



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

RIVER CENTRAL MULTI-MUNICIPAL PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE **Minutes from October 12th, 2021 – 7 pm**

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

ROLL CALL

Members

Steve Travers – Catasauqua Borough
Bob Mills – East Allen Township
Melissa Wehr – Hanover Township
Vicky Roth – Hanover Township
Bryan Cope – North Catasauqua Borough
LeRoy Brobst – Northampton Borough

Others in Attendance

Victor Rodite – Northampton Borough
Ryan Meyer, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority
Becky Bradley – LVPC
Matt Assad – LVPC
Jill Seitz – LVPC

MINUTES – September 14th, 2021

The committee reviews the prior meeting minutes. Steve Travers requests a motion to approve.

MOTION: By Melissa Wehr. Second by Vicky Roth.

DRAFT GOALS AND VISION

Jill Seitz reviews the Draft Goals developed based on the Community Feedback from the Charettes, Municipal Tours and Community Survey. Six goals were drafted, and together they form the vision for the River Central area. Ultimately the Goals will become the foundation for the plan, with decisions and policies and actions falling under and supporting each goal. The presentation of each goal was accompanied by robust discussion from the committee:

1. Balance preservation and development aligned with appropriate infrastructure.
 - Steve Travers mentions that Catasauqua in the process of refinancing a bond to make needed upgrades to the sewer plant.
2. Promote and coordinate a mixed-transportation region that works for everyone.
 - The committee discusses mechanisms that will mitigate the impacts of trucks on roadways.
3. Protect and enhance farmland and the farming economy.

- Bryan Cope mentions that North Catasauqua is seeing desire for community garden spaces, and the committee discusses how community gardens can fit into this goal.
- 4. Preserve and expand natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources as essential to quality of life.
 - The committee discusses various efforts to connect trails through each community and along the river.
- 5. Enhance housing opportunities for all.
 - The committee discusses local and national factors that have been driving up land costs passed on to housing costs.
- 6. Strengthen safe, healthy, creative, inclusive and livable communities.
 - The committee discusses the importance of pedestrian accessibility and trail connectivity, to make it easier for people to not use vehicles.

LeRoy Brobst mentions that it's good to see that, going through the goals, there are things Northampton Borough is interested in and willing to work toward, including mitigating truck traffic impacts, continuing to support the Farmer's Market and improving connections to the D & L Trail. Melissa Wehr and Vicky Roth agree, and Vicky Roth asks how emergency services can be improved. The committee discusses considerations related to improving emergency service, leading into the Subject Matter Round Table discussion.

SUBJECT MATTER ROUND TABLES

Jill Seitz reviews a list of potential subject matters for round tables that will bring in experts on those subjects to inform policies of the plan. Each will be scheduled for up to two hours, and a committee member should chair each round table with LVPC serving as administrative support. Steve Travers offers Catasauqua Borough Hall as a venue, and Bob Mills offers East Allen as a venue depending on the size of the meeting and will confirm with Brent Green.

The committee discusses the potential to start with a Farmers and Farmers Market round table that could involve the Northampton Farmers Market, Main Street Catasauqua, the Counties' agriculture and farmland preservation departments and farmers from East Allen. The committee mentions that Brent Green will need to be involved to coordinate the farmers.

An Emergency Services round table was also discussed and supported, which would involve Police, Fire and Ambulance of both counties, Northampton Regional Ambulance, the State Police, fire chiefs and the Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency.

The committee decides to also include Municipal Neighbors as a potential round table, and hold off on Key Developers, Infrastructure and Economic Development as potential topics.

PROJECT SCHEDULE STATUS

Becky Bradley reviews the project schedule status.

CLOSING REMARKS + ADJOURNMENT

Steve Travers requests a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: By Bob Mills to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by LeRoy Brobst.

Submitted by:
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission