issues. And secondly, making sure that the consideration is linked with land use planning to try to avoid and undo some of the historic water quality issues we have had with not making those connections.

The second piece is about data; there is a lot of data that is necessary statewide for this purpose such as the simple act of understanding where all the water withdrawals are. The State has been making a push to update the data associated with water, but they have a ways to go. The second part of data is the GIS component, trying to get a consistent set of geographic information and mapping across the state so that everyone that does this work can understand what that data means.

The third piece is policy and technical guidance. There was a State Water Plan created in the early 1980’s. Mr. Reese said one of the best parts of that State Water Plan is that there were guiding principles in terms of how much water is in the ground, what it means in terms of the safe yield of the water supply that you want to use. Those principles have not been updated since the early 1980’s. Mr. Reese said the State Water Plan Update that was just completed in 2009 stopped short of actually giving us those new criteria. We need some current information for all of the people who will be doing this work to understand how to manage water once you have that data. Those are the three components that were laid out by the Task Force. A series of guiding principles and recommendations begin on page 22 to try to accomplish these three main objectives.

Mr. Phillips asked about the Environmental Protection Agency saying that rainwater and puddling would be under the jurisdiction of the Agency. A lot of municipalities were concerned about that because it meant if you were going to clear ditches to get the weeds out, you have to
get a permit. He asked if we know where that's at and if this report reflects on any of that. Mr. Reese said he wasn’t aware of the puddling issue. However, from a federal perspective, there is a permitting program that municipalities and counties have to go through for municipal storm sewers if there is any form of conveyance of stormwater. That has been regulated since the early 2000s. Mr. Hayden said what was troublesome was that standing water, no matter how transitory, if it was there for an hour in the morning, then the Agency was concerned about it. Mr. Dougherty said that is part of the national legislation called the Waters of the U.S., which is in limbo. It even goes down to swales. He said it is very onerous. He said the scary part about that is not only does it give the Agency jurisdiction, but it also is going to affect insurance payments, so if you are in one of those areas all of the sudden you are going to have to pay the equivalent of floodplain insurance. Ms. Rader said not only that, every time you want to do something you are going to need a permit from the Army Corps, and that is going to be such a long process because there are not enough Army Corps people out there to handle it. Mr. Phillips said it will affect anyone who has to deal with transient water.

Mr. Repasch asked what the LVPC’s role is going forward. Ms. Bradley said because we edited this down and put it in an understandable forum, we have been put on the Task Force this afternoon. This document will also go to the American Planning Association Pennsylvania Chapter as well on behalf of the County Planning Directors Association. Ms. Bradley said this will probably go through several versions of edit, and Mr. Dougherty’s Committee will hopefully have some interesting things to say and changes as well. Then hopefully there will be a platform to discuss these issues with the legislative officials through the County Commissioners Association and American Planning Association Pennsylvania Chapter.

Mr. Dougherty said he thinks it is somewhat of an honor that the State Planners chose the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to be one of the agencies to be working on this. It is a credit to Ms. Bradley for becoming involved with that organization, and it also shows how highly the staff here is held by the other planning agencies statewide.

Transportation Committee

Motor License Fund Update

Mr. Kinney said, on behalf of the Commission, we asked the State to explain the Motor License Fund. It is a state pot of money used for transportation funding and was established in 1984. It is primarily comprised of liquid fuel tax dollars, motor license revenue and fees and motor vehicle fine revenues. It funds construction and maintenance projects on the PennDOT side. It also funds a lot more than that. Mr. Kinney said the fund itself is constructed of two parts. One is restricted dollars, which are dollars that are set aside for earmarked projects. Then you have the non-restricted pot of money. The non-restricted fund portion is the portion that is eligible for everybody including the State Police, PennDOT and other agencies. When Act 89 came in 2013, they expected that the non-restrictive portion would grow by over $2.3 billion for the five-year period. What has actually happened is less than $1 billion has been realized at this point. Mr. Kinney said just to give you an idea of what sits in the fund for this fiscal year from a non-restricted standpoint, there is about $2.8 billion available statewide.

Mr. Kinney said this is why solvency is important. It does a number of things with respect to the region. First and foremost, it is our match money for planning projects that are developed in the Unified Planning Work Program. That is the contract we have with PennDOT, which is a two year contract. We have Motor License Fund dollars to come into that to match our federal money which is an 80-20 match. By keeping that Motor License Fund solvent, we get state money to match those federal dollars, and it is not nearly as hard on the local side to match those federal dollars. The other part is the construction dollars that come out of it. A lot of that
money is sent through our Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Plan to put construction projects on the ground. As the funding dissolves, we'll see less projects on the ground. Mr. Kinney said there has been a recent conversation at the State level at the House Transportation Committee Meeting on February 8th. Basically they were charged to take a look at the Motor License Fund related to State Police funding to see if there is a way of reconciling what is going on.

Mr. Kinney said, just by a way of background, the Pennsylvania Police Commissioner started that presentation with a little bit of an overview on some of the statistics from the Police Department. There is just short of 5,000 officers statewide covering about 36,000 square miles. The State Police annual budget is about $1.2 billion a year, $755 million is drawn from the Motor License Fund, or 75% of their budget. The balance is pretty much from the general fund. Following the conversation from the Police Commissioner, Secretary Richards from PennDOT presented a series of graphs that basically show that this movement of money to the State Police Department will create a non-sustainable infrastructure source going forward in the form of construction projects. Mr. Kinney said the meeting then wrapped up with a couple of transportation industry specialists and the former Secretary of PennDOT basically supporting Secretary Richards. This meeting was quickly followed up by a webinar from PennDOT Central that really kind of put out the same kind of discussion. Mr. Kinney described the PennDOT graphs that cover a 12-year horizon and assumes a 4% increase going forward. The increase has been 8.9% up to this point. Under that conservative estimate you see the State Police portion of the pot grows to $1.3 billion by 2028. You see the PennDOT maintenance fund being reduced to about $805 million, and construction dollars are almost non-existent after that 12 year span. Mr. Kinney said the Secretary referred back to the original report that came in with Act 89 that talked about capping the Motor License Fund with respect to the State Police part of it. The next slide assumes a $300 million cap going forward, so it increases PennDOT maintenance and construction dollars. Mr. Kinney said the next slide looks at a $500 million cap versus the $300 million cap and again you can see with the $500 million cap, maintenance is up over a billion dollars and construction dollars are pushing $600 million. Then finally the Secretary ended with a slide that was kind of a compromise or a step down if you will. It starts with the $755 million, steps down to $625 million and caps at $500 million. Mr. Kinney said that is the emphasis of the discussion. PennDOT has made it very clear they are not at issue with the police, and they understand how important their services are and it is important to work together to resolve them, but the question going forward is, if there is a cap of say $500 million, we have that $255 million gap to offset.

Mr. Molchany said the point is, when Act 89 came in, it was to infuse monies into our local budgets. When he looks at the chart it didn’t work. Mr. Kinney said it is not working. They were expecting $5 billion over the five-year period. They got less than $1 billion. Ms. Bradley said municipal liquid fuels money is also being affected as well and it is critical to all of your municipal budgets. Ms. Bradley said the critical thing here is so important and she can’t say it enough. This is the 20% required match to the 80% federal dollars. If we do not have the 20% match, our local regional funds as well as state funds go to other states to be used. We can’t continue projects like the repair of the Fahy Bridge. This also includes money for transit. We can’t do things like expand existing LANta service. You certainly can’t do things like the Bus Rapid Transit or more sophisticated forms of transportation including interregional rail. The stakes on this getting resolved are critically important to not only the future of our region, but to other regions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Diacogiannis said he assumes the committee that had the hearing fully comprehends this. Mr. Kinney said absolutely. They are struggling with a couple of things. One is where can we find the difference if PennDOT caps this thing. Where is that going to come from and should there be a discussion about looking at police operations and see if there are some ways to get
additional funding? Mr. Molchany said PennDOT Central attended our Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting, and they heard loud and clear about that issue. They took it back to PennDOT. He is confident we are doing our share to keep this issue out there. Ms. Bradley said our Lehigh Valley Transportation Study is one of the main reasons this information got released, so the work not only of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study has resulted in a response from the State government.

Mr. Kinney said there are two additional hearings coming up very shortly. Mr. Dougherty asked if local representatives are speaking up on our behalf at these meetings. Ms. Bradley said they don’t speak up at the meetings, but they speak to us in meetings we have set up with them. Mr. Hozza asked about a change in the formula in 2013. He asked if the reduction in the price of oil and gas is affecting this or not. Mr. Kinney said he doesn’t know for sure. Mr. Hozza said consumption is up, traffic is up. People have more disposable income and they are spending it in our stores and restaurants more than we have ever seen. People definitely have money in their pockets. Ms. Wright said they have money in their pockets because they are not paying $4.00 a gallon for gas. The tax money is going to drop.

Mr. Molchany asked Ms. Bradley if we want to have an LVPC letter sent to our representatives to urge them to do something. Ms. Bradley said we sent a letter prepared several months ago and eventually it got some legs. Ms. Bradley is planning on taking that letter again and to say our position hasn’t changed. We think the State Police are important to our community, however we need to have balance. Mr. Hozza asked if we know when this is going to start to impact funding. Ms. Bradley said it already is. Mr. Campbell said are we losing federal funding to other states that could be coming to us. Ms. Bradley said over time, if there isn’t a match, it will be reallocated to other states. It is not at crisis point, but it will get to that point if this is not dealt with. Ms. Bradley said a big concern is the impact freight is having on our state roads, local roads and bridges and the like. That impact is only going to increase exponentially, and if we have less money, we are really moving toward a point where we have a crisis. We need to advocate for more balance.

**Freight Advisory Committee**

Mr. Kinney said the Freight Advisory Committee meeting was held on February 3rd. It was very well attended; we had more than 65 people---standing room only. We had a great cross section of people. We had truck drivers, CDL Driver Training Academy Officials, municipalities, state government, local government, etc. Mr. Kinney said we will have three additional sessions this year. We hope you can all attend or send a representative.

Mr. Kinney said this past meeting we were lucky to have co-chaired by PennDOT from both District 5 and Central offices. We had Chris Kufro from District 5 and Brian Hare from the Central Office. A lot of great ideas came out of the meeting. Mr. Kinney gave a quick synopsis of the first agenda. We did a welcome and introduction and gave a brief overview of the Committee purpose and by-laws. Then we did a quick presentation of the Regional Freight Plan. We had a really good presentation by Dan Walston from the Federal Highway Administration who talked about state and national freight projects. He impressed on the importance of having opportunities to talk about these topics. We received a lot of feedback with additional topics for consideration at future meetings. Mr. Kinney said we are going to have some really good agendas coming forward, a lot of good content and we would really like everybody as involved as possible. Also, we developed a Freight Advisory Committee page for our website. Mr. Kinney presented and reviewed the website page. Ms. Bradley said we have to find a larger facility for future meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None
**NEW BUSINESS**

*Local Technical Assistance Program*

Ms. Bradley said at your place is the Local Technical Assistance Program brochure. It is a partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. We offer free training sessions for largely our public works officials and people working in road crews in the region. We have been doing this since the program started about 12 years ago. This is the first year we have a schedule for the entire year. Some of the fall courses are already full. We had one yesterday on traffic studies and engineering for traffic studies. Most of our classes are very well attended if not full. Also, the ones that are full will be scheduled for the following year so we can continue to help our municipalities and interested parties.

*Event Calendar*

Ms. Bradley said at your place is a Calendar of Events. This is the first time we scheduled all of our events a year in advance. It includes the LTAP classes, our Planning and Pizza series, our Lehigh Valley Government Academy, which is a key training opportunity for our zoning administrators, zoning hearing board members, municipal planning officials and interested individuals. Ms. Bradley said some key events coming up this year include the second year we are partnering with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce on a Transportation Summit. Last year’s summit had over 200 people. We are hoping to get the U. S. Department of Transportation’s Secretary Fox here to speak about issues at the federal level along with other speakers. Many who attend the Transportation Committee know we are strongly promoting multimodalism, so we will have a WalkLV event on June 27th on our sidewalk inventory. Also, we will have Roy Gothie from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, who is their Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator, to speak on what the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will do in terms of ramping up their bike and pedestrian efforts.

We also will have our third Annual Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Gala & Awards on October 4, 2016 over at DeSales University. We will have our Future Lehigh Valley Forum, which is the large public kick-off to our Regional Comprehensive Plan, on December 2nd. We are very close to having a location for that as well. Those are some of the bigger events.

Ms. Bradley said the American Planning Association Pennsylvania Chapter Conference will be here in Allentown. It is the largest concentration of planners in any given space. Ms. Calluori and Ms. Pandl are co-chairing the event. Ms. Pandl said we are expecting 500 planners and are hoping people from our region will attend. She said we will have two really great keynote speakers. One is Mitchell J. Silver who agreed to do the keynote for our Monday morning session. He is the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and past President of the American Planning Association. We will also have a transportation planner with a broad background from Philadelphia. There will be awards presented for great places in Pennsylvania. There is an application on the APA PA Chapter website to nominate your municipality’s projects. The event will be held on October 16-18. The 16th is a Sunday and that will be mobile workshops.

*Planning + Pizza*

Ms. Bradley said we had our first Planning & Pizza session of the year on Wednesday of this week. We had 31 attendees on the Housing Market Report. We do the most detailed analysis of the housing market in the entire region. Our next session is at the beginning of April on Integrated Water Resources Management. On May 25th we have “Show Us the Money”,
and we are going to talk about how transportation funding actually works. We have these meetings scheduled roughly once a month through the rest of the year.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

*Second Harvest Food Bank*

Ms. Bradley said we sent a donation to the Second Harvest Food Bank from our Jeans for a Cause fund, and we received a thank you letter that is on page 11 of the agenda attachments.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

*Lehigh Valley Business Real Estate & Development Symposium 2016*

Ms. Bradley informed the Commission that we were invited to be part of the Lehigh Valley Business Journal’s Real Estate & Development Symposium on March 9th at DeSales University. This brings out largely private sector individuals, but we will give a report on where all the development is happening and what type of development is happening. It is a great opportunity for us to showcase what the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission does and inform people of what is actually happening now and in the next couple of years.

*Lehigh Valley Mayor’s Forum: Next Generation Sustainable Cities and Suburbs*

Ms. Bradley said the Lehigh Valley Mayor’s Forum: Next Generation Sustainable and Suburbs was held a couple of weeks ago. We were able to hear what our Mayors are doing on sustainability as well as things like recycling. It was really interesting to see how the communities work as a whole.

Ms. Bradley said we are working on another Return to Environment event with the Wildlands Conservancy. When we get the details for that, we will let you know.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Kathleen Sauerzopf for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
MINUTES

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance:

**Lehigh County**  
Norman Blatt  
Steven Glickman  
Edward Hozza  
Richard Molchany  
Steven Neratko  
Brad Osborne  
Sara Pandl  
Kathy Rader  
Stephen Repasch  
Kevin Schmidt  
Donna Wright  

**Northampton County**  
Gordon Campbell  
Luis Campos  
Eugene Clater  
John Diacogiannis  
Liesel Dreisbach  
George Gemmel  
Robert Lammi  
Thomas Nolan  
Pamela Pearson  
Hayden Phillips  
Michael Reph  
Tina Roseberry  

**Members absent:** Percy Dougherty, Karen Duerholz, Armand Greco, Kent Herman, Christina Morgan, Julie Thomases, Christen Borso, Charles Elliott, Darlene Heller, Kevin Lott, Lynn Prior, and Adam Waldron.

**Staff present:** Becky Bradley, Eric McAfee, George Kinney, Tracy Oscavich, Bruce Rider, Bill Deegan, Teresa Mackey, Mike Donchez, Brian Hite, Gabe Hurtado, Sue Rockwell and Kathy Sauerzopf.

**Public Present:** Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ
COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the February 25, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Lammi. Ms. Pandl seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Gemmel, and Ms. Pearson abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

Kathy Sauerzopf’s Retirement

Ms. Dreisbach announced the retirement of Kathy Sauerzopf after 17 years. Ms. Sauerzopf was presented with a gift from the Commission. Ms. Bradley read a letter of thanks written by Ms. Sauerzopf to the Commission and staff.

Ms. Dreisbach introduced a new Commission member, Steven Neratko, Chief Planner, who represents the City of Allentown. Mr. Neratko said he was recently appointed as Interim Director of Planning and Zoning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

East Allen Township – Comprehensive Plan – Complete Update

Ms. Wright said the draft review letter is on pages 10-17 of the agenda attachments. Mr. McAfee provided a background on the Township. He said the Township is sizeable but not yet similarly populated. The Township is located north of the City of Bethlehem and Hanover Township in Northampton County. It is bisected by Routes 329 and 512. Bath Borough touches the northeast corner of the Township.

Mr. McAfee said the draft plan leans more heavily towards being inconsistent because it encourages development in areas that are rural or farmland preservation. One of the key issues deals with public sewer and water availability, which is problematic because the draft plan indicates a desire to expand infrastructure into areas that we would not recommend. He briefly identified the key issues in each chapter. He said on page 16 of the agenda attachments, the highlighted text was added based on recommendations of the Comprehensive Planning Committee on Tuesday. While we generally disapprove of what they’re planning, we see this as an excellent opportunity for future discussions with the Township as we begin working on the Regional Comprehensive Plan update.

Mr. Osborne said this letter isn’t really very complimentary. He asked if there have been any conversations with the Township prior to the issuance of this letter. Mr. McAfee said yes, he’s met with the Township manager. Their argument is that they want to see the southern half of the Township be more intensely developed, while emphasizing protection of the northern half. Mr. McAfee said based on the current County Comprehensive Plan, what they are trying to do is overwhelmingly inconsistent. Mr. Osborne said his understanding of this process is that the Township can ignore this letter. He said it would be important to develop a relationship with them so the weight of the letter has some significance and provides potential for improving their plan. He asked if there was potential for that. Mr. McAfee said that is the intent. He doesn’t necessarily view the letter as exclusively negative. There are aspects of it that are very strong. He said the
highlighted text indicates that we want to work with them, and we anticipate using this language in the future. Ms. Wright said at the Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting they talked about the fact that we will be updating the County Comprehensive Plan. We are currently doing reviews based on the old plan. It could be a different review based on an updated plan. Mr. Repasch made a motion to approve the letter. Mr. Diacogiannis seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Clater abstaining.

**Ordinance Reviews**

Ms. Wright said there are ten summary sheet items on pages 18-19 of the agenda attachments. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach called for the vote on each item. The motion carried with Ms. Wright abstaining on Item #1, Mr. Nolan on Item #2 and Mr. Reph on Item #10. Mr. Clater asked Mr. McAfee to comment about the freight-related provisions that are part of Item #9. Mr. McAfee said the provisions related to idling trucks and where they’re supposed to go while waiting are excellent. He strongly complemented the Township on them. Mr. Clater said it was worthwhile to mention because the provisions address many of the issues we have talked about. Ms. Bradley said we could bring a copy of the provisions to next month’s meeting.

**Environment Committee** – None

**Transportation Committee**

**US Department of Transportation Meetings**

Ms. Bradley said we were invited by the US Government to attend a Federal Freight Summit to participate in the development of the nation’s first freight plan. They came up with a series of umbrella recommendations for freight mobility and management. This is one of the biggest economic/transportation challenges in the US. Globalization has caused a mass shift in how goods are consumed and also where they are produced and moved around. The US Government hasn’t really been prepared for this. Our issues are basically both national and international issues. Mr. Kinney said they also provided a good overview of the FAST Act provisions. Mr. Molchany asked if there was any potential risk from this to our Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Bradley said there is no risk on the federal side, however, there is a risk on the state side due to the Motor License Fund issue.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery Grant (TIGER)**

Ms. Bradley said we are applying for a TIGER grant for the Riverside Drive Corridor project. We went to Washington to meet with the Deputy Secretary of the US Department of transportation's new office of Finance, Innovation and investment. We were debriefed on the TIGER grant application we submitted last year. We scored very competitively. They gave us some tips on how to make our current application more successful. The project will connect Hamilton Street at the Front Street Corridor in Allentown up along the abandoned rail corridor, which is owned by the Waterfront Partners, into Whitehall and close a significant gap in the 162 total mile D&L National Heritage Corridor Trail. It will also be a roadway, bike/pedestrian way and a transit road. It will open opportunities for brownfield redevelopment and protect the floodplain. We are currently working on improvements to our grant application. We are competing with New York City for money, however, they recently changed their requirements to
favor projects in secondary markets such as the Lehigh Valley. Ms. Oscavich identified the various project partners involved in the effort. She said the total project cost is approximately $33 million. The ask amount is about $25 million.

Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant (C2P2)

Ms. Bradley said the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources invited us to apply for the C2P2 grant for the sidewalk inventory we’re working on. They know we want to move that into a full bike/pedestrian plan, and they want to be part of it since it meets some of the statewide goals for public health and supports connections between rural/suburban/urban trail networks. The Plan wouldn’t start until 2017.

Planning + Pizza

Ms. Oscavich said we have two upcoming Planning + Pizza sessions this month. The first is One H2O to be held on April 6. The second one is Technology and Land Use that will be held on April 27. Ms. Bradley said our GIS team presented this topic on a webinar with the Penn State Extension, and we gave the Southwest Lehigh group a preview of it on Tuesday. This is an interactive tool that we will use to develop the General Land Use Plan for the Comprehensive Plan update. It will get people to think about what their community will look like. Mr. Molchan asked if the One H2O is a result of the current news about Flint Michigan and the issues of lead. Ms. Bradley said it’s about how the issues of water aren’t isolated to one issue. Water issues are looked at comprehensively, and in terms of water quality, it is distantly related. It is not directly about issues of lead. We are not talking about the issues in Flint. Ms. Pandl asked about the assumptions that will be used in the land use model. Ms. Bradley said we create the assumptions that include natural resources and existing zoning, among others. These assumptions will be used to identify different land use scenarios.

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

Mr. Hurtado said the next LTAP session is on Intersections and will be held April 7. The session focuses on safety improvements. We encourage everyone to attend. The sessions are free of charge.

Bethlehem Steel FC

Ms. Bradley said Bethlehem Steel FC is having their first game on Sunday and invited the LVPC to be part of the audience. Ms. Oscavich said tickets are $15.

CORRESPONDENCE

Meals on Wheels of Northampton County
Bushkill Creek Corridor Council of the Arts

Ms. Bradley said we collect money on Fridays for our Jeans for a Cause program that goes to local charities. We received two thank you letters for our recent donations.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

LVPC Committees

Ms. Bradley said at your place is a list of what each of our committees do. Since we have new members on the board, we wanted to let you know what they did. Committee chairs encouraged new members to serve on one or more committees.

55th Anniversary

Ms. Bradley passed around several draft copies of the 55th Anniversary report. She said we wanted to create a document that talks about our organization, who we are, what we do and the work we’ve done. The report includes 55 things we’ve done since we were formed in 1961. Hard copies will be available in April.

ADJOURN

Mr. Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Susan Rockwell for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
MINUTES

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance:

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Members absent: Norman Blatt, Percy Dougherty, Karen Duerholz, Steven Neratko, Kathy Rader, Julie Thomases, Christin Borso, George Gemmel, Kevin Lott, Lynn Prior, Tina Roseberry and Adam Waldron.

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Geoff Reese, George Kinney, Eric McAfee, Sue Rockwell and Tracy Oscavich.

Public Present: David Mitros, South Bethlehem Historical Society
COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Mitros said the South Bethlehem Historical Society is presenting a conference on Thursday, May 5, 2016 titled “Historic Preservation: Respecting a Community’s Past While Planning its Future”. The conference is co-sponsored by Lehigh University South Side Initiative, Steelworkers’ Archives, Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society and the National Museum of Industrial History. Following the conference is a tour of the new National Museum of Industrial History. Registration is $15, which includes lunch. Mr. Mitros distributed a flyer on the conference.

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the March 31, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Ms. Wright. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Morgan and Mr. Elliott abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

South Whitehall Township – Zoning Ordinance Amendments Service pack 1L – Model Regulations for Warehousing and Trucking Terminals (Idling and Overnight Parking)

Mr. McAfee said this presentation is in response to a conversation at last month’s Commission meeting with regards to a particular Zoning Ordinance Amendment from South Whitehall Township we reviewed last month. Our review of the Amendment, No. 39 out of 124, addressed and was highly complimentary of the Township’s efforts to accommodate vehicle idling and queuing at motor freight terminals and warehousing and distribution. Our review letter is on pages 6-8 of the agenda attachments, and a copy of the Amendment is on pages 9-10. He said the most powerful subsections of the Amendment are Nos. II-IV. Ms. Bradley said we’re going to be collecting ordinances like this and taking them to Freight Advisory Committee meetings and some of our various municipal meetings we attend or hold. She said this could be a good topic for an upcoming County Council of Governments meeting if they’d like.

Weisenberg Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – West Hills Business Center Buildings E & F

Mr. McAfee said 500,000 square feet of warehouse/storage space is the threshold for considering a project a Land Use of Regional Significance, which requires a review by the Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Commission. The review letter, dated April 6, 2016, is on pages 11-12 of the agenda attachments and had to go out because of the 30-day review period. A copy of the general site plan was provided to Commission members. Mr. McAfee said both buildings E and F total nearly 800,000 square feet of warehouse/storage space. The project is located at the northeast corner where Keck’s Road crosses over I-78. The primary entrance is a nearly quarter of a mile long drive that ends in a cul-de-sac. Overall, the project is consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. The primary consideration from the April 6 letter is improving access through sidewalks, which are located only along the sides of the buildings. The lack of sidewalks doesn’t provide the adequate level of connectivity that we typically promote.

Mr. McAfee said the cul-de-sac is separated by about five feet of space that otherwise would allow for full connectivity with Sunset Drive. A subsequent conversation between LVPC
staff and the applicant’s engineer revealed that they are trying to keep traffic off of Keck’s Road, which is not designed to handle tractor trailers, particularly the I-78 overpass. He said there are plans to upgrade the overpass with the intention to open the cul-de-sac. This issue was addressed at the Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday, and the Committee decided to issue a follow-up letter, which is included on pages 13-14 of the agenda attachments. The letter points out the deficiencies in connectivity and safety, due to the length of the cul-de-sac, as well as solutions. The applicant could eliminate the cul-de-sac immediately after the improvements are made or eliminate it sooner and restrict access to non-truck traffic until the improvements are made. He also said that our standard paragraph about truck queuing and day parking should be added to the letter. Mr. Clater said they should at least consider emergency access. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the follow-up letter with the additional language. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Ordinance Reviews**

Ms. Wright said there are five summary sheet items on page 15 of the agenda attachments. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Clater seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Hozza abstaining on Item #1, and Mr. Elliott and Mr. Clater abstaining on Item #3.

**Environment Committee**

Reviews

Mr. Repasch said there are three summary sheet items on page 16 of the agenda attachments. Mr. Repasch made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Hozza seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Elliott abstaining on Item #3.

**Transportation Committee**

**Transportation Alternatives Program Awards**

Mr. Kinney said the Transportation Alternatives Program provides enhancement dollars on top of the road and bridge dollars. The funds are used for mobility projects, such as bike/pedestrian facilities and conversion of abandoned railways, among others. There was $1.27 million to award. We received 23 applications with a total ask amount of over $9 million. A review committee was formed that included LVPC staff, Liesel Dreisbach and a representative from both the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority and Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority. The key to making a decision on award winners is how close the project is to being shovel-ready. Also, we look at how innovative a project is. On April 6, a celebration was held to identify the winners and present their checks. Mr. Kinney briefly discussed the award winners. He said, to make the process transparent, we will be taking photographs of the award winning projects as they progress and post them on our website.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**55th Anniversary Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Report**

Ms. Bradley said we sent out about 4,000 copies of the annual report/55th anniversary celebration document. Everyone should have received a copy in the mail. She said the LVPC has been around since 1961. We represent the two counties and are the federally-designated
Metropolitan Planning Organization for infrastructure planning and investment. We also unite the community around regional planning issues.

