

**Lawrence County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Washington Township Municipal Building
October 11, 2023
12:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was held at the Washington Township Municipal Building at 12:00 PM on October 11th, 2023.

Attendance

Planning Commission

Board:

James Blundo
Cindy Morabito
Hygeia Moss-Eggleston
Linda Nitch
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:

Dan Vogler, County Commissioner
Loretta Spielvogel, County Commissioner
Brian Burick, County Commissioner
Dick Kretzer, Washington Township Supervisor
Penny Kretzer, Washington Township resident
Jeff McConnell, Washington Township Supervisor
Lorree Houk, Mohawk Area School District
Rick Dudzenski, Mohawk Area School District
Debbie Wachter, New Castle News

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was called to order at 12:06 PM by James Blundo.

Additions/Deletion to Agenda

There were no additions or deletions made to the agenda.

Public Comments

Lorree Houk, Mohawk Area School District – Addressed the Board regarding the Mohawk Area School District land development. She gave a brief overview of the proposed athletic field additions, stating that the current structures are in disrepair.

Regular Agenda

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Cindy Morabito moved, seconded by Frank Telesz to approve the minutes from the September 13th, 2023, meeting. Motion carried, 5-0.

2. **Staff Report:**

- **Comprehensive Plan/Greenways Plans:** DCNR C2P2 Quaker Falls – Phase 2 project. We are working on the timeline, site drawings and bid documents. Bids will be due November 13th. Our office will be performing inspections of all county parks and boat launches. Coordination of maintenance at county parks, trails and Stavich Bike Trail. Working with Delta Development on TASA Application to SPC and PennDOT. Working with Delta Development on Local Share Account application for Stavich Bike Trail. Working with WPC on grant application for boat launches.
- **CDBG:** General administrative duties. Preparing FY2023 application that is due on October 27th. Second public hearing was held on September 26th at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners meeting room. OBO's are conducting meetings to adopt application resolution. Commissioners will adopt a resolution on October 17th. Application is due on October 27th.
- **ARPA:** General Administrative Duties. Quarterly report will be due at the end of October. Meeting with Auditors to review program.
- **SPC:** Attended TTC meetings. Planning Directors Meeting. TIP Work groups have started and will be held monthly. Participating in the SPC Regional Climate Pollution Reduction Plan RFP Consultant Section Committee.
- **RALC:** Administering the Side Yard Program and Countywide Housing and Blight Remediation Program. Working on a Countywide Façade Improvement program and Ellwood City Façade Program. Working with City of New Castle and RAR Engineering on First Merit demolition. Preparing to submit application to PHFA to continue the Countywide Housing and Blight Remediation program.
- **Link-Up Lawrence:** Reviewing Draft document and preparing for adoption.
- **Municipal Assistance:** Assisting local municipalities and organizations. Working with Union Township and PennDOT on Revitalization project.

3. **Commissioner's Comments:**

- Dan Vogler stated that the Commissioner's were unable to attend the August Planning Commission meeting, as they were at the County Commissioner's Association of Pennsylvania conference in Erie, PA at that time. He said that they had also missed the September meeting as they were invited by Visit Lawrence County to a soft opening event at the Lodge at Waters Edge. He discussed the funds given to Beaver and Lawrence counties by Norfolk Southern Railroad due to the train derailment. Lawrence County received \$340,000 which was divided between Little Beaver Township who received \$120,000, Enon Valley Borough who received \$115,000 and the Lawrence County Conservation District who received \$105,000. The Conservation District will be distributing the funds in grants of up to \$5,000 for qualified participants.

- Loretta Spielvogel stated that fire departments responding to the train derailment were eligible to apply for aid and that Norfolk Southern has been paying out timely.
- Brian Burick reminded everyone of the deadline for absentee voting and stated the winners of this year's election will be posted to the county website as they become available.

4. Old Business: None

5. New Business: None

Action Agenda:

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

DOLLAR GENERAL – Bessemer Borough: Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Frank Telesz moved that the Borough take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Linda Nitch seconded.
Motion carried 5-0

MOHAWK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT – North Beaver Township: Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Linda Nitch moved that the Township take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Cindy Morabito seconded.
Motion carried 5-0

Zoning and Municipal Reviews:

Taylor Township – Zoning amendment – Solar Energy Systems

Act 14 Notifications:

Five were reviewed since the September 13th, 2023, meeting.

One letter of support to Wampum Borough for their applications to PENNVEST.

Adjournment: Linda Nitch moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Frank Telesz. Meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, at 12:00 PM at the Shenango Township Municipal Building located at 1000 Willowbrook Road, New Castle, PA.