

**NAZARETH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MULTI-MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING
MAY 10, 2021**

Attendance Sheet Below.

Brien Kocher of Bushkill Township called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The summary notes of the April meeting were distributed. If there are any changes, please advised L. Stauffer.

Goals, Policies and Actions Discussion

G. Reese stated he has received limited feedback on the draft document. He reminded all municipalities to provide feedback to him at their earliest opportunity.

S. Lawless commented that she would like to see maps, etc. in addition to the written goals, policies and actions. This may help people tie everything together.

The group moved onto the review of the draft document:

Goal 1 –

Sean Dooley (Stockertown) questioned if there are utilities that are not keeping pace with the rate of growth. G. Reese responded that it appears that sanitary sewer may be an issue. Lower Nazareth needs to update its needs and provide updated projections.

Goal 2 –

Brien Kocher questioned the recommendation to support agricultural zoning. This was a contentious point to some property owners, particularly farmers. There is no definition as to what agricultural zoning is and how it will this be transplanted onto a map. B. Kocher stated perhaps adding language that it could be a potential tool would be helpful.

Brief discussion on open space and farmland preservation

Goal 3 –

B. Kocher – Policy 3.4 – need to know where sources are – G. Reese – LVPC can map

Goal 4 –

B. Kocher – 4.2 – although the recommendation is consistent as a group; however, where would it be consistent with sewer, etc. Smaller lot development should not be encouraged where housing would not be consistent with sewer, etc.

F. Hesch – What about safety inspections? Is that even important to put into this. J. Seitz responded she thinks it has been addressed; however, perhaps it could be expanded upon.

Goal 5 --

J. Pennington – 5.1 and 5.4 seem inconsistent and an interpretation of multi-modal should be included. G. Reese responded it would be an implementation of Walk Roll LV. Pedestrian recommendations would apply to all ten municipalities and would be supportive through a grant application process.

Goal 6 -

B. Kocher – 6.1 – appropriate transportation speaking more to arterial roads. There is not any indication of development must be located within so many feet of an interchange. G. Reese responded the LVPC is still evaluating the metrics and what it would look like on the map.

S. Dooley questioned when do we have a discussion as a group as to who is willing to take a warehouse and who doesn't want them. G. Reese stated perhaps it is one of the first things people look at first when the draft mapping is distributed. B. Kocher – one thing that is important to remember is when industrial areas were designed, warehouses were not necessarily intended. Discussion on the need for a separate designation of warehouses v. industrial.

Goal 7 –

S. Lawless – what is the community system rating program. It is a program through FEMA where communities are given credits for certain actions. Municipalities can help reduce costs for constituents with flood insurance; however, the federal manual is complex, which is why most municipalities have not participated in the program. Perhaps the language could be expanded.

G. Reese – the LVPC has reached out to the elected officials and planning members of each community. Will visit next meeting if more comments come in.

Datasets for Plan Maps Review

J. Seitz led the group through five maps that will appear in the plan and the datasets that would go into each map.

1. Future Land Use
2. Natural Resources Map
3. Farmland Preservation Plan
4. Transportation Plan
5. Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Scenic Plan.

B. Kocher asked whether the maps would be broken down, similar to the municipal zoning ordinance. G. Reese replied that it would not be that detailed, but the zoning diagnosis will be similarly detailed, including looking at density possibilities. In response to B. Kocher's questions regarding the parks map, J. Seitz noted that the maps will include current parks and trails and future proposed parks and trails, as well.

Project Schedule

G. Reese provided an overview of the current status of the project schedule.

Next Steering Committee Meeting – June 14th, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

G. Reese states that at the next meeting, the group will go through what mapping has been created and asked the Committee if an in-person meeting would be possible so physical maps may be reviewed.

B. Kocher stated that weather may be decent enough to meet at an outdoor facility of pavilion and several options were raised regarding possible locations. J. Pennington stated that he will speak with L. Stauffer about locating an outdoor venue. C. Crook mentions that he can get keys to use Nazareth Borough’s cabin, which opens up nicely to let air in, but will provide shelter if the weather doesn’t hold up. The committee members agreed to an in-person meeting on June 14th and G. Reese stated LVPC will coordinate with B. Kocher to make the arrangements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori A. Stauffer

Attendance

Belinda Roberts	Bushkill Township
Christopher Crook	Nazareth Borough
Susan Lawless	Hanover Township
Brien Kocher	Bushkill Township
Jason Harhart	Moore Township
James Pennington	Lower Nazareth Township
Robert Wagner	Tatamy Borough
Frank Hesch	Bath Borough
Scott Sylvaniaus	Upper Nazareth Township
Sean Dooley	Stockertown Borough
Geoff Reese	LVPC
Jill Seitz	LVPC
Matt Assad	LVPC

