

# The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the SLATE BELT

**November 3, 2021 – 7 PM, Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company Banquet Facility, 6480 Sullivan Trail, Wind Gap, PA 18091**

## Steering Committee Attendees:

Bangor:	James Kresge, Brooke Kerzner
East Bangor:	Jason Huggan
Lower Mount Bethel:	Susan Disidore, Jennifer Smethers
Pen Argyl:	Robin Zmoda, Janell Connolly, Jeff Fox
Plainfield:	Tom Petrucci, Stephen Hurni, Terry Kleintop
Portland:	Lance Prator, Stephanie Steele
Roseto:	Carl Renna, Cathy Martino
Upper Mount Bethel:	
Washington:	
Wind Gap:	Louise Firestone

## Members of the Public in Attendance:

Judith Henckel – Upper Mount Bethel  
David Friedman – Upper Mount Bethel  
Jane Mellert – Plainfield  
Phyllis Pugliese – Pen Argyl

## Planning Partners in Attendance:

Tracy Oscavich – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission  
Becky Bradley – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission  
Julie Benco – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission  
Stephen Reider – Slate Belt Rising  
Mark Hartney – Northampton County

## Roll Call

Ms. Benco took roll.

## Minutes from the October 6, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Petrucci called for a vote on the October 6, 2021 meeting minutes, which are attached to the agenda. Mr. Prator made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Renna seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## General Issues and Opportunities Discussion

- Known Plan Activity in Slate Belt Communities

Ms. Benco reviewed the plans listed, which covered a one-month period of October 2021.

## Old Business

### 1. Follow Up:

Ms. Oscavich said that if any municipalities have not done so already, the maps from the October 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting should be sent back to LVPC. She mentioned that Ms. Rockwell would be sending out reminders to those who did not. Mr. Kleintop asked about the turn-around time for

LVPC to return the maps back to the municipalities with any feedback. Ms. Bradley and Ms. Oscavich answered that they would be reviewed during December and utilized to develop the plan map drafts, to be presented in 2022.

## 2. Community Preference Survey

Ms. Bradley presented the results of the Visual Preference Survey that was conducted through September and October 2021. The survey received 426 responses, which is an impressive volume of respondents that increased the accuracy of the results. She mentioned that we had a high degree of confidence in the results, and it showed that Slate Belt residents are interested in the future of their community. Ms. Bradley reviewed what a Visual Preference Survey is and how it was conducted. She also discussed LVPC's presence at the Northampton County Festival, in which the Slate Belt Visual Preference Survey was displayed. Ms. Bradley discussed each section of the Survey which included: Housing, Office Space, Commercial Retail, Mixed-Use Development, Industrial and Agriculture. Many Committee Members shared their thoughts on housing preferences, such as ranch style, attached housing and apartments, as well as reasonings behind people's opinions in the Slate Belt. During the conversation on industrial development, the presence and future of quarries was largely discussed, with many members mentioning safety concerns, their historic legacy, and tourism potential. Next, Ms. Benco discussed the Outdoor Recreation and Agricultural Tourism sections of the Survey. Ms. Henckel and Mr. Hartney commented regarding shooting ranges versus archery, and the impacts policy can have. Finally, Ms. Bradley presented the Community View and Demographic results.

## New Business

### 1. PA Municipalities Planning Code Requirements and Issues

Mr. Petrucci made a follow-up comment from last meeting regarding questions about joint zoning. Ms. Bradley described the collaborative zoning process, in which there does not need to be a joint zoning board and all municipalities retain their own authority. Mr. Petrucci discussed the Municipalities Planning Code Working Group and how amendments can be helpful to communities. Mr. Kleintop asked about the probability of amendments being made and commented regarding the importance of these amendments. Ms. Bradley answered that at the very least, this will educate individuals on what the Municipalities Planning Code can do. Mr. Hurni asked about the regionalization of public entities such as fire departments. Ms. Bradley responded that she was on Governor Wolf's committee on that topic, at the beginning of his first term, and they came to the conclusion that it was not possible.

## Next Steps

### 1. Project Schedule Update

Ms. Oscavich went over the Plan Slate Belt Project Schedule, which was attached to the agenda. She discussed the next phases that will occur through the remainder of 2021 and into September 2022. The Committee discussed canceling the December Steering Committee Meeting and moving the next meeting to January. Mr. Petrucci called for a motion to cancel the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 meeting. Mr. Prator made a motion to cancel the December meeting. Ms. Smethers seconded the motion.

## Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Petrucci asked if anyone wished to speak on an item not covered on the rest of the agenda. There were no comments.

## Adjourn

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

## Attachments

- October 6, 2021 Steering Committee Minutes
- Slate Belt Communities' Activity Log (October 2021)
- Plan Slate Belt Project Schedule

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.