The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission’s conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Mr. Repasch chaired the meeting.

Ms. Vazquez took Roll Call.

Members in Attendance:

**Lehigh County**
Bob Elbich, Mike Gibson, Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Richard Molchany, Stephen Repasch, and Kevin Schmidt

**Northampton County**
Christopher Amato, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Robert Lammi, Kevin Lott, Carl Manges, William McGee, John McGorry, Stephen Melnick, David O’Connell, Pamela Pearson, Spirit Rutzler, Tina Smith, Gerald Yob, and Greg Zebrowski

Members Absent:

**Lehigh County**
Percy Dougherty, Julio Guridy, Michael Harakal, Miriam Huertas, Christina Morgan, Owen O’Neil, Marty Nothstein, Kathy Rader, Leonard Lightner, and Donna Wright

**Northampton County**
Janell Connolly, Malissa Davis, Darlene Heller, and Susan Lawless

Staff Present: Becky Bradley, Bethany Vazquez, Charles Doyle, Tracy Oscavich, Geoff Reese, Matt Assad, Peter Barnard, Sue Rockwell, and Jill Seitz

Public Present: Jeff Ward

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None this month.

MINUTES

Mr. Repasch stated that the minutes of the July 25, 2019 LVPC meeting are attached. Ms. Rutzler made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion. With Mr. Elliott abstaining from the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

None this month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

1. North Whitehall Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – North Valley Trade Center
   Mr. Barnard reviewed the North Whitehall Township Land Use of Regional Significance letter. The subject application proposes the consolidation of seven lots into two lots totaling 107 acres, and the construction of two warehouses totaling 1,325,116 sq. ft. Due to the size of the proposed development, the subject application is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance. While the proposed land use is technically consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan because it is in an area designated in the General Land Use Map for Urban Development, there are several noted issues with the proposed project. Namely, the project is located far from appropriate transportation infrastructure, lacks infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians, and is in an area without public sewer and water. Mr. Barnard reviewed the Transportation, Sewer, and Environment sections of the letter as well as the related changes from the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to accept the staff comments. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Slatington Borough – Subdivision And Land Development Ordinance – Minor Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustment
   Mr. Barnard reviewed the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance for Slatington Borough. The plan was reviewed at the LVPC staff level pursuant to the requirements of the Lehigh County SALDO. The proposal was also reviewed by the Slatington Borough Zoning Officer, who found the adjustment consistent with the municipal zoning. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to approve the presented staff comments. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Project Review, Summary Sheet
   Mr. Barnard presented the Comprehensive Committee Project Review Summary Sheet. Seven items were reviewed in the Comprehensive Committee Project Summary Sheet. All items are either matters of local concern or consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to approve the presented staff comments. Mr. Elbich seconded the motion. With Mr. Gibson abstaining from the vote of item #3, Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Lower Milford Township, the motion passed unanimously.

Environment Committee

1. Project Review, Summary Sheet
   Mr. Lammi reviewed the Environment Committee Project Review Summary Sheet. The subject application was found to be inconsistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed project is located in an area recommended for rural development. Extension of public sewer service is not recommended in this area. The staff comments suggest that the applicant should fully evaluate alternatives to connecting to public sewer systems. The staff also noted that the project was also found to be inconsistent in the LVPC land development review. Mr. Lammi made a motion to approve the presented staff comments. Ms. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Transportation Committee

1. Lehigh Valley International Airport Area Freight Study
   Mr. Doyle briefly reviewed the LVIA Area Freight Study with the Commission. Mr. Doyle went over a summary of the project’s purpose, participants, implementation strategies, and overall goals.

2. Legislative Meeting on Sustainable Transportation Funding
   Ms. Bradley reviewed information regarding the legislative meeting on sustainable transportation funding. Mr. Doyle reviewed the current funding changes as well as the history of transportation funding patterns across the years. Ms. Bradley reviewed the Long-Range Transportation Plan requirements and LVTS voting structure. Ms. Bradley also reviewed funding sources as well as the Federal-Aid Highway Program. Mr. Doyle closed the conversation discussing the reasons for the funding cuts and the effects on the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

1. FutureLV
   Ms. Bradley reviewed the remaining public meeting schedule for the draft plan, as well as the status of past and upcoming municipal planning action team meetings. Ms. Bradley continued by taking the Commission through the public comment process. Ms. Bradley and Mr. Reese reviewed the proposed General Land Use Plan changes from the Joint Environment and Comprehensive Planning Committee that resulted from draft comments received by Northampton County. Final edits, resulting from the public comment period, will be presented to the Commission during the FutureLV Working Group meetings. The next FutureLV Working Group Meeting will take place on September 16, 2019 at the LVPC office from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

2. Build Grant: Closing the Delaware + Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Gap Call Campaign
   Ms. Oscavich reviewed the Call Campaign for the Build Grant including timeline, talking points, and project purpose.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Semi-Annual Subdivision and Land Development Report
   Ms. Bradley and Mr. Barnard reviewed the semi-annual subdivision and land development report with the Commission.

COMMUNICATION

1. FutureLV Community Spotlight Presentation Recap
   Mr. Assad shared highlights from the FutureLV Community Spotlight Presentation.

2. Wildlands Conservancy FutureLV Letter
   Ms. Bradley reviewed a FutureLV support letter received from the Wildlands Conservancy.

3. 2019 Lehigh Valley Gala and Awards Update
   Ms. Oscavich gave an update on the 2019 Lehigh Valley Gala and judging process.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

   Ms. Bradley presented information on the July Monthly BuildLV: Subdivision and Land Development Report. The report will be distributed publicly around the 15th of each month and is available at lvpc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING WERE MADE:

1. Lehigh Valley Greenways Festival
   The Lehigh Valley Greenways Festival will occur at the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center on September 7th, from 12:00 – 4:00 pm.

2. ULI Philadelphia: Designing a ULI Global Award Winner – Meet the Visionaries
   The ULI Philadelphia: Designing a ULI Global Award Winner – Meet the Visionaries will take place on September 10th from 12:00 – 1:30 pm at the ArtsQuest Center.

3. Planning + Pizza, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
   The next P+P sessions will be held on September 11th, WalkWorks and September 25th, Water Management.

4. Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
   The upcoming LTAP class will be Local Road Safety Plans, September 10th and Pavement Preventative Maintenance, September 12th.

5. Multimodal Working Group
   The multimodal working group will meet at American on Wheels on September 25th beginning at 3:00 pm.

6. Slate Belt Bash
   The Slate Belt Bash will occur on September 29th from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm at Weona Park.

7. LVPC Gala + 6th Annual Lehigh Valley Awards
   The LVPC will be holding its 6th Annual Gala + Awards at DeSales University on October 16th Networking and Cocktails begin at 4:00 pm with the program beginning at 5:00 pm.

8. Freight Advisory Committee
   The Freight Advisory Committee will meet at the LVPC office on December 4th beginning at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Repasch seconded the motion.

Submitted by:
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director
Bethany Vazquez, Program Associate