

## MINUTES

### MERCER COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday – April 23, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. – MCRPC Offices

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
FARRELL CITY		Stephen Bennefield Kimberly Doss
HERMITAGE CITY	Jeremy Coxe	James Holl
SHARON CITY	Stephen Theiss	Frank Connelly
CLARK BOROUGH		James Carucci, Sr.
FREDONIA BOROUGH	Patricia McAdams	Bob Reagle
GREENVILLE BOROUGH	Paul Hamill	Janet Earle
GROVE CITY BOROUGH		Shawn P. Myers
JACKSON CENTER BOROUGH		Robert Egger
JAMESTOWN BOROUGH		
MERCER BOROUGH		Caroline DaCosta
NEW LEBANON BOROUGH		
SANDY LAKE BOROUGH	Donald Oakes	Glenn Leech
SHARPSVILLE BOROUGH		Alex Kovach Guy Moderelli
STONEBORO BOROUGH	John Sweet	
WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH	Maleia James Robert Lark	
WHEATLAND BOROUGH	Ron Viglio	Patricia Lewis
COOLSPRING TOWNSHIP	Don Blakesley Robert L. McGhee	
DELAWARE TOWNSHIP	William E. Anthony	
E. LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP		William Hackwelder
FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP		Mont Clark
FINDLEY TOWNSHIP		John B. Courtney Steve Paxton
GREENE TOWNSHIP		Ken Cowher Paul Csonka
HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP	Lisa Holm	Todd Hittle
JACKSON TOWNSHIP		Robert W. Pizor
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP	Garth Falkner	William Dunn
LAKE TOWNSHIP		
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP	Dave Beatty Ron Faull	
NEW VERNON TOWNSHIP		Daniel L. Patterson
OTTER CREEK TOWNSHIP	Carl Swartz Paulette Young	

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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PERRY TOWNSHIP

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PINE TOWNSHIP	Richard Stachel	Fred Brenner
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PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP	David Gregory Gary R. Lowers	
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SANDY LAKE TOWNSHIP		Raymond Scofield
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SHENANGO TOWNSHIP	Dennis DeSilvey Matthew Stefanak	
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S. PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP	Bill Klumph Don Morrow	
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SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP	Rick Dillaman	
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WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP	Bryan Cummings	Diana Caiazza
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WOLF CREEK TOWNSHIP	Charles Weber	Gregory Chiappini
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MERCER COUNTY	James Hughes Larry McAdams	Jeff Fiedler James L. Hogan Jeff Hoy Sheryl Kelly Patty McCluskey
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BOROUGH ASSOCIATION

SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER	Matt McConnell	
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STAFF

Daniel Gracenin, Executive Director  
Carmen Reichard, Assistant Director  
Brian Barnhizer, Senior Planner  
Chris Conti, Senior Planner  
Matt Stewart, Senior Planner  
Lisa Holm, Senior Planner

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Ross Vernon, Mercer Borough

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dennis DeSilvey, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Carl Swartz, Vice-Chairman, led the Commission in the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE SIGN IN

An attendance sign-in sheet was passed around and representatives present were asked to mark their attendance. **A quorum was present.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

There were no public comments.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2019 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Klumph and seconded by Mr. Falkner to approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2019 meeting with no additions, corrections or deletions. The motion passed.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Robert Lark, Treasurer, presented the February and March 2019 Financial Statements. A motion was made by Mr. Falkner and seconded by Mr. Sweet to approve the February and March 2019 Financial Statements as presented. The motion passed.

### STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, explained the 2 safety corridor studies that PennDOT, District 1 will be working on: Route 58, from downtown Greenville to the northern end of Mercer at the Y-intersection; and Route 62, from Keel Ridge Road in Hermitage to downtown Mercer. Consultants are on board for both of these safety studies and both studies are being done in cooperation with PennDOT, with PennDOT taking the lead. Various project update meetings are scheduled for both safety corridor studies with community officials, members of the public and PennDOT. Next, the Traffic Signal Inventory and Improvement Study for Mercer County just started. A consultant was hired from Youngstown, Ohio to gather data from the 102 signalized intersections in Mercer County and they are planning to start the week of May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gracenin, Executive Director, mentioned HB 103 is proposing an amendment to the Municipal Planning Code in PA regarding non-building lots; which would be exempt from Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances. This “Family Heritage Open Space Protection Act” would be a big deal in Mercer County. He mentioned that he called Senator Michelle Brooks to discuss HB 103 since this amendment could affect Mercer County in many ways. If the amendment would pass, then certain wording should be added to clarify the process on how to tract these subdivisions for non-building lots for future years down the road.

### ZONING & SUBDIVISION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Larry McAdams, Committee Chairman, noted that the Committee met last week, a quorum was present, and reviewed the following items:

1. Coolspring Township – Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update – Text and Map – Mr. McAdams stated that the Coolspring Township Planning Commission and Supervisors have worked to update their zoning ordinance and map. The sign section was separated to a stand-alone ordinance to improve enforcement of the sign regulations. **A motion was made by Mr. McAdams to approve the updated zoning ordinances as presented. Mr. Hughes seconded. The motion passed.**

2. Jackson Township Zoning Ordinance – Text Amendment – Mr. McAdams explained that the proposed amendment is to allow major Solar Energy systems in the R-1 Agriculture District of Jackson Township. The Committee discussed the proposed amendment and several changes including making this a permitted use by special exception and clarifying the terminology used. **A motion was made by Mr. McAdams to approve the amendment for approval upon updates as proposed. Mr. Hughes seconded, but made a comment in favor of this text amendment.** Ms. Holm mentioned that she received today an updated version from the consultant and Jackson Township to clarify the terminology being used for this text amendment. “The 150 acres would be a fenced in area with solar panels, not to exceed 20 feet in height.” She feels this could become a good model for other municipalities getting solar energy in their community. **The motion passed.**

### AUTHORIZATION FOR COMMITTEES TO ACT ON BEHALF OF FULL COMMISSION IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Mr. DeSilvey, Chairman, noted that the full Commission does not meet in June, July and August, but would need to authorize the Committees of the Commission to act on behalf of the full Commission. A motion was made by Mr. Anthony to authorize the Committees of the Commission to act on behalf of the full Commission for the months of June, July and August. Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion passed.

#### SUMMER PICNIC

Mr. Gracenin, Executive Director, mentioned that MCRPC has annually held a summer picnic in July for its members, and will try to avoid holding the picnic when various fairs would be going on in Mercer County. He noted that a flyer will be sent out 3-4 weeks prior to the picnic with all the details. A motion was made by Mr. Sweet to approve holding a summer picnic sometime in July this year. Mr. Falkner seconded. The motion passed.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner McConnell reported that the Route 19 property is still moving forward on possibly selling to a Distribution Center and could net 200-600 jobs. Under Mercer County Bridges, he noted that Michigan Design Bridge is not permitted in PA, so they are talking with Design Build Group. With this company, the design would be for folded steel, which takes away the height from older, open grate bridge design, which can reduce costs almost in half.

Mr. Gracenin reported that he sits on the Northwest Planning Commission's Board and they currently have been working the past 2-3 months on an Oil and Gas Study, which should be finalized sometime in May. Basically the Study was looking at the 8-county region on how they might be able to capitalize on the cracker plant in Beaver. The study has been looking at what the needs might be and what type of businesses that might want to move into the area and build and look at acreage, infrastructure and utilities that would be needed. A GIS project was built into this study that will identify properties in each of the Counties. Also, the Neighborhood Assistance Program Applications is open and if any communities are interested in doing this tax credit, should apply now. The business that might apply for the tax credit does not have to be in your community, it could be any business. He noted that this is a very good program and there is roughly \$30 million available for tax credits this year.

Mr. Anthony mentioned that at the PSATS Conference this year, 45% of all calls that the State Police respond to are in communities that have their own police departments. Also, there are only 2 Counties without ambulance service available.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted and Certified By:

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Gary Lowers, Secretary – MCRPC

Date: \_\_\_\_\_