

**Lawrence County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Plain Grove Township Municipal Building
August 12, 2026
12:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was held at the Plain Grove Township Municipal Building located at 1029 Plain Grove Road, Volant, PA.

Attendance

**Planning Commission
Board:**

Karolee Loughhead, Chairperson
Mary Burris, Vice-Chairperson
Cindy Morabito, Secretary
Everett Bleakney
James Blundo
Dave Hammond
John Logue - alternate
Frank Telesz

Staff:

Amy McKinney, Director of Planning
Allen Miller, Deputy Director of Planning
Rebecca Shaffer, Deputy Director of Community Development
Chris Conti, GIS Planner
Mary Glass, Office Manager/CDBG Administrator

Guests:

Dan Vogler, County Commissioner
Dan Kennedy, County Commissioner
Debbie Wachter, New Castle News
Jeff Bishop, Plain Grove Township Supervisor
George Johnson, Slippery Rock Township Supervisor
Al Burick, Shenango Township Manager
Garrett Saunders, Rev Renewables
Ryan Long, Rev Renewables
Amy Kunselman, Lawrence-Mercer Assoc. of Realtors

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was called to order at 12:02 PM by Karolee Loughhead.

Regular Agenda

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** Frank Telesz moved, seconded by Cindy Morabito to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2026, meeting. Motion carried 7-0.
- 2. Staff Report:**
 - **Comprehensive Plan/Greenways Plans:** DCED Comprehensive Plan Update – first steering committee meeting was held on July 29th. DCNR approved RFP for the Master Site Plan, and we will be sending that out at the end of the month. Working with Taylor Engineering for the Stavich Bike Trail Phase 1 rehabilitation. Forward Lawrence submitted an application to DCED GTRP for Phase II of Stavich.

Waiting to hear back on our LSA application that was submitted last fall for Phase II of Stavich.

- **CDBG:** General administrative duties. Mahoning Township Rich Avenue CDBG project is complete. Monitored for several FY CDBG and CDBG-CV contracts in June. CDBG FY26 first public hearing was held. Working with OBO's to discuss their FY26 project.
- **LEAD Hazard Reduction Grant:** Assisting LCCAP with set up of new grant.
- **ARPA:** General Administrative Duties and quarterly reporting.
- **SPC:** Attended TTC meetings. Planning Directors Meeting. Active Transportation meeting. TIP meetings for the TIP Update. Attended the Long Range Plan Conference with SPC.
- **NORTHWEST:** Weekly calls with the Core Connect Committee. CEDS update is in process. Provided assistance with NW Greenways block in ranking projects.
- **GENERAL:** CPDAP meetings. Great Places and Award Committee meetings. APA-PA Board Meeting and Legislative Committee Meetings. Forward Lawrence Board meetings and site committee meetings. Assisting engineers with bid documents for Humphrey Center. Municipal assistance with DCNR grants.

3. Commissioner's Comments:

Dan Vogler – Commissioner Vogler thanked Plain Grove Township supervisors for the use of their facility and mentioned what a great board of supervisors they have and how much we like to have meetings there. He also mentioned the passing of former Judge Stanley McCracken Jr., noting that the flag at the courthouse would be at half mast in memory of him. He stated that after consulting with Frank B. Taylor Engineering and William Humphrey's family, the commissioners are going to rename the Stoughton Road bridge to the William Humphrey Memorial Bridge. A ceremony will be held at the bridge on September 26th, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

Dan Kennedy – The replacement of the roof on the Court House is almost finished and all lighting inside the building has been replaced with LED lights. The school at the former St. Joseph's property will be converted into offices for Children & Youth Services. The process is taking longer than we would like but it is moving along. It was put out to bid today on PENNBID. All bids will be opened on September 15th, 2026. We are hoping to have Children & Youth Services moved in by late Spring 2027. The food pantry will be moving back to the church where it started within the next two weeks. The roof of the former nun's home is being replaced this week and in the future will house families that are at risk of losing their children to foster care.

4. Forward Lawrence:

None

5. Public Comments:

None

6. Old Business:

None

7. New Business:

None

Action Agenda:

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

Chills Car Wash – Shenango Township - Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Mary Burris moved that the Township take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Dave Hammond seconded.
Motion carried 7-0.

Gibsondale Nova Solar – Slippery Rock Township - Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Mary Burris moved that the Township take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. John Logue seconded.
Motion carried 7-0.

Thomas G. Bintrim – Slippery Rock Township - Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Dave Hammond moved that the Township take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Frank Telesz seconded.
Motion carried 7-0.

Green Meadows Solar 2 – Washington Township - Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Frank Telesz moved that the Township take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Mary Burris seconded.
Motion carried 7-0.

Zoning and Municipal Reviews:

New Wilmington Borough – Short-Term Rentals Use – Zoning Amendment
Allen Miller gave a review of the zoning ordinance amendment presented.

Act 14 Notifications:

11 reviews since the June 10th, 2026, meeting. Chris Conti gave a summary of the notices received.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, at 12:00 PM at Scotland Meadows Park located at 1945 Wilson Drive, New Castle, PA.