Ms. Bradley provided a power point presentation of the document. She discussed several slides that provide a snapshot of what’s happening in terms of development in the Lehigh Valley that also speak to the future of development in our area. In 2014, one million square feet of industrial development was proposed, while in 2015, 3.4 million square feet was proposed. She said we anticipate that to grow through 2018. Ms. Bradley said last week she attended a ULI product council for commercial and industrial development. The former head of Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo Bank and a number of real estate interests spoke of us as being the new inland empire because of our access to markets being much better than southern California in many ways. Mr. Repasch asked if the industrial component is mostly warehousing. Ms. Bradley said it includes some warehousing, but there’s a lot of manufacturing coming into the Lehigh Valley.

Ms. Bradley said the document includes a timeline that identifies 55 events and projects. She briefly discussed some of the events and projects, including new public engagement tools, a comprehensive rebranding and working and collaborating with others on projects and events. She said we’re about to start on the public piece of updating our Regional Comprehensive Plan called FutureLV. We will have a big kick-off of the project during the last quarter of the year.

**APA-PA Conference – LVPC Presentations**

Mr. Kinney said the APA-PA conference will be held in the Lehigh Valley in October 2016. We’ve been preparing for the logistical components of the conference, including the sessions and funding. He said the LVPC submitted eight project proposals, and six were accepted. Ms. Pandl said there were good proposals received from around the state. They received 85 proposals for 36 spots.

**Planning + Pizza**

Ms. Bradley said we held a Planning + Pizza session on Wednesday. The topic was Technology and Land Use. Another session is scheduled for May 25 titled Show Us the $: Transportation Funding. The sessions are free.

**Local Technical Assistance Program**

Ms. Bradley said we have three workshops scheduled during May. She briefly discussed the workshops.

**Quarterly Web Hits**

Ms. Rockwell said we received over 270,000 hits on our website during the first quarter of 2016. The top 25 downloads included our steep slopes model ordinance at almost 46,000 hits and continues to be the most popular of our ordinances. The Northampton County Livable Landscapes Plan came in second with almost 29,000 hits having just been released in December 2015. Other popular reports included the Return on Environment study with almost 7,500 hits and the Housing Market Report, which was also just released in December, with almost 5,700 hits.

**CORRESPONDENCE - None**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT - None

ADJOURN

Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Susan Rockwell for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
MINUTES

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance:

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<td>Norman Blatt</td>
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Members absent: Karen Duerholz, Steven Glickman, Christina Morgan, Steven Neratko, Sara Pandl, Kevin Schmidt, Christen Borso, Luis Campos, Charles Elliott, Kevin Lott, Hayden Phillips, Lynn Prior, Michael Reph and Adam Waldron

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Geoff Reese, George Kinney, Eric McAfee, Sue Rockwell, Tracy Oscavich and Jodi Chomicky

Public Present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ; Ron Dendas, The Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust; Mark Bradbury, Martin, Bradbury & Griffith LLC
COURTESY OF THE FLOOR - None

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Greco. Ms. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Rader, Mr. Blatt and Mr. Gemmel abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

Chuck Fraust

Ms. Dreisbach mentioned the recent unfortunate passing of former Commission member, Chuck Fraust. Ms. Dreisbach wanted to take a moment to acknowledge his 20 years of service. Flowers were sent to the family on behalf of the LVPC.

Executive Secretary

Ms. Dreisbach introduced and welcomed the new LVPC Executive Secretary, Jodi Chomicky.

SPECIAL REPORT

Community Health Needs Assessment - Presentation by Ron Dendas, Program Officer, The Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust: “The Road to Health”

Mr. Dendas said the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) came about as part of the 2010 Affordable Care Act that required all non-profit hospitals and health care systems to conduct an Assessment. He said hospitals have to make the report easily accessible to the public. A copy of the report was provided to Commission members. The Lehigh Valley report looks at factors that go into making all people in a particular area healthy, including social and environmental factors like employment, education and air quality, individual behaviors like smoking or healthy eating, and the quality and availability of health care in their area. Mr. Dendas discussed the current health of the Lehigh Valley, stating we are good at treating chronic diseases, but not good at keeping people healthy. According to Mr. Dendas, the best strategy to improve the overall health of the Lehigh Valley is to improve/develop health, education and transportation cross-sector partnerships. Mr. Repasc asked how this fits into the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Bradley said some of the things identified in the report are things we work on. She said we are hoping to continue to engage the Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust and health care networks to work with us as we update the Comprehensive Plan.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Lower Macungie Township - Land Use of Regional Significance - Spring Creek Settlement Subdivision (Lot 9)

Mr. McAfee directed the Commission’s attention to the 1st folded map (no color) in regards to an 874,000 square foot warehouse proposal in the Spring Creek Settlement Subdivision in far western Lower Macungie Township. The proposal is inconsistent with the County Comprehensive Plan, as it is proposing a highly-intensive urbanized use on land that is overwhelmingly farmland preservation. We strongly recommend against developing this land. Per the 30-day review period, the review letter on pages 6-8 of the agenda attachments was sent on May 18th. Any additional comments from the Commission will need to be sent in a separate letter.

Mr. McAfee said this proposal is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance, so it had to go through our Memorandum of Understanding and additional review with LANta. LANta often has feedback that is largely tied towards improving its capacity to serve a transit-dependent population through access, usually in the form of either a bus stop or pedestrian amenities on the perimeter of the property. At the same time, these are the kinds of things we don’t want to see in an area where we shouldn’t be encouraging any sort of urbanization practices. Mr. McAfee said we dealt with this in a letter several months ago where we had to reconcile the fact that LANta understandably wants this land to be prepared for transit access should it be developed, but the fact is, it shouldn’t be developed as is.

An in-house study was conducted and found this proposal will generate well over 1,500 vehicle trips per day. Additionally, the LVPC recommends that, as we are experiencing this rapid expansion of warehousing and logistical facilities, there needs to be more careful consideration of overnight parking, staging and rest areas for vehicles.

Mr. McAfee said this location is also host to a number of conditions regarding carbonate geology and Karst features. There are surface depressions and surface mines on site, which are strong indicators of sinkhole activity. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the letter. Mr. Herman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Slatton Borough - Rentschler LLP (216 Center Street) Land Development Plan - Lehigh County SALDO Application

Mr. McAfee said this County SALDO application takes place in the Borough of Slatton, which is one of the four municipalities across the Lehigh Valley that lacks its own Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. This means the LVPC is not just the reviewer, but also the administrator of the process. We have both review and approval authority. The other municipalities without a SALDO are West Easton, Glendon and Chapman, all in Northampton County.

Mr. McAfee said this project involves a parcel next to a car dealership owned by the applicant, Fred Rentschler, who had a house and barn that he demolished to build a parking lot for his cars. The parcel is slightly over ½ acre with two access points, as shown on the 2nd folded map, one to the north and one to the west. It does not involve a structure, but does involve stormwater because it exceeded the 10,000 square feet of impervious surface. Since this is in the Borough of Slatton,
we had to go through the full process of correspondence with the zoning hearing board, who approved two variances, and all the considerations that came under the County SALDO review after the zoning hearing board offered its feedback for those variances.

The majority of the considerations were minor in the sense of issues that still need to be addressed, but the biggest consideration is we are still awaiting a response from the Lehigh County Conservation District with regards to the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan. The District’s response will largely determine our capacity to fully approve what is going on. Once we receive their response (their deadline is May 31st), we can use that as a basis for our response.

Mr. McAfee said we proposed conditional approval of the plan at Tuesday’s Committee meeting. The main considerations that still need to be fulfilled are listed in the letter on pages 9-10 of the agenda attachments. At the Committee meeting, the applicant requested the following waivers from the County SALDO: the use of curbing for access roads, screen planting on all four sides of the parking lot and the recommended plantings to be used. Ms. Wright said this letter and future letters should include a list of the waivers granted. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the letter with the addition of the waivers granted. Mr. Clater seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance Reviews

Ms. Wright said there are four summary sheet items on page 12 of the agenda attachments. Mr. McAfee said three of the items are consistent and one is inconsistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. He said Items #2 and #3 are Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) reviews. PUC reviews are proposals for utility modifications, usually electric, in relation to population needs and expansions due to demand. Mr. McAfee said he reviews these from a geographic standpoint in terms of alterations, modifications and how they are taking place in relation to the County Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. McAfee said Item #3 is inconsistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. The construction of the new Siegfried Substation would rest 500 feet from the existing substation. The two parcels involved are within farmland preservation. Most of the upgrades to the transmission lines will be crossing floodplains and steep slopes. About 15 acres will be disturbed by the project. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Environment Committee

Lehigh County Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Agricultural Lands Plan

Mr. Reese said that the Livable Landscapes Plan for Northampton County was adopted by the County in January 2016. It takes into account natural areas, greenways and blueways, parks and recreation, farmland and scenic and cultural facilities. He said we are now about to begin the same type of initiative for Lehigh County, also to be called “Livable Landscapes”. The plan will talk about parks and recreation, open space and agricultural land.

Mr. Reese said one of the benefits we have as we prepare to begin the Lehigh County Plan is that we just completed a Return on Environment study, which is the first of its kind in the Lehigh Valley. The study documents the economic value of open space, not just their environmental, social or aesthetic benefits, but their real dollar benefit. If we had to replace our Natural Systems Services (what nature provides) with some engineering solutions, we would
need to spend $154 million/year to replace what nature just gives us in Lehigh County alone (i.e. water supply, water quality, flood control). Air quality is a similar type of measure. It has been separated from natural systems services because it means something completely different. Our natural areas, specifically our trees, remove contaminants from the air, and because they do, Lehigh County residents save $26 million/year in health care costs. In terms of outdoor recreation, Mr. Reese said we assembled a lot of experts (hunting, fishing, hiking, running) to help us figure out what segment of the population actually participates in those types of activities on our open space resources and how much they spend. Economic modeling suggests $450 million/year is contributed to our economy from people recreating on our open space resources every year in Lehigh County. He said the value of a single family home increases the closer it is in proximity to protected open space. Across Lehigh County, almost $1 billion of increased property values are attributed to being next to open space, which breaks down to about $15,000 per single family residential property.

In terms of the scope of work, Mr. Reese said it is similar to what’s been accomplished in the Northampton County Plan. We will review and assess existing resources. We will create a vision and define goals. The plan will include an assessment of needs and opportunities to improve and expand our open space resources in a variety of different categories—parks and recreation, countywide trails network, our sensitive natural resources, water supply, farmland and rural open spaces, protection and restoration of greenways and blueways. We will prepare a series of recommendations based on the identified needs and opportunities and create a priority system associated with it. We will also have significant public outreach and participation.

Mr. Reese said the Return on Environment study looks at three basic elements—health and wellness, open space resources and economic activity. We look to see how these interact and overlap. These elements were also included in the Northampton County Plan and will be incorporated in the Lehigh County Plan as well. He said the Lehigh County Livable Landscapes Plan is set to kick-off in the summer of 2016 and be completed in the summer of 2017.

**Transportation Committee**

**Freight Advisory Committee Meeting**

Mr. Kinney announced that the second ever Freight Advisory Committee meeting will be held next week on June 1st at 11:30 am. The agenda includes a presentation by Brian Hare, PennDOT Central, on the status of the State Freight Movement Plan, followed by a presentation by Dante Staciokas, Lehigh Carbon Community College, who will present his white paper on tractor trailer parking and CDL shortages and how that affects us locally. The agenda will conclude with a presentation from the State Police Division on the Motor Carrier Enforcement Program.

**Transportation Summit with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce**

Ms. Bradley said, per the flier at your place from the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, the LVPC, LANta and the Airport Authority get together annually for a joint transportation summit. Each year’s topic is picked relevant to the transportation system in the Lehigh Valley. This year the speakers include Leslie Richards, PennDOT Secretary, who is going to discuss what’s going on at the state level in terms of transportation and make some exciting announcements in regards to multimodalism. Stephanie Cohen, FedEx Ground Vice President of Strategic Planning, will speak publically for the first time on behalf of FedEx as to why they chose
to locate here in the Lehigh Valley and how our location impacts freight and freight-related business development. Ms. Bradley said she will be presenting the LVPC’s Transportation Improvement Program. Charles Everett, Executive Director of the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority, was added to the list of speakers to talk about the real estate side and the Airport’s relationship to the FedEx project. Last year, 200 people attended the summit, and 300 are expected this year.

_PennDOT Online Resources_

Mr. Kinney said we are in the process of updating our Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). We have been trying to help people visualize this program, and PennDOT has given us a head start with respect to their online resource. Mr. Kinney directed everyone’s attention to PennDOT’s home page (penndot.gov). From here, you will find a link to the left called Construction and Planned Projects. After clicking on this link, you are given three options: Construction Projects, Act 89 Projects and PennDOT’s 4- and 12- Year Plans. Clicking on any one of these links will allow you to search via single address, county, PennDOT district, Legislative District, or planning partner to obtain the information you are looking for. From the map, you can see active TIP projects or active construction projects. You can click on a project and get some basic information about the project such as state representation, U.S. representation, project manager with phone number and email, funding and fiscal years of the project. If you happen to be interested in more than one project, you can select Summary Report and get every project for a particular county. Mr. Kinney said this is a great resource to see what’s happening in our region.

_Show Me the $: Transportation Funding_

Ms. Bradley said we held a Planning and Pizza session yesterday, and we had to add two additional tables to accommodate all attendees— 37 in total. Staff provided a presentation on how to access money that goes into construction on the Transportation Improvement Program and the long range plan and information on various PennDOT grant programs. The power point presentation is on our website.

