



Catasauqua Borough | East Allen Township | Hanover Township
North Catasauqua Borough | Northampton Borough

RIVER CENTRAL MULTI-MUNICIPAL PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE Minutes from the February 9, 2021 – 7PM

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

ROLL CALL

Members

Steve Travers – Catasauqua Borough
Mark Thomas – Hanover Township
LeRoy Brobst – Northampton Borough
Brent Green – East Allen Township
Bob Mills – East Allen Township
Chris Cruz – East Allen Township
Vicky Roth – Hanover Township
Melissa Wehr – Hanover Township
Peter Paone – North Catasauqua Borough
Bryan Cope – North Catasauqua Borough

Others in Attendance

Becky Bradley – LVPC
Tracy Oscavich – LVPC
Samantha Smith – LVPC
Jill Seitz – LVPC
Victor Rodite – Northampton Borough
Brian Greene – Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
Kayla Dwyer – Morning Call

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2021

Vicky Roth requested the spelling of her name be corrected.

MOTION: By Steve Travers. Second by Melissa Wehr.

WEBSITE REVIEW

LVPC staff review give brief introduction of website, reviewing page by page, particularly covering items discussed in January 2021 Committee Meeting.

Steve Travers and Brent Green state that the website looks great.

Community profile page reviewed. Steve notes potential to work with LCCC to boost educational numbers. Jill Seitz indicates the median income is healthy for the area. Becky Bradley indicates median income paired with educational attainment indicates entrepreneurs and small business owners and shows stability. Steve mentions opportunities created by combination of factors.

Becky states LVPC staff will follow up with website information, access and changes discussed, and requests that Committee members follow up with any corrections or changes. Chris Cruz indicates the site looks good with others concurring. Steve requests that Kayla Dwyer from Morning Call, in attendance, highlight the page to make sure the community knows. Bob Mills mentions that websites may become un-useful because of overbearing content and appreciates that the page appears to pull people in and not scare them off.

Request made to add Northampton Borough to the overall map.

COMMUNITY DELIVERABLES

Samantha Smith requests existing plan and zoning data be passed along as soon as possible, including verification of last amendment date of zoning ordinances.

LVPC staff discusses value and need for stakeholder invitee lists from Committee members and importance to plan success. Steve notes snowfall and COVID have hindered follow-up. LeRoy indicates it is touch but will try best as possible.

Committee discusses need for pictures, and use of photos available online. LVPC requests permission to use photos from North Catasauqua's website and Catasauqua's Iron Works Facebook page. Becky mentions that we would like to cite and give photo credit on the website for pictures used. Pete asks if verbal permission is okay. Becky states that LVPC will send a release form to ensure proper credit is given. LeRoy mentions availability of huge cache of photos and will send via WeTransfer. Brent requests that LVPC follow up with Committee members as necessary.

CONTENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Samantha and Jill review MPC requirements for comprehensive plans and discuss its relevance to public outreach efforts.

PROJECT SCHEDULE STATUS

LVPC reviews project schedule status. Kayla asks questions about the schedule to which Becky responds, including explaining intermunicipal agreement and zoning relationships. Discussion of other multi-municipal plans in Lehigh Valley.

LVPC explains that charette will be open dialogue where topic areas will be covered under MPC requirements, and will identify issues and create guiding principles that set the tone for the plan, which allows the community to recognize that they control their future.

Pete asks what the schedule is for communities making decisions on charettes. Becky indicates that we need to firm up in 2 weeks or so, or we'll need to push back. Mentions inviting biggest list possible and invite members of the public. She continues that the public component allows for use of social media and pulls in a younger and more dynamic group. Pete indicates that North Catasauqua agrees, states that timing is the biggest concern and mentions gathering a large crowd and holding an event in the park. Brent requests information about how others have handled outreach to support being a unified region. Becky replies that other outreach was different because it was pre-COVID; charettes will have to be virtual with short introduction,

breakout groups, and gathering at end. It will be 3 events, on 3 different days at 3 different times.

LVPC states that a survey will also be done and that this can run beyond the charettes to allow for others to participate. Victor Rodite asks questions about the survey to which Becky responds. Becky states that a summary report will be generated at end of outreach to support development of vision and guiding principles.

Becky mentions that we would like to do the charettes in March but we can do them in April and remain on the same schedule. She reiterates that the process becomes a lot more public when this happens. Mentions that the group may consider a press release.

CLOSING REMARKS + ADJOURNMENT

Bob mentions that Northampton Borough is missing from the map on the website.

Kayla asks if the municipalities have their own comp plans. Responses – North Catasauqua does not. Northampton, Hanover and East Allen to. Kayla asked why they decided to come together. Brent says the group is better together. LeRoy mentions the D&L Trail as an example of larger voice together. Bob mentions that the area is inundated with activity and this helps manage negative impacts. Pete says the communities are already cooperating on equipment sharing, grants and mutual aid. Steve indicates that technology has made it easier to work together. Kayla asks if the plan is for 10 or 20 years. Becky indicates it's for both and explains.

MOTION: By Bob Mills to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Melissa Wehr.

Submitted by:
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission