

**Lawrence County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Ryder's Restaurant
December 11, 2024
12:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was held at Ryder's Restaurant at 12:00 PM on December 11th, 2024.

Attendance

Planning Commission

Board:

Larry Lambo, Chairman
Karolee Loughhead, Vice Chairperson
Mary Burris, Secretary
Everett Bleakney
James Blundo
Ben Bush (alternate)
Hygeia Moss-Eggleston (alternate)
Linda Nitch
Frank Telesz

Staff:

Amy McKinney, Director of Planning
Allen Miller, Deputy Director of Planning
Mary Glass, Office Manager/CDBG Administrator

Guests:

Dan Vogler, County Commissioner
Dan Kennedy, County Commissioner
Debbie Wachter, New Castle News
Ben Rizzo, R.A.R. Engineering Group Inc
Brian Burick, CDC City of New Castle
Kevin Swogger, Ellwood City Borough Manager
Marla Brown, PA State Representative

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was called to order at 12:13 PM by Larry Lambo.

Public Comments:

Marla Brown, State Representative – Expressed her appreciation to the board for the efforts made in the community. She knows the effort it takes to make changes and can see all the good things happening. Through her office they assisted with \$13 million dollars coming back to Lawrence County this last year. Her goal is to make it even more next year. She has asked to be placed on the appropriations committee so she can have direct insight into where the State funds are going. The new session begins on January 7th, 2025.

Regular Agenda

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Karolee Loughhead moved, seconded by Mary Burris to approve the minutes from the November 13th, 2024, meeting. Motion carried, 7-0.

2. **Staff Report:**

- **Comprehensive Plan/Greenways Plans:** DCNR C2P2 Quaker Falls – DCNR conducted our Final Site Inspection on October 30th. Once we have our final report, we can continue to close the grant. Our office will be performing inspections of all county parks and boat launches. We will be overseeing the upgrade and enhancements of all five (5) boat launches thanks to WPC (Western Pennsylvania Conservancy) this spring/summer season. Beyond Corp. and North Beaver Contracting, LLC. have completed the work promptly and efficiently. Rebecca and Mary attended a PRPS workshop on community parks and programs last month in Oil City. Will be applying to DCED to begin work on the update of our 2016 Comprehensive Plan. Received an LSA award for Stavich bike trail rehabilitation. Submitted another LSA application on November 30th.
- **CDBG:** General administrative duties. FY2022 Ellwood City – ADA Curb Ramp Project bids were opened on November 19th. This project will provide access to twelve (19) non-conforming curb ramps in the borough. Plan to award the contract at the December 17th Commissioners Meeting. Working on FY2022 Modification for Shenango Township and will hold a public hearing on 12/12 and present for approval with the Commissioners on 12/17.
- **ARPA:** General Administrative Duties. Next quarterly report is due on 1/30/2025
- **SPC:** Attended TTC meetings. Planning Directors Meeting. Attended the SPC Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Action Committee meetings. Regional initiative to submit a BEAD application for Broadband expansion
- **NORTHWEST:** Attended the NW Planners Meeting. Discussion with the NW for a regional initiative to submit a BEAD application for Broadband expansion. Weekly calls with the Core Connect Committee have been happening ever since.
- **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. Submitted an application to PHFA for Countywide Blight Remediation Program.
- **GENERAL:** Ellwood City Façade Program. CPDAP meeting. APA-PA Board Meetings. APA-PA Legislative meeting and conference.

3. **Commissioner's Comments:**

Dan Vogler- stated that the 2025 budget was introduced on December 10th, 2024. It will be adopted on December 31st, 2024. The budget is balanced and there will be no increase in county real estate taxes.

Dan Kennedy- Thanked the board for their dedication and willingness to serve and gave best wishes for the holiday season.

4. **Forward Lawrence, Ben Bush:** They are in the process of closing out the year and getting the budget approved. There are a couple of projects they are hoping to get finalized. Millenium Park should be finished by December 20th and there are a couple of big projects in the works at Stonecrest. They will be having a conversation on RCAP itemizations on January 6th, 2025 at their office.

5. **Old Business:** None

6. New Business:

- a. **Nominating Committee Report** – recommending Karolee Loughhead as Chairperson, Mary Burris as Vice-Chairperson and Cindy Morabito as Secretary.
- b. **Election of Officers** - Linda Nitch moved, seconded by Frank Telesz to approve officers as recommended by the nominating committee.
Motion Carried 7/0.
- c. **Review of Fee Schedule** – After having discussion with other county planning directors, and not updating our fee schedule in a couple of years, we have decided to increase the office/review fees.
- d. **2025 Meeting Dates** – Meeting dates have been confirmed for the 2025 year.

Action Agenda:

Subdivision and Land Developments: One land development was presented to the Board for review:

Ellwood Remelt Steel – City of New Castle: Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Frank Telesz moved that the City take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Linda Nitch seconded.
Motion carried 7-0.

Zoning and Municipal Reviews:

None

Act 14 Notifications:

5 Reviews since the November 13th, 2024, meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, at 12:00 PM at the Ellport Borough Municipal Building located at 313 Burns Avenue, Ellwood City, PA.