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Vice Chair

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Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes from the Thursday, December 22, 2022 Meeting

The LVPC held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, December 22, 2022. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on Wednesday, January 5th, 2022.

Mr. Glickman chaired the meeting.

Ms. Benco took Roll Call.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Percy Dougherty, Philip Ginder, Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Joyce Moore, Christina Morgan, David Petrik, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch and Kevin Schmidt.

Northampton County

Christopher Amato, Liesel Dreisbach, Andrew Elliott, Charles Elliott, John Gallagher, Susan Lawless, William McGee, John McGorry, Tina Smith and Tara Zrinski.

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Geoff Brace, Bob Elbich, Jamie Johnson, David Jones, Dennis Klusaritz, Rick Molchany, Owen O'Neil, Joshua Siegel and Matthew Tuerk.

Northampton County

Jessica Cope, Dan Engle, Darlene Heller, Carl Manges, Lamont McClure, Stephen Melnick, Scott Minnich, Edward Nelson, Salvatore Panto, William Reynolds, Grace Smith and Gerald Yob.

Staff Present: Matt Assad, Taylor Beasley, Julie Benco, Becky Bradley, Joseph Dotta, Bambi Griffin Rivera, Brian Hite, David Jan, Denjam Khadka, Hannah Milagio, Steve Neratko, Patrick Osei, Geoffrey Reese, Susan Rockwell, Jillian Seitz, Dean Severson and Vicki Weidenhammer.

Public Present: Gary Asteak, Ron Beitler, Nate Jones, Bill Keba, Tree Layton Zuzzio and Jeff Ward.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

There were none.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Glickman welcomed new members of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission staff, Patrick Osei and David Jan. Mr. Osei, Director of Transportation and Data, described some of his background and expressed his excitement to join the LVPC team. Mr. Jan also described some of his background and his work so far with LVPC as the Economist/Data Scientist. Mr. Glickman also acknowledged the members of the Commission that completed their terms in 2022, which included Liesel Dreisbach, Susan Lawless and Gerald Yob. Ms. Lawless shared her thanks to the Commission. Ms. Dreisbach shared that it was a privilege for her to serve on the Commission for many years and she expressed her appreciation for the LVPC team.

MINUTES

Mr. Glickman stated that the minutes of the Thursday, November 17th, 2022 LVPC meeting are attached and Ms. Benco read the previously voted on agenda items. Mr. Glickman then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dougherty made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Rader seconded the motion. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none. The motion passed, with Mr. Gallagher, Ms. Lawless and Ms. Moore abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

ACTION ITEM: South Whitehall Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Parkland School District New Operations Center

Ms. Griffin Rivera provided an overview of the project, which conceptualizes the construction of a 39,295 square-foot operations center building for the Parkland School District. Ms. Griffin Rivera recommended that the development not conflict with any possible future expansion of Interstate 476, as part of the PennDOT I-476 Travel Management Project. Mr. Glickman called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Mr. Repasch made the motion; Ms. Moore seconded the motion. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet

Mr. Glickman presented the Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet, which included three Zoning Ordinance Amendment reviews for the Borough of Bath, Borough of Tatamy and South Whitehall Township. Mr. Glickman called for a motion to accept the staff comments on the summary sheet. Ms. Dreisbach made the motion; Mr. Repasch seconded the motion. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none. Motion passed.

Environment Committee:

INFORMATION ITEM: Environment Committee Summary

Mr. Repasch summarized the Environment Committee meeting, including an overview of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory Assessment, which the Commission will hear more about at the January Full Commission Meeting. Mr. Repasch also encouraged member attendance on the Environment Committee that will be held on the Wednesday before the Full Commission meeting at noon.

Transportation Committee:

INFORMATION ITEM: Transportation Committee Summary

Mr. Herman summarized the Transportation Committee meeting, which included the Annual List of Obligated Projects and an expanded monthly traffic count report.

Old Business:

ACTION ITEM: Northampton County Freight-Based Land Use Guide

Mr. Severson provided an overview of the Northampton County Freight-Based Land Use Management Guide, in which he discussed the timeline, details of the project and major themes of the guide. Mr. Glickman added that the LVPC Team will be presenting the guide to Northampton County Council in early 2023 and will schedule additional training opportunities for municipal officials with the County. He mentioned that a similar effort will be undertaken for Lehigh County municipalities in 2023. Mr. Glickman called for a motion to consider formal adoption of the Guide. Mr. McGee made the motion; Ms. Morgan seconded the motion. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none. Motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS: Activity Reports

Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinance/Plans Report

Mr. Neratko presented the plan and review activity for November, which included 18 Subdivisions, 25 Development proposals, 26 reviews for Stormwater Management, and six Municipal Ordinances and Maps for a total of 75 reviews. The reviews included 457 housing units and 1,194,140 square feet of non-residential development. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Highway Traffic Monitoring