_Bike to Work Day_

Ms. Bradley said Mr. Kinney came up with the idea of determining what it would take to ride your bike to work. The LVPC teamed up with the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation (CAT), which provides bike education in our region, and biked the six miles from the west end of Allentown to the LVPC in 38 minutes. Ms. Bradley showed some photos taken along the way. She said the neighborhood conditions were great, with tree-lined streets and not too many cars. Then you start to transition to other local roads where it can get a little tight. Ms. Bradley said they all felt they were able to ride fairly safely in a number of tractor trailer situations. Hopefully this will ultimately lead to the designation of bike corridors, commuter corridors and alternative transportation for our region.

_OLD BUSINESS - None_
NEW BUSINESS

Planning + Pizza

Ms. Bradley said our next Planning and Pizza is titled *WalkLV* and is scheduled for Monday, June 27th. It is the release of our Sidewalk Inventory of the entire region. Special guest Roy Gothie, the new statewide Bike/Hike Coordinator for PennDOT, will be speaking. We are his first big presentation since he started in his new position. Registration is available on the LVPC website.

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

Ms. Bradley said we have two upcoming Local Technical Assistance Programs. We have Pavement Markings on June 7th. Then for our rural communities we have Unpaved and Gravel Roads on June 30th, which is the first time we have offered this program.

CORRESPONDENCE

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley

Ms. Bradley said we received a thank you letter from Turning Point. The staff wore jeans for a cause last month and raised $100, which is an all-time high for us. Turning Point helps people who are victims of domestic abuse.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT - None

ADJOURN

Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Susan Rockwell for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
MINUTES

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance:

**Lehigh County**
- Karen Duerholz
- Armand Greco
- Edward Hozza
- Richard Molchany
- Kathy Rader
- Stephen Repasch
- Kevin Schmidt
- Donna Wright

**Northampton County**
- Gordon Campbell
- Eugene Clater
- John Diacogiannis
- Liesel Dreisbach
- Charles Elliott
- George Gemmel
- Robert Lammi
- Kevin Lott
- Thomas Nolan
- Pamela Pearson

Members absent: Norman Blatt, Percy Dougherty Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Christina Morgan, Steven Neratko, Brad Osborne, Sara Pandl, Julie Thomases, Christen Borso, Darlene Heller, Hayden Phillips, Lynn Prior, Michael Reph, Tina Roseberry and Adam Waldron

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Geoff Reese, George Kinney, Eric McAfee, Mike Donchez, Sue Rockwell, Tamara Mittman and John von Kerczek

Public Present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ; Tim Herrlinger, Northampton County

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR - None
MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the May 26, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Clater. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Elliott and Mr. Lott abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

Senior Community Planners

Ms. Dreisbach introduced and welcomed new senior community planners, Tamara Mittman and John von Kerczek, to the LVPC staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Ordinance Reviews

Ms. Wright said there are three summary sheet items on page 8 of the agenda attachments. Mr. McAfee said Item #1 is a second resubmission. The amendments are generally of local concern. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Lammi abstaining on Item #3.

Environment Committee - None

Transportation Committee

Draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Donchez said a draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document is at each Commission members’ place. The TIP is the Lehigh Valley high priority list of multimodal projects for the four-year period: highway, bridge, transit and pedestrian. Even though it’s a four-year document, the TIP is updated every other year and is continuously changing due to project cost increases, etc. The document was prepared as a more readable version for public review and comment. The TIP is a $458 million investment in transportation infrastructure: $131 million for highway projects, $183 million for bridge projects and $144 million for transit projects. Mr. Donchez discussed some of the new projects to the TIP, including the Route 22/13th Street interchange in Easton and the Hill-to-Hill Bridge rehabilitation in Bethlehem.

Mr. Donchez said the TIP was developed jointly with PennDOT to meet financial constraints by the state. We are currently in a 30-day public review and comment period, which began June 14 and ends July 14. Two public meetings are scheduled on July 12: one at 12 pm at the PennDOT District 5 office and one at 6 pm at the LVPC office. The purpose of the meetings is to provide a formal venue for people to comment. He said the draft document is available at six locations: the LVPC office, PennDOT District 5 office, LANta office and the three city libraries. The document is also on the LVPC website.
Mr. Elliott asked about the increase in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding from $96,000 in FFY2017 to $661,000. Ms. Bradley said it is lower in FFY2017 because of contracting. PennDOT won’t put out TAP contracts to communities for several more months. The communities won’t be able to spend the money until late 2017 and into FFY2018.

**WalkLV – Sidewalk Inventory**

Mr. Kinney provided a power point presentation. He said staff prepared a regional sidewalk inventory, and a copy of the document is at each Commission member’s place. The document was presented and released on Monday at a Planning + Pizza event. Mr. Roy Gothe, PennDOT’s Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator, presented at the Monday meeting as well. Mr. Kinney discussed the benefits of walking, provided some walking statistics and general sidewalk design criteria.

Ms. Bradley said the document includes all 62 municipalities, most public roads, and uses 2015 aerial photography. The report documents whether sidewalks are on one side of the road, both sides and neither side. It looks at the sidewalk inventory against the existing trail network and bus stops. There are 1,177 miles of sidewalks in Lehigh County and 900 miles in Northampton County. Allentown has the most sidewalks followed by Bethlehem. Whitehall has the most sidewalks of the townships followed by Lower Macungie. The largest connected network of sidewalks is in Nazareth. Ms. Bradley said that, theoretically, between the trail and sidewalk network, you can reach the Appalachian Trail from the center of Allentown. Trails account for 12% of the sidewalk network. We did an analysis to show sidewalk endpoints closest to trails and where we can close the gaps. We looked at sidewalk and transit stop connectivity. Of the 2,683 bus stops, 2,040 (76%) are located in sidewalk corridors. The information in the document can be used for a variety of purposes: identify gaps, prioritize ADA improvements, support official maps, among others.

Ms. Bradley provided a demonstration of the on-line, interactive sidewalk inventory. She said we are in beta testing now through about July 15.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Transportation Summit with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce*

Ms. Bradley thanked Commission members who attended the Transportation Summit. She said regional transportation providers and planners came together at this event. About 200 people were in attendance. The draft Transportation Improvement Program was released during the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Planning + Pizza*

Ms. Bradley said our next Planning and Pizza is titled *Stuck in Traffic: Congestion Management* and is scheduled for Friday, July 29th.

*BuildLV: Annual Development Report*

Ms. Bradley said we are in the process of updating the annual development report. The report will include a look at what’s happening in 2016 and what trends we see for the region, both
historic and future. We are partnering with Urban Land Institute again this year to present the report on September 7 at ArtsQuest. The panel will include a representative from Norfolk Southern, a commercial banker who only lends to freight-based developments, a freight expert from PennDOT, and we are working on getting someone from a trucking company that manages a logistics business.

3rd Annual LVPC Awards Gala/Call for Nominations

Ms. Bradley said the award packets were released today. We’re now accepting nominations for the annual planning and development awards. This is our 3rd annual awards event, which will be held October 4 at DeSales University. We are working on a keynote speaker.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Half-Year Activity Report

Ms. Bradley provided a power point presentation. She reviewed the major activities we’ve accomplished since January 1. Regarding subdivision and development activity through June 10, we’ve received 100 proposed plans: 52 in Lehigh County and 48 in Northampton County. We received 38 approved plans for Lehigh County and 29 for Northampton County, for a total of 67 approved plans. For non-residential development, 68,841 square feet was approved for commercial, 1,257 million square feet for industrial, 583,000 square feet for office, 52,600 square feet for retail, and 2,800 square feet for public/quasi public. The approved square footage through June 10 is higher than the total approved in 2014. For residential development, over 400 apartments, 66 single family homes, 30 townhouses and 26 twins were approved.

ADJOURN

Ms. Rader made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Greco seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Susan Rockwell for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
MINUTES

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance:

**Lehigh County**

Percy Dougherty
Steven Glickman
Armand Greco
Kent Herman
Edward Hozza
Christina Morgan
Steven Neratko
Stephen Repasch
Kevin Schmidt
Donna Wright

**Northampton County**

Gordon Campbell
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George Gemmel
Tim Herrlinger
Kevin Lott
Thomas Nolan
Pamela Pearson
Hayden Phillips
Lynn Prior
Michael Reph

Members absent: Norman Blatt, Karen Duerholz, Richard Molchany, Brad Osborne, Sara Pandl, Kathy Rader, Julie Thomases, Christen Borso, Charles Elliott, Darlene Heller, Robert Lammi, Tina Roseberry and Adam Waldron

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Geoff Reese, George Kinney, Eric McAfee, Sue Rockwell, Tracy Oscavich, Tamara Mittman, John von Kerczek and Whitney Burdge

Public Present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – None
MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the June 30, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Ms. Wright. Mr. Greco seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Morgan and Mr. Reph abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Dreisbach welcomed Mr. Herrlinger, who was appointed to represent John Brown at LVPC meetings. She introduced and welcomed new urban design planner, Whitney Burdge, to the LVPC staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Ordinance Reviews

Ms. Wright said there are eight summary sheet items on page 5 of the agenda attachments. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Environment Committee

Reviews

Mr. Repasch said there is one summary sheet item on page 6 of the agenda attachments. Mr. Repasch made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Committee

State (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund Awards

Mr. Kinney said the program is administered through the state in two ways: through PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. This current awards announcement is the Department of Community and Economic Development portion of the program. He said eight regional projects were awarded recently for a total of $3.48 million. Mr. Kinney identified each project. Mr. Phillips asked what the Lafayette College award was for. Mr. Kinney said we didn’t see the scope of the project since the College made direct application to the state. However, he could obtain that information for Mr. Phillips.

Congestion Management Process

Mr. Kinney provided a power point presentation. He said the Congestion Management Process is one of the significant evaluation tools we use in developing the Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. He said a copy of the draft document is at each Commission member’s place. He said we worked with AECOM to run the regional travel demand model. Mr. Kinney said that congestion has economic, social and environmental impacts. He said congestion comes in two forms: recurring and non-recurring. He provided examples of both. The Congestion Management Process report is required for every Metropolitan Planning Organization with more than 200,000 people. The current draft is the first
update since 2008, which includes a number of new concepts. We worked with AECOM to review reports from other areas of the state, as well as nationally, and reviewed the Federal Highway Administration’s guidance handbook.

Mr. Kinney said we started with identifying the current congestion situation. AECOM modeled 2017 corridors based on traffic volume, truck traffic, crashes, peak hour level of service, among other criteria. The modeling resulted in 45 corridors identified as congested in 2017. Many are within the urban boundary as shown on our General Land Use Map. We support capacity improvements for projects within this urban boundary.

Mr. Kinney said the next step was to identify what these corridors will look like in 2040. AECOM ran the model again using the same criteria used for the 2017 model run, but also added projected demographics for 2040 and Transportation Improvement Program projects scheduled to be completed by 2040. Forty-five corridors were identified, many within the urban boundary. He said we needed to reduce that number to about 15 to be more manageable. We worked with AECOM on what criteria to use to achieve that goal. Additional criteria added to the previous criteria used included goods movement, functional class of the corresponding corridor, proximity to the National Highway System and urban development areas. Fifteen corridors were identified, and the report includes a profile of each. The profile includes a summary of conditions and mitigation strategies. The report also includes a look at how we can mitigate congestion related to freight. AECOM located freight generators relative to the 15 corridors. They introduced a methodology that looks at freight movement and the burden created on each corridor. The results were used to inform the mitigation strategies. Ms. Dreisbach asked Mr. Kinney to define a freight generator. Mr. Kinney said it looks at land use and distribution facilities, the Traffic Analysis Zone the facility is located in and what is the easiest path of movement to a higher order road. They are mostly concentrated along Route 22. He briefly discussed some of the mitigation strategies for the 15 corridors. The report also discusses performance-based standards focused on maximizing existing infrastructure from an operational standpoint.

Ms. Bradley said we will be bringing the report back to next month’s Commission meeting since we just received the report from AECOM, and it needs a number of corrections.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Planning + Pizza**

Ms. Bradley said our next Planning and Pizza is titled *Stuck in Traffic: Congestion Management* and is scheduled for Friday, July 29th followed by *Lehigh County Parks + Agriculture* on Wednesday, August 24th.

**Freight Advisory Committee Meeting**

Ms. Bradley said the next meeting will be held on August 3 at the Lehigh Carbon Community College to accommodate more people. Several tractor trailers will be set up so people can see what the drivers see. The meeting is open to the public.

**BuildLV: Annual Development Report**

Ms. Bradley said we are partnering with Urban Land Institute again this year. Ms. Bradley and Mr. McAfee will present the annual report. Mr. Brian Knowles from Lee and Associates will provide a follow-up presentation. Mr. Knowles is a banker who finances warehouse development.
An expert panel is scheduled to discuss issues related to the report. A logistics company representative may also be added to the panel. Ms. Bradley said we expect about 200 people to attend the event at SteelStacks on September 7.

**Lehigh Valley Government Academy**

Ms. Bradley said the fall season will begin in September with the Community Planning course. The course will be held on September 7, 14 and 21.

**Local Technical Assistance Program**

Ms. Bradley said a number of classes are coming up in September. We partner with PennDOT on the courses, which are free.

**Get Outdoors PA Festival**

Ms. Bradley said we partner with Lehigh Valley Greenways on the festival. This year, we are also partnering with Senator Mario Scavello. LVPC staff will be attending the event, which will be held on September 24 at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center.

**Lower Milford Township 14th Annual Fall Festival**

Ms. Bradley said LVPC staff will also be attending the Lower Milford Township 14th Annual Fall Festival on September 24 to discuss the Southwestern Lehigh County Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan. She said we presented a first draft of goals, policies and actions to the municipal steering committee.

