

Northampton County Council of Governments
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2020, 11:30am
Department of Human Services Building
2801 Emrick Blvd., Bethlehem, PA 18020

Attendees:

Tina Smith	Northampton County DCED
Mark Hartney	Northampton County DCED
Frank Brooks	Northampton County DCED
Karen Collis	Northampton County DCED
Sarah Ortiz	Northampton County DCED
Rebecca Sanchez	Northampton County DCED
Dawn Tomaino	Northampton County DCED
Amanda Raudenbush	Bethlehem Township
Julie Bender	Bushkill Township
Belinda Roberts	Bushkill Township
Gerald Gasda	Freemansburg Borough
Don Lasso	Freemansburg Borough
John Diacogiannis	Hanover Township
John Finnigan	Hanover Township
Cathy Hartranft	Hellertown Borough
Mary Wilford-Hunt	Lafayette College
Sandra Newman	Lower Mt. Bethel Township
Jim Pennington	Lower Nazareth Township
Priscilla DeLeon	Lower Saucon Township
Leslie Huhn	Lower Saucon Township
Geoff Reese	LVPC
Lance Colondo	Nazareth Borough
Elizabeth Wyant	Nazareth Borough
LeRoy Brobst	Northampton Borough
Becky Bartlett	Northampton County Administration
Cynthia Carmen Kramer	Palmer Township
Robin Zmoda	Pen Argyl Borough
Thomas Petrucci	Plainfield Township
Brian Fenstermaker	Office of PA Senator Mario Scavello
Bob Kilbanks	Office of State Rep. Joe Emrick
Lisa Amy	Office of State Rep. Marcia Hahn
Stephen Strella	Office of State Rep. Zach Mako
Selina Winchester	Office of US Representative Susan Wild
Connor Corpora	Office of US Senator Bob Casey
Marta Gabriel	Office of US Senator Pat Toomey
Stephen Reider	Slate Belt Rising
Deanne Werkheiser	Tatamy Borough
Ed Nelson	Upper Mt. Bethel Township

Welcome and Introductions

Director of DCED, Tina Smith welcomed all in attendance and introduced County Executive Lamont McClure. Mr. McClure thanked everyone for coming and discussed that partisanship is warehouse proliferation and being mindful of tax base. He mentioned the Slate Belt's comprehensive plan for growth and that they can charter their own course.

The County Executive then introduced Connor Corpora from Senator Bob Casey's Allentown office. Connor apologized for the Senator not being able to attend the meeting. He mentioned the Federal Grants that are available. Connor said if anyone would need a phone call on their behalf or a letter of support written, they should not hesitate to contact the Senator's office.

Presenters

Northampton County Department of Community & Economic Development

Before introducing the DCED Team, Tina encouraged everyone to attend one of the grant workshops being offered. She recommended that everyone take one of the grant workshop schedules available on the front table.

Frank Brooks: Handles the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which opens on March 2, 2020 and closes on May 15, 2020. Frank also mentioned that funds are available to Northampton County families for Lead Hazard Control. Lead is a menace that effects young children and is usually found in homes built before 1978.

Karen Collis: Handles the Hotel Tax Grant program that opens on April 13, 2020 and closes on June 12, 2020. This is geared towards promoting tourism to increase visitors to the County. Karen mentioned that there is a 25% match minimum and events/activities need to occur in Northampton County.

Sarah Ortiz: Handles the Community Investment Partnership Program (CIPP) that opens May 11, 2020 and closes July 10, 2020. Later this year, CIPP will be getting a new name. The other program she handles is the Affordable Housing Program (AHP) that opens July 13, 2020 and closes September 11, 2020.

Mark Hartney then introduced Rebecca Sanchez who can assist in helping write grants.

Debi Rice, Fun-Nominal Events & Marketing

Debi discussed the 2nd Annual Northampton County Festival that will be held on Saturday, May 23, from 11am – 5pm at Louise Moore Park. She shared a PowerPoint that provided information on this year's festival and pictures from last year's event. Debi discussed the awards ceremony that will be held at 1:30pm. Nominations can be made for Outstanding Volunteer, Outstanding Youth, Outstanding Veteran, Outstanding Emergency Personnel and new this year, Economic Development. Nominations can be made by submitting a 250-word essay on why the nominee deserves to win. The deadline for nominations is May 1.

Greg Zebrowski

Greg started by recognizing Geoffrey Reese (LVPC) for his outstanding service in working to encourage smart development in the Lehigh Valley without diminishing air quality, water quality & usage and land usage. He commended Northampton County for increasing the amount of funds for open space, passive water flow and building the solar powered Forensic Center. He mentioned that the Lehigh Valley has rated F in air quality and we need to take a proactive approach and be a voice for research development to improve. Greg announced the Climate Summit that Northampton County will be holding on May 20, 2020 at Lehigh University Iacocca Conference Center. He mentioned that there would be speakers on the health effects of climate change and Green Building for Residential and Commercial. He encouraged everyone to attend this free event.

Mark Hartney, DCED

Mark updated on key initiatives. The County Blight Strategy will be broken up in to two phases: County related & Municipalities. There will be an online tool kit and training available. He also mentioned the Historic & Cultural Assets program. There are tools and resources that are available at the local level. More information will be provided at future COG meetings.

Adjournment

Tina Smith thanked all participants for coming and the guest speakers for their informative presentations. She announced that we look forward to seeing everyone attend one of the Grant Workshops and that they should let us know if there is anything that they would like to discuss or hear about at future COG meetings. Tina let all participants know to help themselves to information provided on the Grant Workshops, 2020 Grant Schedule, County Festival, Climate Summit and Lead program. There were also yard signs and information on the 2020 Census.

The next meeting of the Northampton County Council of Governments will be held on **Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at the Department of Human Services Building from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 pm.** Please forward any issues or concerns along with topics to be included on the next meeting agenda to TSmith@northamptoncounty.org.