



Blair Planning

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

BLAIR PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA April 24, 2025 Meeting Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue Altoona, PA

CALL TO ORDER at 8:30 a.m.

1. Roll Call - to publicly determine which members are present and if a quorum is present.
2. Approval of Minutes - Meeting minutes of the February 27, 2025 meeting for approval.
3. Public Comment Period - Public comment will be received at this time on all matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda. Public comments regarding specific development applications or agenda items will be taken when those items come up for consideration.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

4. Dollar General -PC3 - PrimeCore Dollar General submitted a development project located at 404 East 25th Avenue, in the City of Altoona. The proposed project includes construction of a new 7,489 sf commercial retail building, new sidewalks, driveway improvements, parking, stormwater and landscaping.
5. Central PA Humane Society - Antis Township submitted a development project located along Old 6th Avenue in the Township of Antis. The proposed project includes construction of a new 23,000 sf building for kennels, vet clinic, administration offices and a common area. The proposal includes paved parking and driving surfaces to adjacent building as well as stormwater detention facilities.
6. Commonwealth Charter Academy Altoona - Allegheny Township submitted a land development project located along Sheraton Drive in the Township of Allegheny. This project proposes construction of a 20,168 sf building with associated access drive and parking area, stormwater management
7. BL Hileman Hollow Solar Project - Geotech Engineers submitted a development project located along Buttermilk Hollow and Ski Gap Roads in the Township of Greenfield. The proposed project includes construction of a 20MWac photovoltaic solar farm that will consist of three (3) solar array areas.
8. 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: Sheetz #354 Car Wash Rebuild, Valley View Blvd and 17th Street Intersection
 - City of Altoona: Central PA Surgery Center Renovations, 914 S 12th Street

- Duncansville Borough: AT&T Tower, Stone Way
- Hollidaysburg Borough: McLanahan Lot Consolidation & Subdivision, Wall Street
- Roaring Spring Borough: Carter Subdivision, Main Street
- Roaring Spring Borough: Renee Noel Lot Merge, East Main Street
- Allegheny and Logan Townships: Sugar Run Enterprises/Joe Sheetz Subdivision and Merger
- Antis Township: Blazier Lot Line Relocation-Merger, Antis Road
- Frankstown Township: Knab and Goss Lot Merger Plan II, West Loop Road
- Frankstown Township: Shank Lot Merge, Woodlawn Terrace and Manor Drive
- Juniata Township: Ritchey & Helsel Lot Line Relocation/Merge, Keven Drive
- Logan Township: Beiswenger Lot Consolidation, Gwin Road
- Logan Township: McTigue Lot Consolidation, Holly Ridge Drive and Hillside Drive
- Logan Township: Ritchey Lot Consolidation, Buckhorn Road
- Taylor Township: Lamar Keith Food Truck Development, Cove Mountain Road
- Snyder Township: Sharer Subdivision, Bald Eagle Pike (TR520)

REVIEW OF ACTIONS BY GOVERNING BODIES

9. Tyrone Borough -Zoning Ordinance Amendment to include drive-thru lanes and windows at eating and drinking establishments in the T-C Town Center commercial District.

METROPOLITAN CLEARINGHOUSE

10. Regional Greenways Plan Update -SAP& DC is requesting a letter of support and resolution to accompany their grant application for the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) of the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for \$212,500 to fund a \$250,000 project. This project will prepare a new greenways and open space network plan to replace Connections in our Landscape, The Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan (completed in 2007). If the Plan is not updated, DCNR grant applicants from our region will lose points in consideration for funding. If the GTRP grant is secured, it will fund 85% of the \$250,000 cost, leaving 15% (\$37,500) of the project to be shared equally by the six counties (\$6,250 each).
11. ATV Economic Impact Study -A letter of support for a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct a study for Central Allegheny Highlands ATV, evaluating the economic impact of off-road destination ATV facilities on the local and regional economy.
12. 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:
 - **City of Altoona** - Stiffler McGraw for Sheetz, Inc. - Sheetz #14 Altoona Rebuild - NPDES and Chapter 102 Land Development Permit Application to PA DEP
 - **Bellwood Borough** -Stiffler McGraw for Bellwood Borough Authority - Grant Application to DCED PA Small Water and Sewer Program -East Maple Avenue Water line Replacement Project
 - **Hollidaysburg Borough & Blair Township** - Keller Engineers for Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority - Stowell Farm Interceptor - Land Planning Review for Commonwealth Financing Authority Small Water and Sewer Grant Program