**Lehigh Valley Awards + Gala**

Ms. Bradley said that this year the event will not be just an awards and gala event, but also our 55th anniversary celebration. We will not have a keynote speaker this year and will focus more on the work we’ve accomplished and the Regional Comprehensive Plan update.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council**

Ms. Bradley said that staff contributes to our jeans for a cause program on Fridays, and we received a thank you letter for the donation.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Act**

Ms. Bradley said the Pennsylvania Legislature passed the Medical Marijuana Act on April 17, which legalizes the growing, processing and dispensing of medical marijuana in the state. She said there are very strict regulations associated with the Act, and the land use-related aspects are outlined in a memo provided to each Commission member. There are many land use implications associated with passage of the Act. Ms. Bradley said she prepared a brief of the law as it relates to Pennsylvania land use, a list of resources related to land use and general advice for municipal governments to take into consideration. Every municipality in the state must make zoning accommodations for growing, processing and dispensing medical marijuana. She
said that tomorrow she will take this work, along with Diane Myers-Krug from the Tri-County Planning Commission, who wrote a draft model ordinance, to the County Planning Directors Association of Pennsylvania. Once they have signed off on this work, we will hold a training event for all municipal governments in the region.

Ms. Bradley highlighted some important components of the law. She said there are a very limited number of licenses for growers and processors. Initially, only 25 licenses will be given out statewide. Initially, only 50 licenses for dispensaries will be given out. A dispensary must have a full time, licensed, trained medical professional on staff during operation. There will be five licenses given out for a grower/processor and dispenser operation. The Lehigh Valley is the third largest region in the state. We will likely get one grower/processor and one dispenser.

Ms. Bradley said there are very significant security and tracking procedures written into the law. Dispensers can only get medical marijuana from a licensed grower/processor in the state. Everything has to be tracked and recorded and will be put up on the Pennsylvania Department of Health website. The Department of Health will be preparing more specific regulations over the next five months. Medical marijuana can only be used by terminally ill patients or by those with a serious medical condition. People who work in these facilities, as well as the drivers transporting the marijuana, have to have criminal background checks and fingerprinting cleared by the state and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Ms. Bradley said that the current interpretation of the law is that marijuana has to be grown under cover, not in an open field. This could change as the Department of Health begins program implementation. Priority for licenses will be given for facilities along transit routes in areas of highest population density. Out of state residents cannot purchase marijuana in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Bradley said the law preempts local zoning regulations. Growers/processors have to meet the same municipal zoning and land use regulations as a manufacturing facility. Dispensers have to meet the same regulations as other commercial facilities located in the same zoning district. She said medical marijuana cannot be smoked— it has to be in oil or cream form. It cannot be sold as an edible. It can be mixed in food or drink by a licensed medical caregiver if necessary. Ms. Bradley prepared some general considerations for municipalities to think about as provided in the memo, and she briefly reviewed some of them.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Dougherty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Nolan seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Susan Rockwell for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
MINUTES

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance:

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<th>Lehigh County</th>
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<td>Percy Dougherty</td>
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<td>Kent Herman</td>
<td>Liesel Dreisbach</td>
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<td>Edward Hozza</td>
<td>Charles Elliott</td>
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<td>Christina Morgan</td>
<td>George Gemmel</td>
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<td>Sara Pandi</td>
<td>Tim Herrlinger</td>
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<td>Stephen Repasch</td>
<td>Robert Lammi</td>
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<td>Kevin Schmidt</td>
<td>Shawn Martell</td>
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<td>Julie Thomases</td>
<td>Thomas Nolan</td>
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<td>Donna Wright</td>
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<td>Michael Reph</td>
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Members absent: Karen Duerholz, Armand Greco, Richard Molchany, Steven Neratko, Brad Osborne, Kathy Rader, Christen Borso, John Diacogiannis, Darlene Heller, Kevin Lott, Lynn Prior and Tina Roseberry

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Geoff Reese, George Kinney, Eric McAfee, Sue Rockwell, Tracy Oscavich, Tamara Mittman, John von Kerczek and Whitney Burdge

Public Present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – None
MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the July 28, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Herrlinger. Mr. Nolan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Elliott, Mr. Lammi and Mr. Martell abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Dreisbach welcomed Mr. Martell, who was appointed to represent the City of Bethlehem at LVPC meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

BUILDLV: Annual Development + Outlook Report

Ms. Bradley said every year we prepare an annual development report that summarizes all development activity in the region. The LVPC is the only entity that sees every subdivision and land development in the region. The current report summarizes 2015 activity and provides an outlook of the first six months of 2016 and where we think development will occur. In comparison to 2014, 2015 saw an increase (7%) in the number of plans received, a 16.5% increase in the number of approved residential units, a 27.3% increase in approved non-residential square footage, a 50.5% increase in approved residential subdivision acreage and a 12.2% decrease in approved industrial development square footage. We received 193 plans in Northampton County and 218 plans in Lehigh County. Ms. Bradley said 48% of the final plans received did not involve development, such as lot line adjustments, 22% were for residential development and 30% were for non-residential development. This is about the third year where we have seen the amount of residential development as being less than other forms of development. During the power point presentation, Ms. Bradley discussed a map showing the number of plans received by municipality. The City of Bethlehem had the highest number of plans followed by the City of Allentown and Upper Macungie Township.

Mr. McAfee discussed the categories of residential housing types that we track for the report. He said, while mobile homes and planned residential developments are two of the eight categories, we have not seen them in a long time. Apartments account for nearly half of residential development. What we haven’t seen much of is single family detached development. We have been seeing more of condos and a fair amount of assisted living. Assisted living is the densest development, followed by apartments. However, single family development proposals covered almost 88% of the approved residential land area. High density development is not only occurring in both the cities and boroughs, but also the townships. Mr. McAfee reviewed the top ten largest approved residential developments. These top ten developments totaled 1,108 units, with 643 of those units being part of age-restricted development.

Mr. McAfee discussed the categories of non-residential development. Non-industrial space accounted for 39% of the total square footage, while 61% was for industrial development, which is less than the square footage from 2014 (over 80%). He said industrial development accounted for only slightly more than half of approved non-residential acreage. He discussed the top ten approved non-residential developments.

Mr. McAfee said we also looked at plan review activity and the unemployment rate to see if there is any correlation between the activity and the strength of the economy, as measured by
the employment rate versus plans reviewed. By the end of 2008, unemployment surged at the same time development activity saw a slowdown. Over the next few years, we saw high unemployment and a low number of plans. During the past three or four years, unemployment was down by nearly half, while the number of plans, both proposed and approved, has not shown much recovery.

Mr. Clater said in Allen Township many plans were approved in 2007-2008 but were never built, so there’s a huge backlog. He said there is a lot of pent up demand that when released, will not result in new plan reviews. Ms. Bradley said those approvals are only good for a short time. Ms. Pandl said the approvals expired on July 2.

Mr. McAfee said multi-family development is driving the housing recovery, which changed dramatically since 2006 when residential development was mostly single family, twins and townhouses. Now, the development we are seeing is mostly apartments, assisted living and condos. Based on ten years of residential activity, Upper Macungie Township has the highest amount of residential activity, followed by Allentown. As far as non-residential development, industrial has been the most dominant type of development based on square footage over a ten-year period, with the City of Bethlehem having the highest amount of square footage, followed by Lower Nazareth Township.

Ms. Bradley discussed the Land Use Map from the current Comprehensive Plan and said we are going to talk more about how we are going to update this plan. She showed some time lapse slides where development has occurred since 2000. She said we will be talking more in depth on development activity at the September 7 event being held at ArtsQuest at SteelStacks in partnership with the Urban Land Institute. The full report will be released at the event. Ms. Bradley said we have received many questions over the past years related to freight and freight-related development. We have learned there are a lot of misconceptions about warehouse and commercial development. We have put together a panel of experts that hopefully can answer these questions.

Moore Township/Chapman Borough – Martyn/Beal Lot Line Adjustment – County SALDO Consideration

Mr. McAfee said this is a simple lot line adjustment. The existing dwelling is located in Chapman Borough, but the lot line adjustment is taking place in Moore Township. The lot line is being adjusted to include the driveway. Nothing is actually happening in the Borough. The site plan is shown on pages 8-9 of the agenda attachments. Moore Township submitted the plan. Chapman Borough was unaware of the proposal. This is a municipally-driven subdivision and County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) process. Per LVPC Counsel, this is considered a minor lot line adjustment under the County SALDO. As per the County SALDO, this proposal had to be reviewed with both the Comprehensive Planning Committee and Commission. However, due to the 30-day review period requirement, the review letter (on page 7) had to be sent out with a notification that further comments may be provided based on both Committee and Commission review. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance Reviews

Ms. Wright said there are five summary sheet items on page 10 of the agenda attachments. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Herrlinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Environment Committee

PennEast Pipeline – Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Mr. Reese said we’ve been aware of this project for over a year now. PennEast is proposing to construct a natural gas pipeline that will begin in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, pass through a good portion of Northampton County, and end in Mercer County, New Jersey. He identified the proposed pipeline route on a map. He said we saw this project as a County Land Use Consistency review in March 2016 that was reviewed with both the Environment Committee and Comprehensive Planning Committee. A draft review letter of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is at each Commission member’s place.

Mr. Reese said one of the key takeaways from the EIS is that PennEast has to meet all federal and state regulations. Also, they have to conduct surveys of all properties to identify impacts and mitigation actions. Not all surveys have been completed. In the March review, we identified key features intersected by the pipeline. These features are shown in bold, black text in the current draft letter. Mr. Reese briefly identified key findings related to these features. He said that, even though PennEast claims to have adjusted the pipeline route to avoid impacts, the route hasn’t been changed in Northampton County since our March letter. It is not clear that PennEast has fully considered our concerns. Additionally, many surveys and mitigation plans have not been completed. Therefore, we find the proposed pipeline project to be inconsistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Reese said, since Tuesday’s Committee meeting, we added text on the Bethlehem Authority and its water supply and facilities per Committee request. We urge PennEast and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to work with the Authority to minimize impacts to the water supply and infrastructure. He said comments are due to FERC by September 12. Since there is some time before the comments are due, we still plan to complete land use and historic resource analyses that we will include in the final letter. Tonight, we are looking for approval of the concept of the letter and authorization to finalize the letter. Mr. Repasch made a motion to approve the concept of the letter and authorize finalization of the letter. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Elliott abstaining.

Reviews

Mr. Repasch said there are two summary sheet items on pages 11-13 of the agenda attachments. Mr. Repasch made a motion to approve the comments. Mr. Nolan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Hozza and Mr. Herman abstaining.

Transportation Committee

Congestion Management Process

Mr. Kinney said the Congestion Management Process is an analysis of congested corridors that are modeled through the Regional Travel Demand Model. We started with a base year of 2017 for congested corridors and considered project implementation and population growth to project congested corridors through 2040. He said staff presented the report at last month’s meeting. Since then, corrections have been made to the report, and an updated copy is at each Commission member’s place. Mr. Clater asked if there is a public comment period. Mr. Kinney said there is no requirement for public comment; the report is an internal evaluation tool. Mr. Hozza made a motion to approve the report. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Martell abstaining.
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination + Planning Area Reform

Ms. Bradley said the U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed a new rule. Whenever they propose a new rule, they publish it in the Federal Register and allow for comments. We had about 60 days for review. Comments are due tomorrow. The rule would affect 142 out of 490 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) nationally. The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) is the federally designated MPO for the region.

Ms. Bradley said the proposed rule requires overlapping urbanized areas to develop single long range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs. It also allows a governor to exempt overlapping urbanized areas. Ms. Bradley handed out two maps and discussed how the proposed rule would affect the region. The first map shows how our urbanized area extends into Berks, Carbon and Monroe counties and Quakertown, Bucks County in Pennsylvania and Warren County, New Jersey. We have cooperative agreements with the MPOs in these areas. The second map shows the Lehigh Valley in context with other large areas like New York City. She said we are very close to the Philadelphia MPO region that is managed by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), which is a bi-state MPO extending into Camden, Burlington and Gloucester counties in New Jersey. Other nearby MPOs include the top of New Jersey, which is managed by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), Berks County, Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, New York City, Connecticut and Delaware.

Ms. Bradley said the rule would create a nine-state long range transportation plan, however; it can't dismantle LVTS. In a 20-year time horizon, we would be working with Lackawanna/Luzerne, Harrisburg, Reading, Lancaster and York MPOs. The rule is applied across state lines as well. It will affect our ability to plan, as well as all State Departments of Transportation in one of these urbanized areas. It requires a single long range transportation plan—we will no longer have our own plan. We would also have a single transportation improvement program. She said we would have to jointly establish performance targets and aren't sure what other coordination or the costs for implementation will be. No affected MPOs want this.

Ms. Bradley said we don't believe there is a clear purpose for this. It is not related to any legislative change. We don't believe there is any documentation of existing coordination problems. Similar past efforts have failed. She said we may have to compete with New York City for funding. The rule could also reduce the influence of local voices in larger arenas. The impacts to disadvantaged communities are unclear. There could be significant air quality impacts. It disinvests and limits opportunities for public involvement. We are unclear about freight planning and public transportation impacts or funding formula adjustments that may take money from the region.

Ms. Bradley handed out two packets. She said in the first packet is our response to the Federal Docket that was discussed at last week’s Executive Committee meeting. The letter outlines our concerns and how the MPOs are already working well together. The letter was signed by all Executive Committee members and the County Executives. The second letter is a joint letter from the LVPC and NJTPA that went out today outlining the same concerns. The third letter in the packet is a joint letter from the LVPC, DVRPC, Berks County MPO and the Lancaster County Planning Commission. She said we also just came to an agreement today with the Lackawanna/Luzerne Transportation Study and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, and a joint letter will go out tomorrow.
Ms. Bradley said we spoke to our MPO partners and regional/local partners on a phone call with 33 people on Monday. We coordinated a significant response, which includes Congressman Dent; Representatives Schweyer, Schlossberg and Simmons; Senator Pat Browne; Lehigh and Northampton County Executives; Lehigh County Commissioners; the Mayors of Allentown and Easton (Bethlehem is working on a letter); Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Some of these letters are included in the second packet. She said the U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure submitted a letter on the docket basically stating they think the proposed rule is illegal. There is significant opposition to this.

