



Blair Planning

Blair County Planning Commission
Altoona Metropolitan Planning Organization
Blair County Government Advisory Committee

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of April 25, 2024 8:30 AM
Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call – The meeting will begin with a roll call of the members to publicly determine who is present as well as determine if a quorum is present.
2. Approval of Minutes – Consideration of the combined March 28, 2024 minutes of the Blair County Planning Commission Meeting.
3. Public Comment Period – Public comment will be received at this time.

APPOINTMENT

4. Pennsylvania Department of Aging -Presentation on the new state plan, *Aging Our Way*, A Plan for Lifelong Independence.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

5. Kulp Family Farm LLC – Located at 1691 Millerstown Road, in North Woodbury Township. This development proposal includes construction of a storage barn, a calf barn, associated gravel driveway, infiltration beds and vegetative areas.
6. Pleasant View Farms – Located at 261 Pleasant View Farms Road, in the Townships of Taylor and North Woodbury. This development proposal includes construction of a freestall barn, associated gravel driveways and stormwater management facilities.
7. Staff Level Subdivision and Land Development Reviews:
 - City of Altoona -Dale Oxygen Storage, Pleasant Valley Boulevard
 - City of Altoona – Saylor Subdivision, Bellview Street and Hazel Avenue
 - Tyrone Borough – Walk Subdivision, 5th Street
 - Allegheny Township – Snyder Lot Line Change, Walker Road
 - Catharine Township – Baker Subdivision, Yellow Springs Drive
 - Frankstown Township – Litzinger Subdivision, Locke Mountain Road
 - Frankstown Township – Stultz Side Lot Addition
 - Freedom Township – Beckenbaugh Subdivision, Puzzletown Road
 - Greenfield Township – Burket Subdivision, Burket Hollow Road
 - Greenfield Township – Mowry Subdivision, Buttermilk Hollow Road
 - Huston Township – Caruso Lot Line Relocation, Eastep Road
 - Snyder Township – Harrison-Corl Property Line Change, Cooks Hollow Road
 - Taylor Township – Metzler Subdivision, Frosty Hollow Road

METROPOLITAN CLEARINGHOUSE

8. Staff Level Reviews: Planning staff has reviewed and responded to the following requests since the last meeting. Commission members were given an opportunity via email to review these requests prior to response letters being sent:
 - **Antis Township** – Northern Blair Recreation Commission – Application to PA DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant – Facilities Expansion Phase II
 - **Catharine Township** – Grannas Brothers Asphalt Co. – Application to PA DEP for Air Quality Permit Renewal – Stone Crushing and Asphalt Plant
 - **Frankstown Township** – Stiffler McGraw for Frankstown Township – Application to PA Infrastructure Investment Authority for PENNVEST funding – Rolling Hills and Oldtown Village Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project
 - **Taylor Township** – New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, Inc - Application to PA DEP for NPDES Permit Renewal – Discharge at Roaring Spring Quarry
 - **Woodbury, Catharine, and Logan Townships** – Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc. for Penelec – Application for Chapter 102 NPDES and Chapter 105 Permit – Warrior Ridge 46 kV W-Line Rebuild Project

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

9. BRAVE Update – Update on the public and municipal outreach efforts undertaken in support of the 2025 update of the Blair County Hazard Mitigation Plan (BRAVE).
10. Planning Director's Report - The Planning Director will give a brief update on professional development and administrative issues for the organization.
11. Commissioner Liaison Forum - This is an opportunity for the Commissions' liaison to make any reports, comments, or findings to the Planning Commission.
12. Planning Commissions' Forum - This is an opportunity for Planning Commission members to bring items of relevant interest to the attention of the body as a whole.
13. Questions from the Media – This is an opportunity for the media to ask any questions needed to clarify any points made or agenda items discussed during the meeting.
14. Upcoming Events:
 - May 8 to 10– APA Virtual Conference
 - May 10 – CPDAM quarterly meeting
 - May 14 to 15 - G271 Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparedness
 - May 15 – Southern Alleghenies monthly CAP meeting
 - May 15 –PennDOT Connects District 9
 - May 16 – Fall PPM Planning monthly meeting
 - May 20 – Hazard Mitigation Committee meeting
 - May 27 – Memorial Day, office closed
 - May 30 – MPO 2025 TIP Public Meeting on Draft Title IV Program

ADJOURNMENT

The next board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 AM on May 30, 2024 at the Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania.



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BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes for April 25, 2024

Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania

CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call --

Members present:

William R. Hall, Chairperson
James M. Dixon, Treasurer
Patrick Baechle, Secretary
Nicola Ardizzone
Lawrence Carter
Thomas M. Holsinger
Herbert Shelow, Sr.
Linda Smith

Representing:

Townships Collectively
City of Altoona
Boroughs Collectively
City of Altoona
City of Altoona
Townships Collectively
Boroughs Collectively
Townships Collectively

Members absent:

Benjamin Postles
Amy Webster, Commissioner

Townships Collectively
Commissioner Liaison

Guests:

Walt Frank
Carol Dannenberg
Nathan Lampenfeld, (via phone)
Jessica Pierce, (via phone)

Altoona Mirror
Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog
PA Department of Aging
PA Department of Aging

Staff:

David McFarland III, Planning Director
Sherry Socie, Strategic Planner
MacKenzie Caron, Regional Planner
Emily Evey, Community Planner
Wes Burket, Transportation Planner
Rhonda Kelly, Planning Aide

Staff Absent: none

2. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made to approve the Planning Commission minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting; Motion passed.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting, Item #2 on this agenda:

Moved: Lawrence Carter

Seconded: James Dixon

Voted: 8 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

3. Public Comment Period – No public comment.

APPOINTMENT

4. PA Department of Aging – Nathan Lampenfeld, TITLE and Jessica Pierce, Executive Assistant were present for today's meeting via phone to present the draft 10-year strategic plan, *Aging Our Way PA, A Plan for Lifelong Independence*; with the goal to coordinate infrastructure and services for older adults. The strategic tactics for the Plan were developed from the input from older adults (60+), family and caregivers of older adults and from the collaborated

efforts of 'sister' agencies, the Governor's office and community partners in each county; the strategic tactics include: **unlocking access** by eliminating barriers; **aging in the community** in terms of maintaining secure housing; **gateways to independence** through safe and unhindered mobility; **caregiver supports** such as support, training, respite and navigation tools; **education and navigation** to streamline resolution of complex problems.

The input was obtained via direct engagement sessions with the Area Agencies On Aging from each county, as well as a phone survey and an on-line version. The survey questions were framed around eight (8) domains of livability: **•Housing, •Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, •Transportation, •Civic Participation and Employment, •Communication and Information, •Respect and Social Inclusion, •Social Participation, and •Health Services and Community Supports**. Survey results indicate significant concern with Housing and Transportation; the public comment topics of concern for older adults included: exclusion in terms of daily living centers, LIFE programming and incarceration, behavioral health and suicide prevention, next steps to implement the plan, language changes and tactic suggestions, and language support/concern in terms of legal immigrants and refugees.

The public comment period ended March 2024; the final draft of the Plan to be published in May, which is Older Americans Month. The publication of the Plan will be available to view on the *Aging Our Way, PA* website.

A Q&A period focused on this plan assisting smaller communities to access grant funds for smaller projects for safe walkability purposes like sidewalk repairs, parking and lighting enhancements; this is accomplished by focusing on several small communities that group their microprojects together to raise cost to meet the threshold requirement. Comments were also heard regarding sidewalk maintenance in terms of homeowner/landlord responsibility.

Ms. Pierce explained that she is currently working on the state-level, age-friendly designation application, which does not have eligibility requirements. This initiative is coordinated through AARP. Although there are no eligibility requirements, there are steps to be completed in the designation process; one of the steps is to compile an inventory of what programs and infrastructure currently exist. This designation provides toolkits, reassurances and shared grant opportunities.

Mr. McFarland stated the City has interest in several programs mentioned regarding housing codes but not for discussion at this time. Ms. Pierce noted that in addition to building new durable housing resources, the EDUs and ECHOs, the SHARE program also provides housing resources.

Mr. Lampenfeld and Ms. Pierce thanked the Planning Board and welcomed any further questions/comments and that they can be reached via phone email.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

5. Kulp Family Farm LLC – located along Cove Mountain Road in North Woodbury Township. The development plan proposes construction of a 10,800 sf hay and equipment storage building and two 17,920 sf calf barns; along with associated gravel driveways and a concrete tank for stormwater management. Consultation with PennDOT BOA and possibly the FAA as this site is located within a Federal Aviation Airport Hazard Area; if determined to be a risk to air traffic, the developer must follow Penn DOT BOA and/or FAA restriction and mitigation requirements.

The presence of the 100-year floodplain exists, however the proposed structures would not be located within the hazard area. The site is located within the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River Watershed; due to the proposed stormwater management controls, the post-construction stormwater runoff rates are calculated to be lower than pre-construction, which should help mitigate negative impacts on the watershed. Board member comment was heard regarding the 100-year flood plain in terms of drainage in front of the barns.

