



Catasauqua Borough | East Allen Township | Hanover Township
North Catasauqua Borough | Northampton Borough

RIVER CENTRAL MULTI-MUNICIPAL PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE Minutes from May 11th, 2021 – 7PM

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

ROLL CALL

Members

Bob Mills – East Allen Township
Brent Green – East Allen Township
Chris Cruz – East Allen Township
Mark Thomas – Hanover Township
Melissa Wehr – Hanover Township
Vicky Roth – Hanover Township
Peter Paone – North Catasauqua Borough
Bryan Cope – North Catasauqua Borough
LeRoy Brobst – Northampton Borough

Others in Attendance

Becky Bradley – LVPC
Samantha Smith – LVPC
Jill Seitz – LVPC
Art Hemming – East Allen Township
Georgiann Hunsicker – East Allen Township
Victor Rodite – Northampton Borough
AJ Jordan – LANTA

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

MINUTES – March 9th, 2021

The committee reviews the prior meeting minutes. Brent Green requests a motion to approve.

MOTION: By Bob Mills. Second by Chris Cruz.

CHARETTE OUTCOMES + DISCUSSION

Jill Seitz reviews charette participation data and asks for input. Bob Mills says they were well-managed and went well. Victor Rodite agrees.

Jill Seitz reviews priorities and comments resulting from the charettes, and asks for input. Brent Green asks if this will be posted to website. Becky Bradley indicates this is up to the committee. Bob Mills concurs and offers that it creates a way to invite people to participate and get input, and adds that we want as many as can to participate. Pete Paone says that with 40 participants, removing LANTA/D&L/other partners, the feedback was limited to only a handful of ‘public’ and

would like to continue to seek comments. Brent Green says being open and soliciting input will create reassurance in the process. Bryan Cope mentions that he heard input that housing prices are high and asks if that is a real or perceived issue. Becky replies that prices are high throughout the Valley, relatively. Jill Seitz concurs and provides additional detail. Brent Green mentions that core thoughts of participants and the community are the same. Bob Mills says the five communities are formerly from grassroots industry and that the founding values are the same.

DRAFT COMMUNITY SURVEY

Samantha Smith reviews the intent of survey, the timeline for distribution, and indicates that there must be municipal support to make it successful. Becky Bradley mentions the LVPC address will be included on the survey. She adds that LVPC will ensure a 'paper copy' version is available and asks committee to let staff know anywhere that LVPC should send paper copies. Becky Bradley continues, requesting that the municipalities/committee collect and return, then asks the committee what subjects are most important to include in the survey. Brent Green says that land use and transportation are big deals for East Allen Township because of open space being developed and how it affects other. He adds that he doesn't think that public safety should be a survey question because it's always supported, and that the survey should focus on land development, parks and open space. Pete Paone says that if there is an emergency service question it should ask how to drive fire volunteerism. He goes on to say that North Catasauqua will send a flyer if we can give the dates they need to be mailed. Brent Green continues that emergency services maybe isn't a survey question but might be an opportunity to put a call out for volunteers. Bob Mills adds that volunteers are needed in the short-term and funding and resources are a bigger concern in the long-term. He goes on to say that the communities need to pull together agencies to fair better in long run. Brent Green replies that the communities are trying to do that but are being held up by the state because of COVID and meeting constraints. He says that this is a concurrent effort to the River Central Plan. Pete Paone continues that the team is trying to consolidate emergency services in Catasauqua, North Catasauqua, East Allen and Whitehall. Brent Green says that emergency services efforts might become a working group after the plan is adopted, or something like NazCOG. Bob Mills requests that a link to the project website and reference to the charette be included in the survey. Melissa Wehr requests that an informational section be added and asks how long the survey will be out for. Becky Bradley replies 30-90 days depending on response rate but to plan for 60 days. Pete Paone says that Northampton Borough has a street fair on May 22, North Catasauqua has a carnival in June and other upcoming events. He says that, if possible, we can promote at these events, even if it's an unmanned booth. Becky Bradley requests that committee members email a list of events, contact information, registration information, etc. so that staff can assess. She continues that May is probably too early but offers that LVPC has a number of options that can be deployed to support the effort.

PROJECT SCHEDULE STATUS

Becky Bradley reviews project schedule status.

CLOSING REMARKS + ADJOURNMENT

Brent Green requests that each municipality pick a point person to send event dates and contact information to LVPC staff.

MOTION: By Melissa Wehr to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chris Cruz.

Submitted by:
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission