

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the SLATE BELT

July 7, 2021 – 7 PM, Weona Park Community Center, 25 S. Main Street, Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Steering Committee Attendees:

Bangor: Nathaniel Dysard, James Kresge, Brooke Kerzner
East Bangor: Jason Huggan, Susan Ruggiero
L. Mt. Bethel: Jen Smethers, Sandra Newman
Pen Argyl: Robin Zmoda, Janell Connolly
Plainfield: Tom Petrucci, Stephen Hurni, Terry Kleintop
Portland: Lance Prator, Stephanie Steele
Roseto: Carl Renna
U. Mt. Bethel: Ed Nelson
Washington: Justin Huratiak
Wind Gap: Louise Firestone, David Hess, George Hinton

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Todd Weaver, Northampton County Emergency Management Services
Mike Rinker, Northampton County Emergency Management Services
Thomas Guth, Northampton County Emergency Management Services
Robert Mulligan, Police Chief, East Bangor and Portland
Pete Zazulak, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator, East Bangor
Jeff Larrison, Fire Chief, Lower Mt. Bethel
Dean Parsons, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator, Pen Argyl
Alex Cortezzo, Fire Chief, Plainfield
A.J. Olszewski, Emergency Management Coordinator, Plainfield / Director, Wind Gap Ambulance
Jim Potter, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator, Portland
Brandon Rader, Police Chief, Roseto
Jonathon Hoadley, Chief, Slate Belt Regional Police Department
Ryan Hoff, Suburban Emergency Medical Services
Lindsey Manzi, Emergency Management Coordinator, Upper Mt. Bethel
George Abt, Emergency Management Coordinator, Washington
Judith Henckel – Upper Mount Bethel
Jane Mellert – Plainfield

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Becky Bradley – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Tracy Oscavich – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Geoff Reese – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Brian Hite – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Roll Call

Ms. Oscavich took roll. All municipalities were in attendance.

Minutes from the June 2, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Petrucci called for a vote on the June 2, 2021 meeting minutes, which are attached to the agenda. Mr. Prator made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Zmoda indicated that the

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minutes should reflect the attendance of Mr. Jeff Fox. Mr. Prator amended his motion to include the change to show Mr. Fox in attendance. Mr. Petrucci called for a second. Ms. Newman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously, with the change in Mr. Fox's attendance.

General Issues and Opportunities Discussion

- Known Plan Activity in Slate Belt Communities

Ms. Oscavich reviewed the plans and ordinances listed, which covered a two-month period from May 2021 to June 2021. Ms. Bradley said that the LVPC wanted to commend Plainfield Township for the Zoning Ordinance on Industrial types. The Commission felt it was a step in the right direction and a model for the rest of the region, and she wanted to pass along those sentiments to the Township. According to Mr. Hurni, the ordinance is under contention and review.

Old Business

1. Draft Community Preference Survey

- Ms. Bradley discussed the visual preference survey that was provided at the meeting. The visual preference survey uses different types of images to represent options for how people prefer spaces. The knowledge gained from a survey like this will allow municipalities to adjust zoning and ordinances. Ms. Bradley noted that there are no pictures showing places in the Slate Belt to prevent community bias of one place over another. She continued to describe the different residential, mixed-use, and office, commercial retail and industrial types to the committee. She asked what the committee thought of the survey technique. Ms. Newman responded that there was nothing to represent the rural properties. Ms. Bradley indicated that you typically do not want to offer rural development options because this is a survey of future development, and the area indicated they did not want rural development. Ms. Newman asked about renovations to farm properties. Ms. Bradley said agritainment and agritourism can be added into the survey showing some rural options. Mr. Petrucci asked if there would be text to go with the survey. Ms. Bradley indicated that there will be introductory text that will explain what the survey is and the purpose for the public, but that we wanted initial feedback from the committee tonight on this style of survey. Ms. Bradley also indicated that there will be basic demographic questions also.

2. Quarry Heritage Park and Trail Network – Wrap-up Presentation

- Ms. Oscavich informed the group that Mr. Blau had provided the LVPC with a response to questions the committee had at a prior meeting, and the response was circulated to the Steering Committee. She asked that if anyone did not get the document to let the LVPC know.

New Business

1. Policy Development

- Emergency Management Services Roundtable Discussion

Mr. Petrucci asked the LVPC to begin the facilitated discussion on Emergency Management Services.

Next Steps

1. Policy Development

- Infrastructure Roundtable Discussion: August 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM at Weona Park/Pen Argyl Community Center

Ms. Oscavich informed everyone that the August 4th Steering Committee meeting will be canceled to accommodate a special meeting on Infrastructure on August 18th that will start earlier to allow more time for the discussion.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Prater applauded Ms. Bradley on her National Leadership Award.

Adjourn

Mr. Petrucci called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kresge made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Prator seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments

- June 2, 2021 Steering Committee Minutes
- Slate Belt Communities' Activity Log (May 2021 – June 2021)
- Draft Community Preference Survey

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.