In summary, this proposal is consistent with countywide planning efforts as presented in the *Alleghenies Ahead* Regional Comprehensive Plan, adopted July 31, 2018, which includes comprehensive planning for Blair County.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #5 on this agenda

Moved: Linda Smith

Seconded: James Dixon

Voted: 8 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

6. Pleasant View Farms – located at 261 Pleasant View Farms Road in the Townships of Taylor and North Woodbury. The development plan submitted proposes construction of a 88,200 sf freestall barn, associated gravel driveways and pads, infiltration basins and grassy areas. Because this development is currently an operational farm, the additional vehicle traffic is not expected to create a negative impact on the local transportation system.

The site contains the presence of prime ag soils and is completely within an Agricultural Security Area; however, this is not a concern as the proposed structures would not be located in the flood hazard areas and because the structures are for agricultural-related business, are compatible with the land use for the Agricultural Security Areas. Consultation with PennDOT BOA and possibly the FAA as this site is located within a Federal Aviation Airport Hazard Area; if determined to be a risk to air traffic, the developer must follow Penn DOT BOA and/or FAA restriction and mitigation requirements. The site is located within the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River Watershed; due to the proposed stormwater management controls, the post-construction stormwater runoff rates are calculated to be lower than pre-construction, which should help mitigate negative impacts on the watershed. Board member comment was heard regarding the 100-year flood plain in terms of drainage in front of the barns.

Dialogue continued with regard to the aviation regulations.

In summary, this proposal is consistent with countywide planning efforts as presented in the *Alleghenies Ahead* Regional Comprehensive Plan, adopted July 31, 2018, which includes comprehensive planning for Blair County.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #6 on this agenda
Moved: James Dixon
Seconded: Nicola Ardizzone
Voted: 8 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

7. Staff Level Reviews – Planning staff has reviewed and responded to the following applications since the last meeting. Commission members were given an opportunity via email to review these applications prior to response letters being sent:

- City of Altoona –Dale Oxygen Storage, Pleasant Valley Boulevard
- City of Altoona – Saylor Subdivision, Bellview Street and Hazel Avenue
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- Huston Township – Caruso Lot Line Relocation, Eastep Road
- Snyder Township – Harrison-Corl Property Line Change, Cooks Hollow Road
- Taylor Township – Metzler Subdivision, Frosty Hollow Road

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #7 on this agenda
Moved: Nicola Ardizzone
Seconded: Thomas Holsinger
Voted: 8 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

METROPOLITAN CLEARINGHOUSE

8. Staff Level Reviews – Planning staff has reviewed and responded to the following requests since the last meeting. Commission members are given opportunity via email to review these requests prior to response letters being sent:

- **Antis Township** – Northern Blair Recreation Commission – Application to PA DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant – Facilities Expansion Phase II
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Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations listed for Item #8 on this agenda

Moved: James Dixon

Seconded: Lawrence Carter

Voted: 8 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

9. BRAVE Update – The public outreach section of the update process is nearly complete; a public survey is currently in circulation with a response deadline of May 15, 2024. The survey form is available online and paper copies are available at the Planning Commission Office. Mr. McFarland encouraged those present to get the word out and encourage people they know to provide their input. He also stated the Planning Commission is open to receive feedback via email and/or folks can stop by the Planning Office.

The Planning Commission is also gearing up to develop the County's Stormwater Management Plan.

10. Planning Director's Report –

- **A. Annual APA Conference** - Mr. McFarland reported he did not attend the conference this year, as the material is mostly recurrent rather than new, updated information. Transportation Planner Wes Burket will attend the conference virtually to obtain credits to maintain his certification as the State's only certified Transportation Planner.
- **B. New Staff Member** – A new Community Planner has been hired for the Blair Planning Commission, Emily Evey with a starting salary of \$40,000.00.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #10B. on this agenda

Moved: Patrick Baechle

Seconded: Nicola Ardizzone

Voted: 8 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

- **C. Part-time Regional Planner** – The current Regional Planner, MacKenzie Caron will remain with the Blair Planning Commission on a part-time basis as this time. She is primarily focused on the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Chairman Hall offered comment that he does not want to see MacKenzie go, he understands her decision.

11. Commissioner Liaison Forum –Commissioner Webster was not in attendance for this meeting.

12. Commissioners' Forum – no comments at this meeting.

13. Question From the Media – No questions.

14. Upcoming Events:

- May 8 to 10– APA Virtual Conference
- May 10 – CPDAM quarterly meeting
- May 14 to 15 - G271 Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparedness
- May 15 – Southern Alleghenies monthly CAP meeting
- May 15 –PennDOT Connects District 9
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- May 20 – Hazard Mitigation Committee meeting
- May 27 – Memorial Day, office closed
- May 30 – MPO 2025 TIP Public Meeting on Draft Title IV Program

ADJOURNMENT

The next Planning Commission Board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at the Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Moved: Linda Smith

Seconded: Thomas Holsinger

Voted: 8 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted

Shonda Kelly

Date Minutes Approved

May 30, 2024