Mr. Hite provided the details of the November traffic counts, which still showed a normal fluctuation in traffic volumes in respect to the Thanksgiving holiday. He presented the vehicle counts for State Route 33, Interstate-78, State Route 309 and State Route 22, as well as the truck counts for Interstate-78 and State Route 22. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: 2023 Meeting Calendar and Assessment of In-Person/Virtual Format for Future LVPC Meetings

Mr. Glickman provided an overview of the 2023 Meeting Calendar for Commission and Committee Meetings. Ms. Bradley discussed the potential for hybrid meetings and the audio issues that have occurred with the hybrid meeting equipment. She recommended that the Commission stay virtual with an in-person option for any member of the public that requests it. Mr. Glickman agreed with her recommendation and called for a motion to accept the 2023 calendar. Mr. Repasch made the motion; Ms. Lawless seconded the motion. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: 2023 Election of LVPC Officers

Mr. Glickman noted that the LVPC Nominating Committee met in early December to present their recommendations for the slate of 2023 LVPC Officers to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee voted to forward the slate of officers to the Commission for consideration, which included Steven Glickman as nomination for Chair, Chris Amato for Vice Chair and Kevin Schmidt for Treasurer. Mr. Glickman asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Mr. Glickman called for a motion to accept the election of LVPC Officers. Ms. Dreisbach made the motion; Ms. Rader seconded the motion. Motion passed, with Dr. Amato and Mr. Schmidt abstaining.

INFORMATION ITEM: 2023 LVPC Budget and Workplan

Ms. Bradley presented the 2023 LVPC Workplan that was adopted by the LVPC Executive Committee. She discussed the LVPC mission, the county planning program and the metropolitan planning organization transportation planning and investment program. She provided an overview of the 2023 workplan, including key plans and programs that will be started or completed in 2023. Ms. Weidenhammer presented the 2023 LVPC Budget, which included breakdowns of revenue and expense detail.

Communications and Public Engagement:

INFORMATION ITEM: Business Cycle Column

Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Business Cycle column that was published in the Sunday, December 4th Morning Call. That column focuses on the benefits of meeting our many community, municipal and government partners in-person, rather than virtually, during our 9th Annual Lehigh Valley Outlook and Awards, and an overview of the population, development, housing, traffic and greenhouse gas data released during the event. He stated that the next column is scheduled to publish January 15th, 2023.

INFORMATION ITEM: Plan Lehigh Valley radio show on WDIY NPR 88.1FM

Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Plan Lehigh Valley 30-minute radio show that focused on development trends locally, and statewide. Becky Bradley and Matt Assad were joined by State

Representatives Mike Schlossberg and Zachary Mako and discussed how growth is putting development pressure on the region, ways state legislators are trying to address it, and tips for how people can get involved in their community. He stated that the next show was scheduled to air at 6:30 pm, January 2nd and will take a look at the latest housing market data with Senior Community Planner, Jill Seitz and Greater Lehigh Realtors CEO, Justin Poremba.

INFORMATION ITEM: RAISE Grant – US DOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity

Mr. Assad alerted our municipal partners that the US Department of Transportation is now taking applications for 2023 RAISE grants for \$1.5 billion worth of funding for critical road, bridge, trail, freight and public transit projects. He mentioned that this is the same program in which the LVPC was awarded \$21.2 million for the Riverside Drive project. The deadline to apply is February 28, but US DOT estimates the application will take 2-4 weeks to complete. More info is available at transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/apply.

INFORMATION ITEM: Green Light – Go Grants

Mr. Assad alerted our municipal partners that a very short window to apply for the next round of traffic signal improvement grants opens January 3. He added that under PennDOT's Green Light Go Program, municipalities can apply for grants to replace or modernize their traffic signals, a 20% match is required, and the deadline to apply is January 31. The guidelines and application are available at PennDOT's Traffic Signal Portal.

INFORMATION ITEM: PA Moving Forward Grants

Mr. Assad announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Driving PA Forward program is piloting a competitive grant initiative to replace aging fleets of diesel-powered medium- and heavy-duty local freight trucks with new zero emission trucks, with top priority given to projects that serve Environmental Justice communities. The deadline for this grant is March 1, but a pre-application meeting with a DEP program administrator is required. For more information, search "Driving PA Forward" and click on the "MHD-ZEV Fleet" tab at the top.

INFORMATION ITEM: Local Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Hite announced that the Local Technical Assistance Program has a full schedule of classes coming up through January and February. Anyone can sign up at lvpc.org/ltap or contact Brian Hite. Mr. Glickman asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Glickman stated that the next LVPC meeting is set to be virtual on January 26th at 7pm. Mr. Glickman then asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Dougherty made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and
Julie Benco, Regional Planner