

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the SLATE BELT

March 7, 2024 – 7 PM, Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Attendees:

Bangor:	Stephen Reider, Marissa Donnelly
East Bangor:	Jason Huggan
Pen Argyl:	Robin Zmoda, Tyler Kemp, Joe LeDonne
Plainfield:	Terri Kleintop
Portland:	Lance Prator, Stephanie Steele
Roseto:	Cathy Martino, Carl Renna
Upper Mount Bethel:	Dave Friedman, Judy Henckel
Washington:	Justin Huratiak
Wind Gap:	Wesley Smith

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Jane Mellert – Plainfield Township
Millie Beahn – Plainfield Township

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Becky Bradley – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
AJ Schwartz – Environmental Engineering & Design
Carolyn Yagle – Environmental Engineering & Design

Roll Call

Ms. Bradley called roll. Terri Kleintop, Plainfield Township joined the meeting shortly after attendance was called.

Minutes from the February 1, 2024 Meeting

Ms. Zmoda called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2024 meeting. Mr. Friedman made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Huratiak seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley took a roll call vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Zoning Ordinance Update Presentation

AJ Schwartz and Carolyn Yagle, Environmental Planning & Design, provided a slide presentation on coordinating zoning among municipalities involved in multi-municipal comprehensive plans. Ms. Bradley said she would forward the presentation to the committee. Ms. Bradley provided revised Community Zoning Codes Update & Official Maps Creation worksheets, showing costs for participation in coordinated zoning by all ten municipalities, the costs without Lower Mount Bethel, and the costs without Lower Mount Bethel and Plainfield.

Ms. Bradley discussed the Grow NORCO Grant Program, which was presented at the February 20, 2024 Northampton County Grant Workshop, as a source of funding for the coordinated zoning and official map effort. Mr. Friedman made a motion that the municipalities agree to apply for the grant, show commitment to applying for the grant, and authorize the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to prepare and submit the application by the deadline of May 31, 2024. Mr. Rider seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley took a roll call vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Intermunicipal Cooperative Agreement Discussion

Ms. Bradley said Matthew Deschler, East Bangor Solicitor, recently provided comments on the draft Intermunicipal Agreement. She provided a copy of the draft agreement and a version with the Solicitor comments and Ms. Bradley's responses. She said she would forward the Borough Solicitor comments to Gary Asteak to review and revise the agreement as needed.

3. Municipal Steering Committee Representation

Ms. Bradley said the agenda packet included the current steering committee representation as indicated by the municipalities. Five municipalities have not responded to the request to confirm or update the list. Mr. Prator confirmed that Portland Borough representation remains the same.

Ms. Bradley said she would contact Dave Backenstoe and Paige Stefanelli, Interim Manager of Plainfield Township, to schedule a meeting to discuss the planning effort and would be looking for some committee members to attend the meeting as well.

New Business

1. Lower Mount Bethel Township Correspondence

Ms. Zmoda discussed the correspondence received from Lower Mount Bethel Township on March 5, 2024 regarding their decision to withdraw from the Plan Slate Belt effort. Based on the discussion, the LVPC will be following up with the Township to encourage them to continue participation in the plan, at least one committee member should be part of the outreach. Ms. Bradley will also follow up with Gary Asteak, LVPC Land Use Solicitor, to find out how this would impact the plan.

2. Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on Thursday, April 2, 2024 at the Pen Argyl Borough Hall.

Courtesy of the Floor

1. General Issues and Opportunities Discussion

- Known Plan Activity in Slate Belt Communities (February 2024)

Ms. Bradley briefly discussed the projects listed in the activity log.

2. Municipal Updates

- Several community updates were provided.

Adjourn

Ms. Zmoda called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Prator made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Renna seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley took a roll call vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Slate Belt Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2024

Attachments

- February 1, 2021 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
- Zoning Codes Update & Official Maps Creation Worksheets (Revised 3/7/2024)
- Draft Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Intermunicipal Cooperative Implementation Agreement
- Draft Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Intermunicipal Cooperative Implementation Agreement
- Steering Committee Representation List
- Lower Mount Bethel Township Correspondence
- Slate Belt Communities' Activity Log (February 2024)

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.