

Heidelberg Township
Lowhill Township
Lynn Township



NORTHERN LEHIGH PLAN

Slatington Borough
Washington Township
Weisenberg Township

The Northern Lehigh Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan

February 2, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the meeting was held virtually.

Steering Committee Attendees:

Dawn Didra – Heidelberg Township
Janice Meyers – Heidelberg Township
Steve Bachman – Heidelberg Township
Robb A. Werley – Lowhill Township
Brian Carl – Lowhill & Weisenberg Townships
Jason Ruff – Slatington Borough
Todd Weidman – Washington Township
Linda Gorgas – Weisenberg Township
Tony Werley – Weisenberg Township

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Bethany Vazquez – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Charlie Doyle – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Samantha Smith – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Becky Bradley – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Minutes:

Introductions

Steering Committee attendees took roll call.

Courtesy of the Floor

None this month.

2021 Meeting Calendar

Charlie Doyle reviewed the 2021 meeting schedule. Mr. Carl stated that he will double check that the meeting dates were advertised.

Agricultural Goals and Policies Review

Mr. Doyle announced that the Committee will review the updated Agriculture Planning Goals, Policies and Actions (GPA) based on feedback from the Farming Workshop meeting in December.

Ms. Bradley reviewed the GPA document.

Goal 1: Protect Farmlands and Promote local farming as a business (Ms. Didra commented to remove the 'as a' in front of business)

Policy 1.1 – Preserve farmland through retention and expansion of family farms

Policy 1.2 – Support local farmers

Policy 1.3 – Protect agricultural lands through zoning, preservation and easements

Policy 1.4 – Protect new agricultural uses by encouraging creative new revenue streams that supplement traditional farm revenues

Policy 1.5 – Discourage large-lot subdivisions as a threat to the agricultural economy and farmland preservation

Committee discussion of revisions and/or additions to:

- Goal 1
- Policy 1.1, Actions 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- Policy 1.2, Actions 1 through 6
- Policy 1.3, Actions 6, 8 and 10
- Policy 1.4 and Action 5
- Policy 1.5, Actions 1 through 4

Examples of Local Best Practices

Ms. Bradley reviewed the examples of local best practices and examples to be incorporated into the plan with the Committee.

Life Cycle Impacts that Support Agriculture

Ms. Bradley expressed the importance of telling the story of agriculture to communities who do not know the culture. Reviewed the importance of “why people should care” about the farming economy.

Economic Benefits of Agriculture

Ms. Bradley review the idea of incorporating the economic benefits of local agriculture into the plan.

Review of Planning Schedule and Scope of Work

Mr. Doyle reviewed the meeting schedule and upcoming presentations for the committee as well as the scope of work, what has been completed, what is currently under work, what is to be completed.

Adjournment