

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the SLATE BELT

February 5, 2020 – 7 PM, Weona Park Community Center, 25 S. Main Street, Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Steering Committee Attendees:

Bangor: James Kresge, Nathaniel Dysard, Brooke Kerzner
East Bangor: Susan Ruggiero, Jason Huggan, Derek Powell
L. Mt. Bethel: Susan Disidore, Jen Smethers
Pen Argyl: Robin Zmoda, Janell Connolly, Jeffrey Fox
Plainfield: Tom Petrucci, Stephen Hurni, Terry Kleintop
Portland: Stephanie Steele
Roseto: Carl Renna, Cathy Martino, Joe Angelini
U. Mt. Bethel: David Due
Washington: Robert Smith, John Buck
Wind Gap: George Hinton, Louise Firestone, David Hess

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Judith Henckel – Upper Mount Bethel Township
Tom Carlo – Pen Argyl Borough
Joe LeDonne – Pen Argyl Borough
Paul Levits – Plainfield Township
Jane Mellert – Plainfield Township
Dave Friedman – U. Mt. Bethel Open Space Advisory Board
Richard Wilford-Hunt – U. Mt. Bethel
Gail Putvinski – Washington Township
Kent Baird – Gilmore & Associates, Inc.

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Peter Barnard – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Sue Rockwell – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Stephen Reider – Slate Belt Rising
Mark Hartney – Northampton County
Andrew Kleiner – Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation
George Lewis – Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation

Minutes:

Roll Call

Ms. Rockwell took roll call.

Minutes from the December 4th Meeting

Mr. Petrucci called for a vote on the December 4, 2019 meeting minutes, which are attached to the agenda. Ms. Zmoda made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Angelini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Slate Belt Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2020**

Advertisement for Steering Committee Meetings for 2020

Mr. Barnard said that the advertisement for the 2020 Steering Committee meeting schedule was printed in the January 21, 2020 Express Times edition. A copy of the legal affidavit is attached to the agenda and was also emailed to Steering Committee members.

Press Release

Mr. Barnard said the draft press release about the Issues and Opportunities report that was presented at the December meeting was revised, as requested, to include quotes from Committee Chairman Tom Petrucci, Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure, LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley and CACLV Executive Director Alan Jennings. A copy of the revised press release is attached to the agenda. Mr. Barnard noted that The Morning Call also published an article about the report on February 2, 2020.

Policy Development

Mr. Barnard said that work on the policy section of the plan has begun. For the meeting, Committee members and members of the public in attendance were separated into three groups to focus the discussion on economic development in the Slate Belt. An exercise sheet was provided to each attendee to facilitate the discussion. Each group was asked to select a presenter and a note taker. The discussion focused on three main topics:

- What types of businesses are in the Slate Belt?
- What types of businesses are desired in the Slate Belt?
- What can be done to encourage business development in different areas?

An aerial map of the region was provided to each group to identify areas where businesses are currently located and areas where new businesses should be located. After an hour, each group reported out on their discussions to the larger group. All notes taken were collected at the end of the meeting and will be compiled to provide input on economic development policies.

Next Steps

Mr. Barnard said that the next few Steering Committee meetings will focus on workforce development, education and shared services, with representatives from these organizations to be invited for a group discussion.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments

- December 4, 2019 Steering Committee Minutes
- Legal Affidavit for Public Notice of 2020 Steering Committee Meeting Schedule
- Plan Slate Belt Press Release
- Slate Belt Economic Development Exercise Sheet

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.