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Executive Director

**LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes from the Thursday, November 17, 2022 Meeting**

The LVPC held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2022. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on Wednesday, January 5th, 2022.

Mr. Glickman chaired the meeting.

Ms. Benco took Roll Call.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Percy Dougherty, Bob Elbich, Philip Ginder, Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Dennis Klusaritz, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, David Petrik, Kathy Rader and Kevin Schmidt.

Northampton County

Christopher Amato, Jessica Cope, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Carl Manges, William McGee, John McGorry, Stephen Melnick and Tina Smith.

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Geoff Brace, Jamie Johnson, David Jones, Joyce Moore, Owen O'Neil, Stephen Repasch, Joshua Siegel and Matthew Tuerk.

Northampton County

Andrew Elliott, Dan Engle, John Gallagher, Darlene Heller, Susan Lawless, Lamont McClure, Scott Minnich, Edward Nelson, Salvatore Panto, William Reynolds, Grace Smith, Gerald Yob and Tara Zrinski.

Staff Present: Matt Assad, Julie Benco, Becky Bradley and Steve Neratko.

Public Present: Priscilla deLeon, Glenn Epps, F Fabian, Barrett Geyer, Andrea Hillegass, Melissa March, Laura Ray, Jen Smethers, Jeff Ward and Neil Welks.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

There were none.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Glickman welcomed the newest member of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission board, David Petrik, who is the Deputy Director of Public Works for the City of Allentown. Mr. Petrik described some of his background and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the LVPC board.

MINUTES

Mr. Glickman stated that the minutes of the Thursday, October 27th, 2022 LVPC meeting are attached and Ms. Benco read the previously voted on agenda items. Mr. Glickman then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Molchany made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Melnick seconded the motion. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none. The motion passed, with Mr. Charles Elliott, Mr. Klusaritz, Mr. McGee, Ms. Morgan and Ms. Rader abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environment Committee:

ACTION ITEM: Environment Committee Summary Sheet

Mr. Glickman summarized the Environment Committee meeting and presented the Environment Committee Summary Sheet, which included a Sewage Facilities Planning Module review for the RPL East Planned Industrial Park in Upper Mount Bethel Township. Mr. Glickman called for a motion to accept the staff comments on the summary sheet. Mr. Charles Elliott made the motion; Mr. Ginder seconded the motion. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none. Motion passed.

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

ACTION ITEM: Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet

Mr. Melnick presented the Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet, which included the Lower Mount Bethel Township 2022 Comprehensive Plan and Official Map, three Zoning Ordinance Amendments for Lower Saucon Township, Williams Township and Lynn Township, and a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment for Moore Township. Regarding the Lower Saucon Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Mr. Melnick mentioned that there was no mention of methane recapture technology in the review letter. Mr. Glickman called for a motion to accept the staff comments on the summary sheet. Ms. Dreisbach made the motion; Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. Mr. Molchany asked if Ms. Bradley could provide an overview of why official maps are an important tool for municipalities and Mr. Glickman responded on when that discussion should occur. Mr. Amato shared concerns over the Lower Saucon Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment regarding impacts to the Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Corridor and the viewshed. Mr. Melnick reiterated his comments regarding methane recapture. Mr. Glickman asked if he would like to propose an amendment to the Lower Saucon Township letter and Mr. Melnick responded that he would. Ms. Dreisbach asked if it was under the Commission's purview to include those specific comments in the letter and Mr. Glickman responded. Ms. Bradley added that it could be suggested in the letter with a policy from *FutureLV*. Mr. Melnick emphasized his point since the proposed amendment does not align with *FutureLV*. Mr. Glickman asked for the approval from the members of the Commission that originally made the motion. Ms. Dreisbach and Mr. Molchany agreed to make the motion for an amendment to the Lower Saucon Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment letter regarding methane recapture. Ms. Bradley mentioned that there should be a climate policy within *FutureLV* that could be utilized, and Mr. Charles Elliott suggested *FutureLV* policies 3.1 and 3.2. Ms. deLeon, a Council member of Lower Saucon Township, discussed the current details of the landfill's methane recapture. Ms. deLeon also provided multiple comments and concerns related to the Lower Saucon Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment including the degradation to natural resources and green areas, the Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Corridor and expansion of the landfill. Ms. Ray, a resident of Lower Saucon Township and member of their Environmental Advisory Council, mentioned concerns from their Environmental Advisory Council. Mr. Molchany added that an action within *FutureLV* Policy 3.4 regarding energy conservation and greenhouse gas emissions could be utilized in the review letter. Motion passed. Mr. Glickman called for a motion to accept the rest of the staff comments on the summary sheet, separate from the Lower Saucon Township item. Mr. Elbich made the motion; Mr. Melnick seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Molchany asked Ms. Bradley to provide an overview of the importance of official maps. Ms. Bradley explained the features of official maps and the benefits of them once they are adopted. Ms. Bradley and Mr. Assad also noted the small percentage of communities within the Lehigh Valley that have adopted official maps.