- **Hollidaysburg Borough** - Stiffler McGraw for Hollidaysburg Borough - Grant Application to DCED PA Small Water and Sewer Program -Gaysport Stormwater Management Project
- **Martinsburg Borough** - LSSE Civil Engineers and Surveyors for Martinsburg Municipal Authority - Grant Application to DCED PA Small Water and Sewer Program - Galvanized Steel Water Service Line Replacement Project
- **Martinsburg Borough** - LSSE Civil Engineers and Surveyors for Martinsburg Municipal Authority - Land Planning Review for Blank Book Sewage Lift Station Rehabilitation Project - PA Small Water and Sewer Grant
- **Roaring Spring Borough** - Keller Engineers for Roaring Spring Municipal Authority - Land Planning Review for Asbestos Waterline Replacement Project -PA Small Water & Sewer Grant
- **Tyrone Borough & Snyder Township** - Keller Engineers for PennDOT - Application to PA DEP for Chapter 102 Permit for Land Development for Pavement Preservation and Slope Stabilization
- **Tyrone Borough** - Rettew for Tyrone Borough - Grant Application to DCED PA Small Water and Sewer Program - Pennsylvania Avenue Sewer Repairs
- **Williamsburg Borough & Woodbury Township** - Keller Engineers for PennDOT Engineering District 9-0 - Application to PA DEP Chapter 105 Permit - Williamsburg Pavement Preservation and Drainage Improvements
- **Allegheny Township** - Rettew for Altoona Water Authority - Application to PA DEP for Air Quality Permit for Westerly Wastewater Treatment Plant
- **Blair Township** - Reservoir Road Sanitary Sewer Extension Project - NEPA Environmental Review for Use of CDBG Funds
- **Greenfield Township** - Keller Engineers for Sheetz, Inc. - Application to PA DEP for Minor Permit Modification to Chapter 102 Land Development Permit for Sheetz Logistic Center Expansion
- **Huston Township** - Scotch Hill Solutions for Kulp Family Dairy, LLC - Waste Storage Facility - Chapter 102 Permit for Land Development and NPDES Permit Application to PA DEP
- **Snyder Township** - Rettew for Tyrone Borough Water Treatment Plant - Application to PA DEP for PWS Permit for Tyrone WTP Filter Rehabilitation Project

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

13. Blair Planning Commission By-Laws -Adoption of updated By-Laws.
14. Planning Director's Report -The Planning Director will present items of relevant information not included above.
 - Combined Sewer System public outreach meeting
 - National Planning Conference
 - Allegheny Highlands Association of Realtors - Housing Needs
 - PA Transportation Alliance - Transit Needs
 - Southern Alleghenies CAP - Planning Commission outreach
 - Aging in Place Regional Engagement (PA Lt. Gov)

15. Planning Commissioner Liaison Forum - This is an opportunity for the Commissions' liaison to make any reports, comments, or findings to the Planning Commission.
16. Planning Commissioners' Forum - This is an opportunity for Planning Commission members to bring items of relevant interest to the attention of the body as a whole.
17. 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.
18. Announcements
 - April 23-25 - National Planning Conference Online Sessions
 - April 28 - Pennsylvania Quarterly Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
 - April 30 -- Community Sustainability Expo, Palmer Museum of Art
 - May 2 - 'We Glow Together' Curve Fundraiser Game -PNG Field
 - May 6 - Blair County CAP Planning Commission Outreach Meeting
 - May 6 & 7 - South Central Mountain Regional Taskforce Symposium
 - May 10 - 'We Glow Together' Fundraiser Walk -PNG Field
 - May 16 - CPDAP meeting
 - May 26 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

ADJOURNMENT

The next board meeting will on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona PA.



BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES April 24, 2025 - Regular Meeting
Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania

CALL TO ORDER – 8:30 P.M.

1. Roll Call --

Members present:

James M. Dixon, Treasurer
Nicola Ardizzone, Secretary
Patrick Baechle
Lawrence Carter
Linda Smith
Amy Webster, Commissioner

Representing:

Region 3
Region 3
Region 5
Region 5
Region 6
Commissioner Liaison

Members absent:

Herbert Shelow, Chairperson
Todd Lewis
Benjamin Postles

Region 2
Region 1
Region 4

Guests:

Jeff Raykes, Consultant
Walt Frank

Stuart Group Consulting
Altoona Mirror

Staff:

David McFarland III, Planning Director
MacKenzie Caron, Regional Planner
Sherry Socie, Strategic 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 February 27, 2025 meeting; motion passed.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 27, 2025 meeting, Item #2 on this agenda:

Moved: Lawrence Carter

Seconded: James Dixon

Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

3. Public Comment Period –No comment.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Jeff Raykes of Stuart Group Consulting, provided an overview on the following proposed developments.

4. Dollar General -PC3

Location: 404 East 25th Avenue, City of Altoona.

Development, Access and Comments: This plan proposes construction of a 7,500 sf Dollar General store on a site where a Pizza Hut was demolished in 2024. The project parking, utility work, new landscaping, stormwater infiltration trenches, a rain garden, and sidewalk installation along both East 25th Ave and Juniata Gap Road. Access to 25th Avenue and Juniata Gap Road will involve reconstruction; the southern access point will be closed. A sidewalk waiver is requested for the 26th Avenue side to retain shrubbery for screening. The proposed plan suggests the new stormwater improvements will reduce the peak flow impact of storm events. Traffic volume is expected to be lower than when the previous restaurant occupied the site.

Consistency with County Comprehensive Plan: In summary, this proposal is found to be consistent with the 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 #4 on this agenda

Moved: Lawrence Carter

Seconded: James Dixon

Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

5. Central PA Humane Society

Location: Old 6th Avenue Road, Township of Antis.

Development, Access and Comments: This plan proposes construction of a new 23,000 sf building for a dog and cat kennel facility, administration offices and a vet clinic. The plan also proposes paved parking and driving surfaces and stormwater detention facilities, lawn and outdoor areas for a dog park and visitor use. The plan proposes two new accesses to a state right-of-way that will require highway occupancy permits from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Environmentally there are no wetlands. A sewage planning exemption is anticipated.

Consistency with County Comprehensive Plan: In summary, this proposal is generally consistent with the countywide planning efforts as presented in the Alleghenies Ahead Regional Comprehensive Plan, adopted July 31, 2018, which includes comprehensive planning for Blair County. Due to the nature of this Boards comments and concerns with traffic, stormwater management, and surrounding infrastructure at the site, the Planning Commission requests any significant changes or provisions be submitted by Antis Township for a cursory review.

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

Moved: Patrick Baechle

Seconded: Lawrence Carter

Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

6. Commonwealth Charter Academy Altoona -

Location: Along Sheraton Drive in Township of Allegheny.

Development, Access and Comments: This plan proposes new construction of a two-story educational building/facility of 20,171 s.f. and an assumed (but not indicated) total of 40,342 s.f. The proposed building site is on top of an 8.5% sloped hill that will require the new access road (2,050' long, 24' wide) to follow a circular, horseshoe curve. The plan includes parking and stormwater management facilities while the public water and sanitary sewer will be extended to the building site. The Township should ask for clarification as to the actual usage of this building/facility, along with an analysis to support the proposed number of parking spaces; if fewer are needed, a waiver for a smaller and less impactful parking lot would be in order.

Environmentally, the development will alter the landscape by removal of woodland and grading for the development pad and access road. The plan proposes two stormwater infiltration basins to minimize the impact

of the runoff; it is recommended that calculations should be included for additional impervious area with regard to the possible addition to the building. The Township should ensure it receives a full stormwater management plan that includes the grading and site development and should be reviewed by a professional engineer. The Township would benefit from knowing the potential of increased traffic, (not included in the Plan) PennDOT should also be alerted of this proposed development; the highway occupancy permit may need revised for the private Sheraton Drive. Clarification should be provided of who is the property owner on which the development will occur.

