

**Lawrence County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
New Castle City Building
March 8, 2023
12:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was held at The New Castle City Building at 12:00 PM on March 8th, 2023.

Attendance

Planning Commission

Board:

Larry Lambo, Chairman
Karolee Loughhead, Vice Chairperson
Everett Bleakney
James Blundo
Dave Hammond
Cindy Morabito
Frank Telesz

Staff:

Amy McKinney, Director of Planning
Allen Miller, Deputy Director of Planning
Rebecca Shaffer, Deputy Director of Community Development
Mary Glass, Office Manager

Guests:

Loretta Spielvogel, Commissioner
Dan J. Vogler, Commissioner
Hygeia S. Moss-Eggleston, First National Bank
Amy Kunselman, Lawrence County Builders & Board of Realtors
Debbie Wachter, New Castle News

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was called to order at 12:03 PM by Larry Lambo.

Additions/Deletion to Agenda

There were no additions or deletions made to the agenda.

Public Comments

None

Regular Agenda

- a. **Approval of minutes:** Everett Bleakney moved, seconded by Frank Telesz to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2023, meeting. Motion carried, 7-0.

b. Staff Report:

- **Comprehensive Plan/Greenways Plans:** DCNR C2P2 Quaker Falls – Phase 2 project. We have submitted preliminary paperwork and the initial partial payment request. We are working on the timeline, site drawings and bid documents. The commissioners entered a contract with C. Crump Inc. to clear debris and maintenance of the Stavich Bike Trail damaged by storm/high water event. Our office will be performing spring inspections of all county parks and boat launches.
- **CDBG and CDBG-CV2 and CV3:** General administrative duties. DCED monitored our administration procedures, and we received a letter of no findings.
- **ARPA:** General Administrative Duties. Agreements created and processed for disbursements.
- **PHARE:** Administering the PHARE funds through the RALC.
- **SPC:** Attended TTC meetings. Planning Directors Meeting. Water Resource meeting. Broadband Summit.
- **RALC Update:** Administering the Side Yard Program and Countywide Housing and Blight Remediation Program. Working on a Countywide Façade Improvement program.
- **Link-Up Lawrence:** Feasibility study for the expansion of broadband in the County. Bi-weekly check in with Consultant. Provider interviews. First task force meeting will be on March 9th.
- **Municipal Assistance:** Assisting local municipalities and organizations. Working with Union Township and PennDOT on Revitalization project. Working with local municipalities on Code and Zoning improvements. Working with Ellwood City on Façade Improvement Program. League of Municipality Meeting will be held on April 19th. GIS meeting with DON Services. Elm Street Committee meeting.

c. Commissioner's Comments:

Dan Vogler explained that with Commissioner Boyd resigning, a new Commissioner will be appointed to fill his term and that 11 people have submitted letters of interest. He also discussed the launching of Link Up Lawrence, an initiative to assess internet affordability, reliability, and access. A Broadband taskforce has been assembled from all geographic areas of the County with an emphasis on the rural areas where so many people are underserved. He also raised discussion about Hygeia Moss-Eggleston of First National Bank who has been attending our meetings regularly. He would like to recommend her as an alternate member of the Planning Commission. Hygeia will send a formal written request to Amy McKinney and we will discuss at the April 12th, 2023 meeting

Loretta Spielvogel also made discussion regarding the Link Up Lawrence initiative and stated that there are many unserved areas of the County and with funding available, we want to be ready, therefore; the taskforce has been assembled and we are well on our way to gathering the necessary information. She addressed the East Palestine train derailment and

said that ongoing air and soil testing is happening in Lawrence County. Lastly, she discussed construction and renovations taking place at the Frewmill Campus. Lawrence County Community Action Partnership is working to make this a safe place for families to get back on their feet. Shelter, children and youth services, drug and alcohol counseling and life skills will be available at this location.

d. Old Business:

None

e. New Business:

None

Action Agenda:

Subdivision and Land Developments: Three land developments were presented to the Board for review:

PA American Water – Neshannock Twp: Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Karolee Loughhead moved that the Township take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Dave Hammond seconded. Motion carried 7-0

Dollar General – Neshannock Twp: Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Dave Hammond moved that the Borough take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. James Blundo seconded. Motion carried 7-0

Dollar General – City of New Castle: Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Everett Bleakney moved that the Borough take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Karolee Loughhead seconded. Motion carried 7-0

Zoning and Municipal Reviews:

None

Notifications

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12th, 2023, at 12:00 PM at the Slippery Rock Township Building located at 4334 US 422, New Castle, PA.

Adjournment

Everett Bleakney moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Frank Telesz. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.