

RIVER CENTRAL

LEHIGH VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA



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

Planning Steering Committee

Tuesday, May 10th

**Welcome +
Introductions**

Municipal Representatives

Other Agencies

Members of the Public



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

**Courtesy of
the Floor**

**Please State Your Name
+ Affiliation**

RIVER CENTRAL
LEHIGH VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA



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

Minutes

March 8th, 2022



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

RIVER CENTRAL

LEHIGH VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA



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

Round Table Summaries

Emergency Management Services Round Table

Attendees

In-person: Chris Cruz (East Allen), Bob Mills (East Allen), Mark Thomas (Hanover), Vicky Roth (Hanover), Eric Snyder (East Allen Ambulance), Nick Marlowe (Han-Le-Co), Chris Spadaccia (Han-Le-Co), Maria Wesco (Northampton Regional Ambulance), Joe Carl (Northampton Borough EMS)

Virtual: Pete Paone (North Catasauqua), LeRoy Brobst (Northampton), Steve Travers (Catasauqua), Victor Rodite (Northampton), Keith Knoblach (Northampton Fire), Chris Wolfer (North Catasauqua Police), Cindy Geist (East Allen Ambulance), Mike Rinker (Northampton County EMS)

LVPC Staff: Jill Seitz, Brad Stewart, Julie Benco, Bambi Griffin Rivera, Dean Severson, Steve Neratko, Matt Assad

Ambulance

Staffing/Personnel Limitations

- Crews are short on staffing, have difficulty recruiting new volunteers and paid staff
- Increasing incomes for other jobs / industries increase competition for volunteers and staff
- Otherwise competing ambulance corps work with each other informally to help fill the coverage cracks, with mutual aid agreements to make sure people can get help in a timely manner.
 - Because they cover each other's areas, they sometimes find themselves several miles outside their coverage areas.

Operation Costs/Funding

- Medicare reimbursements often don't cover the cost of responding
- Ambulance operations ineligible for most EMS grants that are targeted mainly for fire service.
- Training costs and time are barriers to keep staffs full.

Fire

Staffing/Personnel Limitations and Barriers

- Shortage of volunteers
- Few employers allow workers to leave for fire emergencies – a change from the distant past.
- Han-Le-Co firehouse location is not convenient for volunteers who often live several miles away.
- Training time and costs are barriers to keeping staffs full.
- Traffic and development have extended response times, both for volunteers getting to the firehouse and crews getting to emergencies.

Funding/Equipment Limitations

- Fire companies also face funding shortage, but do have greater access to grants
 - They also have mutual aid agreements to cover neighboring areas
- Building scales are now bigger and more difficult to protect than 20 years ago

Police

Trail Coverage

- Barriers to responding to incidents on the growing and increasingly used trail network
 - Vehicles don't fit on the trail
 - Mile markers not effectively helping people navigate where they are
- Locked trail heads and bollard gates
 - Allow walkers and rollers but limit police and fire access

Emergency Management Agencies

- EMA is often forgotten at the local level
- Opportunities for more coordination with the county
- Only source of funding is municipality, but as the borough grows, the expense and complexity of emergency logistics grows.
- Elected official education needed

Strategy Highlights

- 1. Grants and Funding**
- 2. A long-term plan to determine the best locations for fire stations.**
- 3. Trail Access**
- 4. Cross-border communication equipment**
- 5. Regionalization**
- 6. Coordination**

Economy and Economic Development Round Table

Attendees

In-person: Bob Mills (East Allen), Victor Rodite (Northampton), Mark Thomas (Hanover), Vicky Roth (Hanover), Vince Smith (Catasauqua Business Owner)

Virtual: Steve Travers (Catasauqua), Tony Pristash (Northampton), Andrew Kleiner (LVEDC).

LVPC Staff: Jill Seitz, Brad Stewart, Julie Benco, Bambi Griffin Rivera, Dean Severson, Steve Neratko, Matt Assad and Hannah Milagio.

Downtowns

- Main Street and grant programs have been effective in the past
- Iron Works site investment
- Borough downtowns have suffered from businesses closing and first floor sites being turned into residential space or demolished
- Limitation of older structures
- Need more anchor businesses
- Main Street Manager Program

Transportation

- Traffic impacts to local businesses / business districts
- Trucks trying to avoid traffic, or in some cases and emergency, are destroying township and business district roads, causing damage.
- D&L Trail and Nor-Bath Trail access opportunity
- East Allen Township connectivity to Boroughs

Strategy Highlights

- 1. Marketing businesses and services in River Central (directly online and regionalized)**
- 2. Connecting trail to businesses and the people who use them**
- 3. Main Street Program**
- 4. Encouraging a variety of businesses and addressing their needs**
- 5. Managing truck traffic**

RIVER CENTRAL

LEHIGH VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA



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

Plan Goals and Community Vision

Draft Goals

1. Balance preservation and development aligned with appropriate infrastructure.
2. Promote and coordinate a mixed-transportation region that works for everyone.
3. Protect and enhance farmland and the farming economy.
4. Preserve and expand natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources as essential to quality of life.
5. Enhance housing opportunities for all.
6. Strengthen safe, healthy, creative, inclusive and livable communities

Project Schedule

Part 1 – Organization, Analysis and Foundation of the Plan

Phase 1. Project Initiation (**Complete**) Feb – Apr 2021

Phase 2. Inventory and Analysis (**Ongoing**) Mar – Sept 2021

Phase 3. Vision and Guiding Principles (**Ongoing**) May – Oct 2021

Part 2 – Implementable Comprehensive Plan Adoption

Phase 4. Plan and Policy Framework (**Underway**) May 2022 – Sept 2022

Phase 5. Draft Plan and Implementable Strategies Aug 2022 – Dec 2022

Phase 6. Review and Adoption Jan 2023 – May 2023



Please Send Us: Sewer & Water Documentation

- Mapping for sewer and water systems
- Chapter 110 Annual Water Supply Report
- Chapter 94 Annual Wasteload Management Report /
Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

**Closing
Remarks +
Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:
Tuesday, June 14th – 7pm**

RIVER CENTRAL
LEHIGH VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA



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