Ms. Bradley said that comments are due tomorrow. A final ruling is expected this fall. States would have two years to adjust boundaries, if required, with completion by fall 2018. When the Census is done in 2020, we would have to do this again, and for every Census after that if this goes forward. Mr. Campbell asked who has final approval of this rule. Ms. Bradley said Secretary Fox of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Unless legal action is taken, she thinks he can unilaterally establish this rule. The Governor would be key to keeping the boundaries we have. She said the engineering and planning community have also come out against this, including the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, American Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, National Association of Regional Councils and National Association of Development Organizations.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Lehigh Valley Government Academy

Ms. Oscavich said the fall season will begin in September with the Community Planning course, which is almost full. The course will be held on September 7, 14 and 21. In October, we will have the Zoning course, and the Subdivision + Land Development course will be held in November.

Local Technical Assistance Program

Ms. Oscavich said a number of classes are coming up in September. We partner with PennDOT on the courses, which are free.

Get Outdoors PA Festival

Ms. Oscavich said Lehigh Valley Greenways and Senator Mario Scavello are partnering on the festival this year. LVPC staff will be attending the event, which will be held on September 24 at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center.

Lower Milford Township 14th Annual Fall Festival

Ms. Oscavich said LVPC staff will also be attending the Lower Milford Township 14th Annual Fall Festival on September 24 to discuss the Southwestern Lehigh County Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan with the community.
Lehigh Valley Awards + Gala

Ms. Oscavich said on October 4 we will be holding our annual gala and awards. An invitation was sent to each Commission member.

American Planning Association-Pennsylvania Chapter 2016 Annual Conference

Ms. Oscavich said the annual conference is being held October 16-18 in Allentown. LVPC staff will be presenting at five of the sessions.

FUTURELV Forum: Regional Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Bradley said there is a flyer at each Commission member’s place. The December 2 event is the kick-off for the Regional Comprehensive Plan update. Commission members will be key to moving this effort forward. She said the purpose of a comprehensive plan is to look at what our future is going to be. The icons on the flyer represent some of the future forces that are affecting us now and will continue to do so in the future. Our hope is to have a broad-based discussion with the community on where they think we should go and how they think we should get there. Ms. Bradley said Mr. Kinney, Director of Education at the Discovery Channel, as well as the director of the World Wildlife Fund, will be speaking at the event. We are lining up additional speakers as well to provide a good introduction on where we fit in the world.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Municipal Professionals Meeting

Ms. Bradley said we have a meeting scheduled with our communities on September 1 regarding the Medical Marijuana Act and what the Act means to them. In addition, we will be providing an overview of the municipal planning process as it relates to the Municipalities Planning Code requirements for county review of comprehensive plans and ordinances.

ADJOURN

Ms. Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Herrlinger seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Susan Rockwell for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
MINUTES

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Liesel Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Members in attendance:

**Lehigh County**

- Percy Dougherty
- Karen Duerholz
- Steven Glickman
- Kent Herman
- Edward Hozza
- Rick Molchany
- Sara Pandl
- Kathy Rader
- Stephen Repasch

**Northampton County**

- Gordon Campbell
- Eugene Clater
- John Diacogiannis
- Liesel Dreisbach
- Charles Elliott
- Tim Herrlinger
- Robert Lammi
- Shawn Martell
- Pamela Pearson
- Hayden Phillips
- Lynn Prior
- Michael Reph

Members absent: Armand Greco, Christina Morgan, Steven Neratko, Brad Osborne, Kevin Schmidt, Julie Thomases, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright, Christen Borso, George Gemmel, Darlene Heller, Kevin Lott, Thomas Nolan and Tina Roseberry

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, Geoff Reese, Eric McAfee, Sue Rockwell, Tracy Oscavich, Tamara Mittman, John von Kerczek and Whitney Burdge

Public Present: Norman Blatt, Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – None
MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the August 25, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Dougherty. Ms. Pandl seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Rader and Mr. Diacogiannis abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Dreisbach recognized Norman Blatt, one of the commissioners who is leaving the committee. She also recognized Erin Willis as the new Executive Secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Allen Township - Zoning Ordinance Amendments - Various

Mr. von Kerczek talked about the zoning amendments for Allen Township. In general Community Planning staff found the changes to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan but identified areas of conflict or unclear language that might cause problems in applying tools. The issues were found in 3 sections – Zoning Provisions, Specific Regulations and Table of Uses. One major issue involved inconsistency with the General Land Use Plan. The area north of 329 Nor-Bath Parkway is categorized primarily for rural and farm land preservation in the General Land Use Plan and includes areas zoned for low density residential, high density residential and neighborhood commercial uses on the Allen Township zoning map. In the residential zones, the proposed zoning amendment would expand permitting uses that generally require public water and public sewer. While this could result in conflicts with the Comprehensive Plan, these conflicts can be resolved through the conditional use review process. However, within the Neighborhood Commercial zones, the proposed zoning amendment would expand permitted uses to include uses explicitly requiring public water and public sewer service, setting up a direct conflict with the General Use Plan. To eliminate this conflict, Community Planning staff recommended that the public utility requirements be removed from the specific regulations for these uses. Another issue was found under the specific regulations for Temporary Shelter which states that residents of Allen Township shall be assigned highest priority when selecting residents for shelter. This provision could potentially run afoul of the federal Fair Housing Act. Community Planning staff therefore recommended the county consult with an attorney with expertise on civil rights matters. Within the specific regulations for four use categories under Industrial Uses, staff noted that the provision requiring that no more than 1/3 of any development site be devoted to any buildings could promote inefficient use of land in rural areas. Staff therefore recommended revision of that language. Finally, within the specific regulations, there were several instances of overlapping use categories and regulations which would likely result in confusion for applicants and conflicts within the table of uses. For example, definitions and regulations for Service Business and Service Store uses overlap considerably, resulting in a conflict in the Table of Uses between what is permitted by right and which is permitted by condition use.

Mr. Repasch asked if there was a motion to accept the letter. Mr. Lammi moved to accept the motion. Mr. Herrlinger seconded that motion. The motion carried with Mr. Clater abstaining.
**Ordinance Reviews**

Mr. McAfee said there are no major issues with the 3 summary sheet items on page 12. Mr. Repasch made a motion to approve the comments. Ms. Prior seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Environment Committee**

**Monocacy Creek Act 167 Plan – Status Report**

Mr. Reese explained the Monocacy Creek Watershed which drains down through the City of Bethlehem to the Lehigh River. The City received a grant from the Department of Environment Protection for environmental evaluation in the Monocacy Creek Watershed. Wildland Conservancy will be doing an environmental assessment in regards to the condition of the stream channel, condition of the flood plain area, etc. Part of the money will also be used for an updated Storm Management Plan for the Monocacy Creek Watershed. The Storm Management Act was created back in 1978 which states that counties are responsible for preparing Watershed Storm Water Management Plans. The first time we did this study was back in 1989 which is very dated. With the new study, we will be looking at the hydrology associated with the watershed. Mr. Reese explained the graphic showing the Monocacy Creek Watershed (12 municipalities). The graphic showcases how long it takes a drop of water to go from north to south. There is a stream gage on Monocacy Creek maintained by the US Geological Survey – which monitors most of the drainage area associated with the watershed and has been collected since 1949, so we have a long record of stream gage data. Out of the 20 peak flows studied for flooding through 1987 – 16 of them were during winter – only 4 of them were during non-winter conditions – which means the Monocacy does not typically flood during non-winter conditions – all happening in the decade of the 1980’s. This might have happened because the development activity is beginning to change the relationship a little bit meaning we could have a severe influence even during non-frozen conditions. This analysis will be updating all this information and more through 2015. Act 167 is very useful in terms of working with the City of Bethlehem and surrounding communities because under the program each municipality (12) must be involved to help plan the update of this study. One of the main reasons to have the City of Bethlehem work with this program is, at the end of this process – when you go through the counties to adopt this plan, it gets submitted to DEP and they approve the document – there is then a mandate for all 12 municipalities to adopt the model regulations – which is important to know just we won’t be studying this watershed but have an opportunity to have an impact on the engineering standards applied to new development. This will officially be complete by June of 2017.

**Transportation Committee**

**Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Debriefing**

Ms. Oscavich stated that earlier this year we submitted a TIGER grant to the USDOT for the Riverside Drive and Trails project along the Lehigh River in Allentown and Whitehall Township allowing accessibility to neighborhoods historically that did not have accessibility to the river, to jobs or to the other parts of the community – it’s also one of the major gaps in the 165 mile trail that runs into the National Heritage Corridor. We were unsuccessful again this year but there was a debrief about why we were unsuccessful. There’s 4 different levels – Disqualified, Not Recommended, Recommended, Highly Recommended. Last year we were Recommended and this year we moved up to Highly Recommended. The Highly Recommended go directly to Secretary Fox. We improved upon our application from last year. During the debrief, not a lot of
information was given except that there was nothing negative to say about the application, project or anything that we submitted to them. There was simply just not enough money to go around. We are looking at other avenues for the trail and corridor in Allentown and Whitehall Township – state grants, other federal grants. A portion of the TIGER scope went to Multimodal funds from the PA Department of Community – still waiting to hear about the application that was submitted to PennDOT.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**BUILDLV: Annual Development + Outlook Report**

Ms. Bradley said we had a joint event with the Urban Land Institute – asking Tracy how many attendees came. Ms. Oscavich stated around 160 people attended in the Cinema at ArtsQuest. Ms. Bradley presented BUILDLV to 4 different groups this month alone – Eric took BuildLV to the East Penn School District. The information in this is one of the more popular pieces that we have. Ms. Bradley presented this to the LV Association of Realtors – around 200 people – so it gets a lot of use and is very important so we will continue to use these documents going forward for public and private sectors.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Lehigh Valley Awards + Gala**

Ms. Oscavich said on Tuesday we have our annual Gala + Lehigh Valley Awards event. We will be honoring excellence in planning for our 3rd year. There’s 8 categories honoring 8 different projects. Becky will be putting on a presentation on turning 55 years old as well as what will be happening in the next 55 years.

**Lehigh Valley Government Academy**

Ms. Oscavich said we just wrapped up the Community Planning classes which had 32 people. Zoning classes will be held in October. In November Subdivision + Land Development classes will take place, which attendance is very high for.

**Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)**

Ms. Oscavich stated that PennDOT offers the classes while we offer the site and also market for them. PennDOT stated that there needs to be at least 10 people in a class or they will cancel it so we are encouraging people to sign up. Bridge Maintenance + Inspection is coming up on Thursday - Project Estimating is on October 7 – Geosynthetics is on October 19 and Full Depth Reclamation is on October 28.

**American Planning Association-Pennsylvania Chapter 2016 Annual Conference**

Ms. Bradley said the statewide conference is being held October 16-18 in Allentown. All the planners in the region have come together to plan the conference which for the first time in 12 years is being held in Allentown. LVPC will have 5 different presentations. Ms. Pandl stated that it will showcase all 3 cities and their mobile workshops and is a great program.
Planning + Pizza

Ms. Oscavich stated that the Pizza + Planning is a monthly series to discuss the projects we are working on in the hopes to get a broader audience and engage them. Monocacy Creek H2O Study is on October 26 – BuildLV is on November 16 – FutureLV is on December 21.

FutureLV Forum: Regional Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Oscavich stated that Mr. Scott Kinney, Director of Education at the Discovery channel will be speaking at the event. More than half of that will be participatory talking to people about what the future of the Lehigh Valley should be. LVPC plans on using Poll Everywhere, a smart phone interactive live poll, to capture and engage the crowd.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT - None

ADJOURN

Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Herrlinger seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Erin Willis for
Becky Bradley, AICP
Executive Director
LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
Thursday, October 27 at 7:00pm
LVPC Conference Room
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Minutes

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Ms. Willis took roll call.

Members in attendance:

Lehigh County
Percy Dougherty, Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, Sara Pandl, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright

Northampton County
Gordon Campbell, Gene Clater, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, George Gemmel, Tim Herrlinger, Shawn Martell, Tom Nolan, Hayden Phillips, Michael Reph, Tina Roseberry

Members absent: Karen Duerholz, Armand Greco, Edward Hozza, Steven Neratko, Brad Osborne, Julie Thomases, Christen Borso, Charles Elliott, Darlene Heller, Robert Lammi, Kevin Lott, Pamela Pearson, Lynn Prior

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, Geoff Reese, Eric McAfee, Sue Rockwell, Tracy Oscavich, Tamara Mittman, John von Kerczek, George Kinney, Bowen Liu and Whitney Burdge

Public Present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: None
MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the September 29, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Clater. Mr. Herrlinger seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Wright, Ms. Morgan and Mr. Gemmel abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Dreisbach recognized Christine Weaver as a new commission member from the Borough of Catasauqua. She also recognized Justin Barclay and Bowen Liu as new staff of LVPC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Bethlehem Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Mill Creek Corp Center

Phase 1

Mr. McAfee talked about the Mill Creek Corp Center Phase 1 being an interesting consideration for Land Use of Regional Significance because it is part of a broader office complex but involves a mixture of uses. Any single one of those uses in isolation does not pass our threshold for the Land Use of Regional Significance, but in Aggregate they do in terms of the combinations we see in the office building and the hotel, the restaurant and the bank. Once the four Phases are put together, it will be a much broader mixed use project of considerable size with it being predominately an office park with some added retail. Fundamentally this is consistent with the county comprehensive plan. Mr. McAfee then passed around a large printout of the map for everyone to see. Immediately to the south on the map, you can see a residential apartment complex, so the separation and berm will help shield that much more sensitive land use from glare and noises being produced by this sizable and significant land use. We also saw the sidewalk network which, while good, could stand for some improvement particularly when it concerns crosswalks in key areas. The most critical issue is the scattering of the buildings, which is mostly an ocean of parking with a few buildings. We were a bit disappointed there wasn’t more orientation towards the park-n-ride, which will make it a much more applicable transit oriented development and really feature the buildings themselves with having the parking to the other side. So in that regard, this is particularly problematic because it really doesn’t capitalize on the opportunity to make this land use a transit oriented to development. And this largely echoes our conversations with LANta which you can see they also had some considerable concerns about the way it was designed. It will serve within the vicinity of three bus routes, particularly bus #212 which travels north of Emrick Boulevard which is going to be extended into this. There are no sidewalks providing linkages to the park-n-ride from anything along Emrick Boulevard, so in that regard it’s also not optimal in design. LANta, like us, recommends a more direct engagement with what can be done in regards to that, particularly the arrangement of the buildings that deemphasizes the surface parking lot, providing the parking you need.
but you can do it in much more of a discreet way that really encourages a walkable mixed use environment. Mr. Nolan did note that the Mill Creek project has been postponed for another month.

