



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

RIVER CENTRAL MULTI-MUNICIPAL PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE Minutes from May 10th, 2022 – 7 pm

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

ROLL CALL

Members

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

Others in Attendance

Victor Rodite – Northampton Borough
Jill Seitz – LVPC
Brad Stewart – LVPC
Matt Assad – LVPC

MINUTES – March 8th, 2022

The committee reviews the prior meeting minutes. Jill Seitz requests a motion to approve.

Motion: Chris Cruz Second: Vicky Roth

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES ROUND TABLE SUMMARY

Jill Seitz and Matt Assad provide an overview of the Emergency Management Services Round Table held April 12th, with discussion by Committee members. Key takeaways included:

- Grants and Funding – Additional sustainable funding is needed to reduce inter-department competition and cover the cost of training fire and ambulance volunteers and staff.
- Fire Station Location - A long-term plan is needed to determine the best locations for fire stations, to improve coverage and reduce barriers for volunteer participation.
- Trail Access – Trail access and navigation is a barrier for Fire, Police and EMS response to incidents.
- Regionalization – Fire and Emergency Management would work more efficiently if regionalized them across the entire River Central area.
- Coordination – Continued and additional coordination between communities and Emergency Management departments/service providers is crucial.

ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ROUND TABLE SUMMARY

Jill Seitz and Matt Assad provide an overview of the Economy and Economic Development Round Table held April 13th, with discussion and comments by Committee members. Key takeaways included:

- Marketing – Local businesses / services need more coordinated and targeted marketing
- Trail connections – Trail users should be connected to the communities and local businesses for increased foot traffic
- Main Street Program – Communities would benefit from a re-invigorated Main Street program
- Business variety - Economic strategy has to include a variety of businesses, including anchors that serve the immediate community as well as tourism and destination businesses to draw people in
- Truck traffic – Traffic caused by tractor-trailers should be managed to mitigate impacts on businesses and the local economy

PLAN GOALS AND COMMUNITY VISION

Jill Seitz presents a recap of the Plan Goals. A tremendous amount of community feedback and data have been collected to support the plan, and revisiting the Goals is important to keep everyone on the same page as content of the Plan is developed. The Draft Goals include:

1. Balance preservation and development aligned with appropriate infrastructure.
2. Promote and coordinate a mixed-transportation region that works for everyone.
3. Protect and enhance farmland and the farming economy.
4. Preserve and expand natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources as essential to quality of life.
5. Enhance housing opportunities for all.
6. Strengthen safe, healthy, creative, inclusive and livable communities

The committee comments that the Goals support the values of the community and agree with their direction. A possible seventh goal should be considered to promote communication and cooperation, to reflect the plan's intent to strengthen collaboration and partnership between River Central communities, businesses, stakeholders and the public.

PROJECT SCHEDULE STATUS

Jill Seitz reviews the project schedule status, and notifies the Committee that Sue Rockwell, Senior Environmental Planner, will be reaching out to request mapping for sewer and water systems, Chapter 110 Annual Water Supply Reports, and Chapter 94 Annual Wasteload Management Reports/Wastewater Treatment Plant Reports.

CLOSING REMARKS + ADJOURNMENT

Jill Seitz requests a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Brent Green Second: Melissa Wehr

Submitted by:

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission