

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the SLATE BELT

September 7, 2023 – 7 PM, Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Attendees:

Bangor:	Stephen Reider
East Bangor:	Jason Huggan
Lower Mount Bethel:	Jen Smethers, Sandra Newman, Susan Disidore
Pen Argyl:	Robin Zmoda, Tyler Kemp
Plainfield:	Terry Kleintop, Jane Mellert, Don Moore
Portland:	Lance Prator, Stephanie Steele
Roseto:	Cathy Martino, Carl Renna
Upper Mount Bethel:	
Washington:	
Wind Gap:	George Hinton

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Millie Beahn – Plainfield Township
Paul Levits – Plainfield Township
Karen Pfeiffer – Portland Borough

Planning Partners in Attendance:

Becky Bradley – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Evan Gardi – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Roll Call

Ms. Bradley called the roll. Upper Mount Bethel and Washington townships were not in attendance.

Minutes from the August 3, 2023, Meeting

Ms. Zmoda called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2023, meeting. Mr. Reider made the motion. Ms. Smethers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Municipal Comments and Plan Revisions

Ms. Bradley noted the draft text changes that were previously made to the plan in response to the August 17, 2023, letter from Plainfield Township.

Mr. Moore said he doesn't like the future land use plan. He also said he would like an individual agreement, so the Township doesn't have to adopt the plan if they don't want to. Ms. Bradley agreed to consult a solicitor regarding the legality of this. Mr. Moore is concerned that if the 45-day comment period starts and they don't agree with something, the comment period will have to restart.

Ms. Zmoda said, starting back in 2019, many detailed maps were prepared and taken back to elected officials for review. She said the complexity of those maps is embedded in plan maps now in an aggregated form, including existing zoning. She said she is looking forward to updating zoning regulations all the way around once the plan is adopted. She noted that the maps as they are in the draft allow each community to amend their zoning code as they need based on the outline in the plan and is what the group has been working towards since the effort started because autonomy is important to everyone.

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2. Adoption Process

Ms. Bradley discussed the adoption timeline and provided possible public hearing dates through the end of the year. Mr. Prator said he would like the 45-day review process to begin as soon as possible. Ms. Bradley indicated that the review period could begin as soon as September 18th. The meeting packet also included a draft letter transmitting the plan to contiguous counties, municipalities and school districts per the requirements of the Municipalities Planning Code. In addition, draft adoption resolutions were provided for each municipality. Mr. Prator said he would like to get started with a draft of the intermunicipal agreement. Mr. Reider made a motion to move forward with the 45-day public review and comment period, that was seconded by Mr. Huggan. The motion was carried with no abstentions or objections.

3. Intermunicipal Agreement Follow-Up Discussion

Ms. Bradley reviewed the elements of an Intermunicipal Cooperative Planning Agreement, as provided in the handout. She encouraged each community to discuss this with their Supervisors/Council and to send comments to Sue Rockwell, so they could be assembled for the next meeting's discussion.

New Business

1. Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at the Pen Argyl Borough Hall.

Courtesy of the Floor

1. General Issues and Opportunities Discussion

- Known Plan Activity in Slate Belt Communities (August 2023)

The Activity Log for August was provided in the meeting packet. There were two Zoning Ordinance Amendments for August.

2. Municipal Update

Mr. Prator said the Northern Tier ambulance service is getting together for a feasibility study to reduce response times. The estimated cost of the study is \$160,000. Wind Gap has their own service. Currently, Portland has Suburban EMS, which is understaffed.

Adjourn

Ms. Zmoda adjourned the meeting.

Attachments

- August 3, 2023, Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
- Adoption To Do List
- Public Hearing Dates

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- 45-Day Comment Letter
- Draft Municipal Adoption Resolutions
- Elements of an Intermunicipal Cooperative Planning Agreement for Implementation of Multi-Municipal Plan
- Slate Belt Communities' Activity Log (August 2023)

Minutes prepared and respectfully transmitted by the LVPC.