Ms. Dreisbach asked if there was a motion to accept the letter. Ms. Wright moved to accept the motion. Mr. Gemmel seconded that motion. The motion carried with Mr. Nolan abstaining.

Lower Macungie Township – Land Use Assumptions Report

Mr. McAfee stated that the vast majority of the document is well put together with the research. The key sections worth the most consideration are the anticipated impacts based on the land use and population projections. We wanted to moderate some of their emphasis on raw population growth with an acknowledgement also that there is a considerable amount of building permit indications that have shown a much more moderated growth in the last few years than population would. If they could base their projections and understanding of what is going to come - the housing permit data has plunged since 2006 - that would be a much more balanced way of looking at this. LVPC will be working with some new projections in the future and we also are really interested in focusing on a balance of housing that is not exclusively focused on single-family detached largely because, as of evidence of our past BuildLVs and subdivision and building activities reports, apartments seem to be the most predominant residential land use that we’re seeing at this point. While these projections are built much more heavily on single-family detached residences, the reality is even though this is fundamentally still a predominately single-family detached municipality in terms of housing character, apartments are the development type we are seeing so we want to make sure they are mindful of that.

Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments as presented with Mr. Dougherty seconding that motion. The motion carried with Ms. Pandl abstaining.

Ordinance Reviews

Mr. McAfee stated that on the Review Summary Sheet, the two longer comments are the interesting ones, with one being a dry cleaners in a village setting with the zoning ordinance amendments in Lynn Township and the other in North Whitehall with a few considerations that was building on an active adult community overlay district that it first established in 2006 and it was an inconsistent letter there. Some of the things they are doing to modify are addressing the inconsistencies and in some cases they are amplifying them.

Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments with Ms. Rader seconding that motion. The motion carried with Mr. Diacogiannis abstaining.
Environment Committee

Reviews

Mr. Repasch stated the Environment Committee met on Tuesday. There are two items of action - one being Alburtis Borough with renewal of the DRBC application for groundwater withdrawal and the other one in the City of Easton for DRBC review for wastewater treatment plant and discharge.

Mr. Repasch made a motion to accept the staff comments with Mr. Herrlinger seconding that motion. The motion carried with no abstentions.

Transportation Committee

Critical Urban Freight Corridors

Mr. Kinney showed a PPT presentation where he talked about the Critical Urban Freight Corridor. This is map heavy so please see attached PPT.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Lehigh Valley Government Academy

Ms. Oscavich stated that we completed two courses in our fall series. Subdivision and Land Development will start next week. We will see all the certified Citizen Planner graduates in January when we bring them in for their ceremony.

Planning + Pizza

Ms. Oscavich stated that we just had the Monocacy Creek Watershed which was very well attended. In November, we have BuildLV where we’ll be going over the BuildLV report and in December we’ll have FutureLV which is a follow up to kick-off to the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

FutureLV Forum

Ms. Oscavich said that on December 2nd we’ll be having a half-day workshop where we will be featuring Scott Kinney, Senior Vice President of Education at the Discovery Channel. He’ll be leading a discussion inspiring us to think more broadly about our region. Ms. Bradley said we will be facilitating a discussion about what we think our strengths are in our communities and the threats to our region as a kick-off to our Comprehensive Plan in understanding who we want to be and where we want to go.
and start having that broader discussion which will then be tailored down to subject areas throughout the day.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Bradley wanted to note that Tori Morgan sent a nice thank you from South Whitehall Township for the honor of being this year’s Community of Distinction. Ms. Bradley also included a note from the Greater Lehigh Valley Realtors thanking Ms. Bradley for being a part of the Economic Outlook Panel they do annually which brings about 200 licensed realtors from the region. Ms. Bradley wanted to acknowledge our Jeans for a Cause in August that was $138 which the staff decided to send to the Children’s Hospital at Lehigh Valley Hospital. Ms. Dreisbach noted that the citations given to us at the Gala was included in the packet.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Bradley talked about how the notice of proposed rulemaking was reopened and is asking 3 specific questions. How would this proposed rule impact requirements for unified planning work products – things like Critical Urban Freight Corridor, Transportation Improvements Program, Long-Range Plan and Freight Plans among others. Any potential exceptions that people feel should be included if the final rule proceeds. Specific detailed comments on expected costs for implementing the proposed rule. What this proposed rule will do is require that where your urbanized area is overlapped, you will have to develop one single transportation funding strategy basically putting all your money in one pot and distribute it around. This is not good for the region because it would essentially create one giant 8 or 9 state metropolitan transportation improvement program that no one has any idea how it would be managed. Every metropolitan planning organization in the country that’s affected by this thinks the exact same way. We are on the phone continually collaborating with all those MPOs that would be affected directly in our region all the way from the entire state of Rhode Island to New Jersey and New York and Connecticut up to Boston metro down to DC. We wrote unified letters that speak in one voice saying we think this is ridiculous. It would not cause any organization to be dissolved, it would cause us to create one giant transportation improvement program which we believe would take local people’s ability to drive transportation decisions away. It could even cause things like our LANta system to be absorbed into New York systems, New Jersey transit, SEPTA and other things where we would lose the ability to meaningfully plan, so everyone sitting at the table would essentially lose their voice in the process. We don’t know how much time it would cost nor how much money it would cost and we believe it would create a too-big-to-succeed situation. We expressed this in the comments and offered some advice on how we think they can do some grandfathering based on historic grandfathering. MPOs established before 1991 have a transit exception for inclusion on their MPO boards, so we suggest this type for Critical Urban Freight Corridors. It’s important to note that our federal legislative delegation both democrats and republicans have been exceptionally supportive of our position and the other MPOs around us, so is The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce along with our state delegation. The Pennsylvania house wrote a letter against this back in August in
support of us. US Congressman Shuster of the 9th district who is head of the transportation committee down in the Philadelphia region has also filed with the federal government a legal opinion that this is an illegal step, if this moves forward, it is likely to end up in court.

Ms. Bradley shared the Legislative Recognitions LVPC received at our 3rd annual gala for our 55 years of service and explained we will get them framed. She said it should be something that we are all proud of with how all these people recognized the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission’s role and importance in the region.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Dougherty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,
Erin Willis, Executive Secretary for
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director
LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, November 17 at 7:00pm
LVPC Conference Room

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Minutes

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission’s conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Ms. Willis took roll call.

Members in attendance:

**Lehigh County**
Percy Dougherty, Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright

**Northampton County**
Gordon Campbell, Gene Clater, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Darlene Heller, Robert Lammi, Thomas Nolan, Pam Pearson, Lynn Prior, Michael Reph

**Members absent:** Karen Duerholz, Armand Greco, Edward Hozza, Richard Molchany, Christina Morgan, Steven Neratko, Brad Osborne, Sara Pandl, Kevin Schmidt, Julie Thomases, Christen Borso, Charles Elliot, George Gemmel, Tim Herrlinger, Kevin Lott, Shawn Martell, Hayden Phillips, Tina Roseberry

**Staff present:** Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, Eric McAfee, George Kinney, Geoff Reese, Tracy Oscavich

**Public present:** Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ, Teddy Chung, Laura Oh

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:** none
MINUTES

Ms. Willis failed to include the minutes from October 27, 2016. They will be included at the next LVPC meeting.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Ordinance Plan Reviews – Summary Sheet

Mr. McAfee talked about the summary sheet’s first three items – (1) Zoning Ordinance Amendment in Plainfield Township for modification of regulations for wireless communication facilities; (2) SALDO Amendments in Allen Township for street and curb construction, and wetlands/waterway encroachment; (3) Zoning Ordinance Amendments in Lehigh Township for public Right-of-Way management for communications facilities – all of which were covered during the Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday. The fourth item is a resubmission of last month’s Medical Marijuana Ordinance with some very slight changes. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the Summary Sheet. Mr. Dougherty seconded that motion. The motion passed with Mr. Diacogiannis abstaining to #4 and Mr. Clater abstaining to #2.

Environment Committee

Livable Landscapes – Lehigh County Park, Recreation, Open Space, Agriculture & Historical Resources Plan – Survey

Mr. Reese spoke about working on the Lehigh Livable Landscapes Surveys. There are three different surveys. The first one is a random survey of Lehigh County residents on what they think about all the various components on Livable Landscapes – natural lands, farmlands, recreation, agriculture, etc. The second survey is one that would specifically go out to farmers, get their opinions on how their farms are doing and specifically what issues do they see? We’re starting the process for this survey – we met with a group of people including the farmers that are part of Lehigh County Sterling Raber Agricultural Preservation Board as well as representatives from The Seed Farm in Lehigh County, Penn State Extension and also representatives from the Lehigh County Farm Bureau. There was a very lively conversation for about 3 hours talking about the kinds of questions these people thought we might include in the survey. The third survey we are working on is for the municipalities in Lehigh County to get information on their parks and recreation facilities. We are working on a map for each community and a series of questions to be answered.

Transportation Committee

Traffic Safety Plan

Mr. Kinney talked about the Safety Plan and how it gets updated every two years. This is an assessment of Crash Data – data recorded to the state by police officers that are on
the scene of a crash. They will pull certain data from the citation and reports. The state puts it in a state-wide database. This plan is a five-year increment plan from 2010-2014 and is always a five-year reporting period. The plan focuses on areas called the “vital seven”. They are Reducing Impaired Driving; Reducing Speeding & Aggressive Driving; Reducing Distracted Driving; Increasing Seat Belt Usage; Infrastructure Improvements; Mature Driver Safety; Motorcycle Safety. Please see the report for statistical details. Mr. Diacogiannis moved to accept the Traffic Safety Plan. Mr. Repasch seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Critical Urban Freight Corridors

Mr. Kinney talked about Critical Urban Freight Corridors and how they are basically an extension of the National Highway Freight System. For us it’s Interstate 78 and Interstate 476. Those two segments are already designated so no work needs to be done. Mr. Kinney used a tool called the Freight Advisory Tool which provides Transsearch Data which is the same data that supported our Regional Freight Plan and the State Freight Plan. Mr. Kinney talked about the other major roadways showing Pennsylvania Top Freight Generators which used the Transsearch Data to talk about areas in the Valley that have a lot of Freight Finder Data Points. Another layer to the map is the 25% truck traffic which we don’t see too much of in the Valley. But there are a few spots with that percentage along Route 78 and Route 22. Mr. Kinney also pointed out the state recognized inter-modal facilities. Those are the things we took from the state as part of our analysis. Then we added somethings to that from the regional perspective. We added congestive corridors, crash corridor, along with some of our tonnage data. Mr. Kinney talked about the federal criteria being – does your recognized urban freight corridor connect to an inter-modal; is it located in a corridor or route on a primary highway freight system, i.e. Route 78 or Route 476; does it serve a major freight generator; is important to the movement of freight in the region. We then run all these data points through the GIS analysis. Mr. Kinney then showed a PPT where he talked about the 11 segments that were identified with the background of all the data. Mr. Kinney noted the Average Annual Daily Traffic Trip it is not about cars but talking only about trucks. The 11 segments are: Route 22 from Airport Road to the I-78 merge; Route 33 from I-78 to Main St; Route 222 from I-78 to Schantz Road; Route 100 from Tlghman Street to Route 222; Route 412 from I-78 to Commerce Blvd; Tlghman Street from Route 309 to Route 100; Schantz Road from Route 100 to Route 222; Airport Road from Route 22 to Race Street; balance of Route 33 from Main St to Carbon/Monroe city line; Airport Road from Route 22 to Loyd Street; Lehigh Street from I-78 to Vultee Street. We then put all the data into a spreadsheet with segment numbers to come up with the priorities. This will be presented to LVPC and LVTS.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Planning + Pizza – FutureLV

Ms. Bradley encouraged everyone who has not already to sign-up asap for the FutureLV Forum happening on December 2nd at the Sands Bethlehem Event Center. The event features guest speaker, Scott Kinney, Senior Vice President for Discovery Communications/Education and will talk about technological advancements and innovations and education and that is a future force that will effects our Lehigh Valley because this will be called the FutureLV effort so we want to accommodate the things we know as well as the things that are changing so that’s one of the big focuses on
comp planning coming up is it’s just as much aspirational as well as implementable. This will be the fifth comprehensive plan for the region. It’ll be roughly a 24 month process.

Ms. Bradley talked about the Planning + Pizza we will be hosting for FutureLV on December 21st. This will be a follow-up from our FutureLV forum for those who were not able to attend the Regional Comprehensive Plan kick-off.

Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

Ms. Bradley stated that the Freight Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on December 19th @ 11:30am at ArtsQuest and encouraged those who are interested to please register. It is a neutral platform for people to come together and talk about and collaborate on issues of freight within our region. We will have the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission as well as the North Jersey Planning Transportation Authority presenting their freight initiatives and how that ties into our freight initiatives as well as discussing more of the critical urban freight corridors that George and his team have done.

CORRESPONDENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Bradley spoke about the Annual Meeting which will be held at LVPC at 11am and how we will be taking the Commission picture during that time. We will be having lunch immediately after the meeting where we’ll be passing the budget and work plan.

Ms. Bradley stated that this year the staff decided that we will be collecting food for various food banks and shelters including things like shampoo and socks in addition to food. She encouraged everyone to bring something to the Annual Meeting so we can share it with the community.

ADJOURN

Ms. Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pearson seconded that motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,
Erin Willis, Executive Secretary for
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director
LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
Thursday, December 22 at 11:00am
LVPC Conference Room
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Minutes

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 11:00am in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission’s conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Ms. Willis took roll call.

Members in attendance:

**Lehigh County**
Percy Dougherty, Karen Duerholz, Steven Glickman, Armand Greco, Kent Herman, Edward Hozza, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, Brad Osborne, Sara Pandl, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright

**Northampton County**
Gordon Campbell, Gene Clater, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, George Gemmel, Darlene Heller, Tim Herrlinger, Robert Lammi, Thomas Nolan, Pam Pearson, Hayden Phillips, Lynn Prior, Michael Reph, Tina Roseberry

Members absent: Steven Neratko, Julie Thomases, Christen Borso, Kevin Lott, Shawn Martell

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, Alice Lipe, Bowen Liu, Brian Hite, Bruce Rider, Eric McAfee, George Kinney, Geoff Reese, John von Kerczek, Justin Barclay, Mike Donchez, Paul Nohar, Sue Rockwell, Tamara Mittman, Teresa Mackey, Tracy Oscaviich, Whitney Burdge

Public present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ, Sal Panto

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: none

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the October 27, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Lammi. Mr. Herrlinger seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Hozza, Ms. Pearson, Ms. Duerholz and Mr. Elliott abstaining.

After a brief review, the minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting were moved for approval by Ms. Wright. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion carried
with Mr. Gemmel, Mr. Hozza, Ms. Duerholz, Mr. Elliott, Mr. Herrlinger and Ms. Morgan abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

None

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Dougherty and Mr. Glickman served as the Nominating Committee and presented their nominations for 2017 LVPC Officers to the Commission. Mr. Dougherty stated that the Nominating Committee had presented the recommendation to the Executive Committee, and that there was agreement that the 2016 Officers, including: Liesel Dreisbach, Chair, Stephen Repasch, Vice Chair and John Diacogiannis, Treasurer were doing excellent work on behalf of the Commission. With no nominations from the floor, Mr. Dougherty made a motion to retain, Ms. Dreisbach as Chair, Mr. Repasch as Vice Chair and Mr. Diacogiannis as Treasurer, each for another one-year term. Mr. Glickman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Lower Macungie – Land Use of Regional Significance – Anthony Properties

Ms. Mittman talked about the proposed development of a major shopping center in Lower Macungie Township bordering Upper Macungie and South Whitehall. The proposed plan minimizes the negative impacts associated with land developments of regional significance since it is situated at the interchange of I-78 with Route 222. It’s on a 35 acre lot with 270,000 square feet of development. This proposed development is consistent with the General Land Use Plan articulated in the County Comprehensive Plan. This site is also located within the Little Lehigh Creek watershed which has fully implemented Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance. The LVPC has received a time extension from the applicant for the review of the project’s stormwater management plan until additional materials are submitted. For the Point of Access Study, it is recommended the township ask the developer to explain and account for the inconsistencies in the trip generation. It is also recommended that the developer consider and incorporate pedestrian/bicycle accommodations that connect the development to surrounding properties, where practical, to meet the regional policy for multi-modal improvements. Sidewalks should be required internal to all proposed developments and along the entirety of all subject property frontage. LANta also reviewed the plan and recommends a fully accessible pedestrian network on the proposed project site, ensuring all proposed buildings are connected to the proposed sidewalk of the main interior road. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the letter. Mr. Herrlinger seconded that motion. The motion passed with Ms. Duerholz abstaining.

Bethlehem City (Northampton) and Lower Saucon Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Majestic Bethlehem Center
Mr. von Kerczek talked about the resubmission of the Majestic Bethlehem Center Land Development Plan. The square feet for this development has been expanded and is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan policies on Land Use and Land Uses of Regional Significance. The LVPC encourages the developers to address the escalating need for overnight tractor trailer parking and stage space. LANTA also reviewed and provided a note on how they currently provide one bus route (#105) along PA Rt. 412/Hellertown Road which deviates into the Majestic Bethlehem Center along Commerce Center Boulevard and stops at an existing facility on Lot 2. According to the plan, the road has been completed to provide access around Lots 1, 2, and 3, in which a bus pullover has been proposed in between Lot 3 and Lot 4. For the new proposed Lot 4, LANTA appreciates the efforts to include a thorough sidewalk and crosswalk network from this proposed bus stop to the main entrance of the proposed Building 4 and encourages continued efforts to include ADA-accessible sidewalks that connects buildings with access roads and parking areas. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the letter. Mr. Gemmel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Easton City – Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Dormitory Provisions and Maximum Impervious Coverage

Mr. Barclay talked about the proposed amendments to the zoning code of the City of Easton and how the plan was previously reviewed by the Comprehensive Planning Committee at its previously scheduled meeting. We have found both consistencies and inconsistencies with the inconsistencies being outlined in the amended letter. The LVPC notes that the CH/INS-1 T district is within the National Register of Historical Places which means you need a lot of consideration when you are conducting any modifications to that particular region. Any future development in that area should not reduce the availability of affordable housing within the College Hill neighborhood. Also, modifying the Maximum Impervious Coverage from 50% to 100% raises the concern of stormwater management. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the letter. Mr. Clater seconded that motion.

Mr. Panto expressed concern about the letter and asked if we considered the fact that the college owns the homes and has for over 25 years. He said that we are talking about 2 blocks of National Register of Historical Places. These 2 blocks were not what they were considering historic, it was the big, large majestic homes that was used as criteria. He was curious on LVPC’s recommendations when Lehigh University’s dormitories stretched into the South Bethlehem neighborhood. He notes that the previous letter has been changed to reflect some people’s comments in the Comprehensive Planning Committee’s previous meeting. He said the college is the city’s largest entity for employment and taxes. The college needs to grow and the city is willing to let them grow within the confines of what they already purchased. In Mr. Panto’s 28 years of owning a business on College Hill, he has never seen it occupied with children, only young adults and professionals so he believes our affordable housing issue is moot. He sees nothing the city can do to stop this and he’s wondering why the planning commission is.

Mr. Hozza spoke in regards to the fair housing, based on the recent issue with Whitehall Township and the federal Supreme Court ruling, you must provide fair housing in every district in your community. This must be shown to the federal government under the current guidelines.

Ms. Bradley stated that there was concern from a citizen about fair housing from a group of elderly people on College Hill, also, maintenance of affordable housing, which is why the committee added that into the letter. Mr. Panto stated the reason that was a concern is the citizens want to stay in place in their current home, not buy another home.
Ms. Bradley said that there was a question posed that no one was here to answer and that is if the dormitory proposals do go forward, will that then undo your National Register District status because so many buildings have been demolished in the District?

The motion passed with Mr. Herman, Mr. Elliott, Mr. Hozza and Ms. Duerholz abstaining.

**Ordinance/Plan Reviews**

Mr. McAfee talked about the summary sheet’s main items – (1) Draft Comprehensive Plan for Bethlehem Township regarding the update of their 2004 Comprehensive Plan; (2) Land Use Assumptions Report for Lehigh Township regarding the update of the April 2008 LUAR; (3) Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Review for Allen Township and North Whitehall Township regarding the reconstruct of 4.5 miles of Transmission Line to interconnect new Siegfried substation; (4) Zoning Ordinance Amendments for Lower Macungie Township regarding exempts existing/proposed uses and structures owned by the Township from zoning stipulations; (5) Zoning Map Amendments for East Allen Township regarding a resubmission on adding an additional parcel; (6) Zoning, SALDO and Stormwater Management Ordinance Amendments for Lower Macungie Township regarding various signage, setbacks, new definitions and infiltration practices. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the summary sheet. Mr. Herrlinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Nolan abstaining to item #1.

**Environment Committee**

**Governor’s Advisory Board for Community Development – Water Resources**

Ms. Bradley stated how she and Mr. Reese attended the Governor’s Advisory Board for Community Development and her subgroup focuses on water and water related issues. They’ve been able to work with the Governor directly to be able to come up with issues and areas of focus that we think a variety of state agencies can work on and partner together on. The next step is to figure out best practices and how those partnerships and relationships can happen. Mr. Reese stated they were able to present the information to the Governor and were able to talk a little bit about the MS4 program, which is the municipal program regarding the storm/sewer system and the quality associated with the discharges from that. The Governor seemed very interested in exploring any ideas we may come up with to move the issues forward more efficiently and effectively. For Integrated Water Resources Planning, LVPC created a document called 1H2O which laid out a number of recommendations that will be used to help update the state water plan and contribute to the Advisory Board’s work.

**Transportation Committee**

**Megaregions**

Mr. Kinney talked about attending the Mid-Atlantic Megaregions conference where it was stated how the states should work together over state lines to get more coordinated planning, particularly along the I-95 corridor. The two biggest topics of the conference were freight movement and autonomous vehicles. Mr. Kinney showed a video to the Transportation Committee about an automated truck which made a 120 mile run in Colorado. The technology is arriving much faster than people expect and from a policy
perspective American Traffic Research Institute put out one of the first policy papers on automated vehicle technology.

Ms. Bradley stated that the plan is to bring more of this information back as they receive it. Mr. Molchany asked if this is replacing the MPOs. Ms. Bradley said that the MPO ruling did pass and that we will be addressing the issue going into 2020-2024. It does not require us to be absorbed into anyone or to change our boundaries but there will be some ways that we have to collaborate with others, which we already do, but involves additional coordination as it involves interstate commerce.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2017 LVPC Work Plan + Budget

Ms. Bradley talked about our 2017 Work Plan stating how we are always seeking grants and have a pretty significant communications program. Our events, meetings and training is key to not only helping our municipal governments but our community as a whole, talking about the information we have and getting feedback from the public. Something new for 2017 is we are partnering with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce who can provide event platforms that are much less costly than us doing it ourselves. We spend a significant amount time on Community Assistance & Participation. We are completing the Southwest Lehigh Comprehensive Plan which is six communities in Southwest Lehigh. We wrote the Nazareth Areas Council of Government multimunicipal plan over 10 years ago and they now want an updated plan. Recently we’ve been working with the Slate Belt to develop a first time ever multimunicipal comprehensive plan which will kick off in 2017. Northwest Lehigh also came to us and would like to update their multimunicipal plan. It is now possible to have roughly half of the regions communities in a multimunicipal situation which is a tremendous improvement from prior years. We serve in an advisory capacity to the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board. We also are on the Sterling Raber Farmland Preservation Board in Lehigh County in an advisory capacity. We have a 24 month schedule for our own Comprehensive Plan which has already started. We see every subdivision and land development plan, zoning ordinances, stormwater reviews, etc. Earlier this year, we finished the regional sidewalk inventory which was our first use of the ARCGIS Online which is a 24 hour interactive platform for the public. We’re committed to putting more data onto this platform as we go forward with the FutureLV Regional Comp Plan update along with farmland information as we conclude the work with Lehigh County and adding some Northampton County info in. We are also updating the stormwater management plan for the Monocacy Creek area with the City of Bethlehem. In transportation, we are continuing our freight work and will also be working with LANta to update their Human Services Coordination Plan. We just learned that for our traffic counting program, our Senior Planning Technician, Brian Hite, has a 99.46% accuracy rate according to PennDOT.

Ms. Bradley stated that each item we went over in the work plan is attached to a budget line. For Community and Environment planning, we are owed yet for the Southwest Lehigh Comp Plan along with a small amount from PA Humanities Council and will be receiving amounts from the City of Bethlehem for the Monocacy Creek Plan Update. The Transportation program is funded through the US Department of Transportation which is passed through to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, then passed through to LVPC. They make up roughly half of the budget. We have a multi-year contract with them. We anticipate slightly higher revenue for subdivision reviews for 2017. Lehigh and Northampton
County make up roughly the other half of our budget. Revenues total $2,446,517.00. Expenses total $2,446,517.00 which gives a balanced budget. We also have established a reserve fund so we can apply for additional grants which we hope to carry on from year to year. For the copier, money was moved from the 2016 budget to the 2017 budget so we are able to make that purchase. Mr. Molchany made a motion to accept the work plan and budget. Mr. Lammi seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2017 LVPC + Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Dreisbach stated in the packet is a list of the 2017 Committee dates/times. Mr. Herrlinger made a motion to approve the dates. Ms. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Climate Action

Ms. Bradley stated that we received a thank you note from the Climate Action group in the Lehigh Valley. They had asked us to come and talk about climate and energy goals that we developed back in 2014. Some of the people after the presentation were really excited about what we are doing at LVPC and now they are attending some of our FutureLV meetings. We had people at the FutureLV kick-off along with the Planning + Pizza so the presentation to Climate Action helped introduce new voices to our table.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

FutureLV Kick-Off – General Session – January 31st @ 6:00pm

Ms. Bradley stated there is a night time Planning + Pizza for FutureLV at 6:00pm on January 31st to accommodate requests to hold one outside normal business hours. There will also be Strategy Labs with more specific topics of discussion to further our data collection.

On a side note, Ms. Dreisbach mentioned that Alice Lipe is retiring at the end of 2016 after 20+ years of working for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. She was presented with a frame and scroll showcasing all the publications (215) she was involved in over her career here.

COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPH + LUNCH

Ms. Dreisbach mentioned that directly after the meeting, there will be a commission photo along with lunch.

ADJOURN

Mr. Gemmel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Molchany seconded that motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,
Erin Willis, Executive Secretary for
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director