Joint Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committees:

INFORMATION ITEM: Northampton County Freight Land-Use Project Draft Guide

Mr. Neratko summarized details and recommendations within the Northampton County Freight Land-Use Project Draft Guide and provided an update on the status of the project. Mr. Herman asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Transportation Committee:

INFORMATION ITEM: Next Committee Meeting on December 22nd at 9:30 AM

Mr. Herman informed that the next Transportation Committee Meeting will be December 22nd at an out of usual time of 9:30 am and encouraged member attendance.

Old Business:

INFORMATION ITEMS: Activity Reports

Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinance/Plans Report

Mr. Neratko presented the plan and review activity for October, which included 12 Subdivisions, 28 Development proposals, 14 reviews for Stormwater Management, and five Municipal Ordinances and Maps for a total of 59 reviews. The reviews included 833 housing units and 757,219 square feet of non-residential development. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Highway Traffic Monitoring

Ms. Bradley provided the details of the October traffic counts, which still showed a relatively flat level of traffic across all four of the continuous traffic counters. She presented the vehicle counts for State Route 33, Interstate-78, State Route 309 and State Route 22, as well as the truck counts for Interstate-78 and State Route 22. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions.

New Business:

INFORMATION ITEM: 9th Annual Lehigh Valley Outlook and Awards Review

Mr. Assad summarized the 9th Annual Lehigh Valley Outlook and Awards event that was held on November 15th from 8 – 10AM with a packed house at Lehigh University's Iacocca Conference Center. The event debuted lots of data, that included David Jan's Population projections, Steve Neratko's look at our development landscape, Jill Seitz's new housing market analysis, Brian Hite's traffic counts and Julie Benco's Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Mr. Assad also mentioned the awards given out for Community of Distinction to the City of Easton and the *FutureLV* Heroes Awards to two inspiring youths from the Lehigh Gap Nature Center's Color of Nature Program. The winners were Sherlyn Martinez, a recent graduate of Roberto Clemente Charter School and recent Lafayette College graduate, Donna Hanna. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Executive Director's Report:

INFORMATION ITEM: Lehigh Valley General Assembly, Tuesday, November 29th, virtually 7pm

Ms. Bradley urged members of the community to attend the next Lehigh Valley General Assembly on November 29th. She summarized the details of the event and went through the agenda items, including what to send to the LVPC, population and employment, development, public priorities, resources, grants and a discussion on municipal needs and support.

Communications and Public Engagement:

INFORMATION ITEM: Plan Lehigh Valley radio show on WDIY NPR 88.1FM

Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Plan Lehigh Valley 30-minute radio show that focused on climate action and other environmental issues. Becky Bradley and Matt Assad were joined by Northampton County Commissioner, Tara Zrinski, and LVPC Regional Planner, Julie Benco and discussed the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and the many steps that Northampton County has been taking to protect its environment. He stated that the next show was scheduled to air at 6:30 pm, December 5th and will recap the Lehigh Valley Outlook + Awards event and take a look at the development atmosphere statewide, with guests State Representatives Michael Schlossberg and Zach Mako.

INFORMATION ITEM: City & State Magazine Power of Diversity Women 100

Mr. Assad announced that LVPC will make an appearance in the Nov. 28 issue of City and State PA Magazine, which is an online print publication that focuses on politics and government news. This issue will feature the Power of Diversity Women 100, a list of 100 women statewide who use their influence to better their community. He added that Ms. Bradley is among the list, which is nominated by the magazine's journalists, and then ultimately chosen by a statewide advisory board panel. Anyone who wants to see the full list, you can go to cityandstatepa.com.

INFORMATION ITEM: Young Ambassadors of Pennsylvania

Mr. Assad acknowledged that last week Pennsylvania announced its statewide list of students in its Young Ambassadors Program, and among the 35 were two Lehigh Valley students, Adrian Chavez from Nazareth Area High School and Siddhant Khandewal from Parkland High School. The Youth Ambassadors Program seeks to build community stewards and civic leaders by inspiring young Pennsylvanians to beautify their neighborhoods and become ambassadors in their community.

INFORMATION ITEM: Local Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Assad announced that the Local Technical Assistance Program has a full schedule of classes coming up through December and January. Anyone can sign up at lvpc.org/ltap or contact Brian Hite.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Glickman stated that the next LVPC meeting is set to be virtual on December 22nd at 11am. Mr. Glickman then asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and
Julie Benco, Regional Planner