Consistency with County Comprehensive Plan: In summary, this proposal is found to be consistent with the 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: Patrick Baechle

Opposed: Lawrence Carter

Voted: 4 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

7. **BL Hileman Hollow Solar Project** –

Location: Along Buttermilk Hollow Road and Ski Gap Road in Township of Greenfield

Development, Access and Comments: This solar farm plan proposes three solar arrays (southern 57 acres, central 49 acres, northern 46 acres) totaling 39,101 solar modules (panels) generating 20MW of electricity. The plan includes associated laydown areas, internal roadways, and stormwater management consisting of an infiltration basin and multiple rain gardens. The module racks are to be installed on steel “h-pile” beams with typical arrays reaching 10’ when panels are in their most vertical position. Construction will take 6 to 12 months. The access roads serving the arrays are Buttermilk Hollow Road and Ski Gap Road; the applicant will cooperate with the township and school district to minimize interference with local traffic and school bus schedules. It is recommended that a highway occupancy permit be obtained for each access point as it is a state road; additionally the Township should work with PennDOT regarding the access points, as Buttermilk Hollow Road access is at an offset (not aligned) and the Ski Gap Road access has minimal separation from Hillsboro Lane.

Environmentally, the site is currently a mix of farm field, meadow, woodland and scrub with rolling slopes ranging up to 20%. The parcels include flood hazard areas and wetlands, however the proposed area of disturbance avoids all of these. Greenfield Township’s solar ordinance (enacted in 2023) requires a perimeter fence/barrier, underground on-site electrical lines, a 50’ buffer to property lines, minimal lighting and a plan for decommissioning the project including provision of financial security. There are several animal species in the project area that require certain avoidance and conservation measures to be followed.

The signature approvals on the Plan should indicate approval under the Township’s SALDO, not the County’s and the Blair County Planning Commission’s approval should be without reference to a county SALDO. Additionally, the property owner certifications should be for all owners of development; the plan submitted has certifications only for the Hileman properties, but none for the Frank Burkett and John Burkett properties.

Consistency with County Comprehensive Plan: In summary, this proposal is found to be consistent with the 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 #7 on this agenda

Moved: Patrick Baechle

Seconded: Lawrence Carter

Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

8. 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: Sheetz #354 Car Wash Rebuild, Valley View Blvd and 17th Street Intersection
- City of Altoona: Central PA Surgery Center Renovations, 914 S 12th Street
- Duncansville Borough: AT&T Tower, Stone Way
- Hollidaysburg Borough: McLanahan Lot Consolidation & Subdivision, Wall Street
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- Frankstown Township: Shank Lot Merge, Woodlawn Terrace and Manor Drive
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- Logan Township: Beiswenger Lot Consolidation, Gwin Road
- Logan Township: McTigue Lot Consolidation, Holly Ridge Drive and Hillside Drive
- Logan Township: Ritchey Lot Consolidation, Buckhorn Road
- Taylor Township: Lamar Keith Food Truck Development, Cove Mountain Road
- Snyder Township: Sharer Subdivision, Bald Eagle Pike (TR520)

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #8 on this agenda

Moved: Lawrence Carter

Seconded: Linda Smith

Vote: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

MacKenzie Carol, Regional Planner at Blair Planning Commission provided an overview on the following Intergovernmental Items.

REVIEW OF ACTIONS BY GOVERNING BODIES

9. Tyrone Borough Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Proposed Amendment No. 1484 to amend Tyrone Borough's Zoning Code, Chapter 205-12 to permit the Town Center Commercial District to allow drive-thru windows for eating and drinking establishments. Affected businesses will be subject to the additional land development considerations of overall walkability and connectivity of the surrounding community and transportation network as well as vehicle maneuverability within the site, however we do not anticipate any negative long-term impacts as a result of the amendment of this zoning ordinance.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #9 on this agenda

Moved: James Dixon

Seconded: Patrick Baechle

Vote: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

METROPOLITAN CLEARINGHOUSE

10. Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Plan Update – The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) has requested a letter of support for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant application to prepare a new regional greenways and open space network plan; the grant would fund \$212,500 (85%) of the \$250,000 projected cost.

This project is consistent with the County's comprehensive plan, *Alleghenies Ahead*, including several priorities such as collaboration and coordination, attention to agriculture, public health and safety and will specifically assist Blair County in achieving the goals set for in Plan.

Motion: Approving a Letter of Support for a PA DCED Greenways, Trails & Recreation grant Application, Item #10 on this agenda

Moved: Lawrence Carter

Seconded: Linda Smith

Vote: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

David McFarland, Director of Blair Planning Commission explained the the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant would be administered by the SAP & DC. Additionally, the grant's required local matching funds would be divided among the participating agencies (the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset) through a Cooperation Agreement and Resolution. Mr. McFarland is asking the Planning Commission for authorization to sign the Cooperation Agreement and Resolution should the Blair County Commissioners choose not to participate. The Agreement and Resolution calls for each County to each agree to pay equal shares of \$6,250 for the remaining \$37,500 of the total \$250,000 cost.

Motion: Approving a Resolution to accompany the PA DCED Greenways, Trails & Recreation grant application Application, Item #10 on this agenda

Moved: Lawrence Carter

Seconded: Patrick Baechle

Vote: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

11. Central Allegheny Highlands ATV Economic Impact Study –The ABCD Corp is requesting a letter of support for a DCNR grant application for funds to perform an ATV Economic Impact Study of the Central Allegheny Highlands. The feasibility study will determine if the addition of ATV use to the existing trail system would bring economic prosperity to the surrounding communities of Blair, Cambria, Centre and Clearfield counties. This project is consistent with the County's comprehensive plan, *Alleghenies Ahead* due to the priorities related to recreational amenities and natural assets, greater usage of outdoor recreational assets, improvements of expanding targeted recreational assets and promoting the use of trails for personal health. The study would also contribute to the development of a more comprehensive plan for the recreational area that considers multiple aspects of community development. The proposed trail project would provide recreational opportunities for visitors with various interests and abilities and would improve accessibility and safety to the existing trails.

Several questions were raised by Board members, if this would include the Rail Trails and if this would allow ATV's on trails with pedestrian traffic. Ms. Caron explained that the trails involved would only be in certain areas and that yes, potentially the ATV's would utilize trails also used by pedestrians. It was also confirmed that ATV's utilizing the trails must be permitted and that the permit registration fees are what provides the grant funds.

Motion: Approving a Letter of Support for a PA DCNR grant application for the Central Allegheny Highlands to conduct an economic impact study, Item #11 on this agenda

Moved: Lawrence Carter

Seconded: Linda Smith

Vote: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

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

- City of Altoona – Stiffler McGraw for Sheetz, Inc. – Sheetz #14 Altoona Rebuild – NPDES and Chapter 102 Land Development Permit Application to PA DEP
- Bellwood Borough -Stiffler McGraw for Bellwood Borough Authority – Grant Application to DCED PA Small Water and Sewer Program -East Maple Avenue Water line Replacement Project
- Hollidaysburg Borough & Blair Township – Keller Engineers for Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority – Stowell Farm Interceptor – Land Planning Review for Commonwealth Financing Authority Small Water and Sewer Grant Program
- Hollidaysburg Borough – Stiffler McGraw for Hollidaysburg Borough - Grant Application to DCED PA Small Water and Sewer Program –Gaysport Stormwater Management Project
- Martinsburg Borough – LSSE Civil Engineers and Surveyors for Martinsburg Municipal Authority - Grant Application to DCED PA Small Water and Sewer Program – Galvanized Steel Water Service Line Replacement Project
- Martinsburg Borough – LSSE Civil Engineers and Surveyors for Martinsburg Municipal Authority – Land Planning Review for Blank Book Sewage Lift Station Rehabilitation Project – PA Small Water and Sewer Grant
- Roaring Spring Borough – Keller Engineers for Roaring Spring Municipal Authority – Land Planning Review for Asbestos Waterline Replacement Project –PA Small Water & Sewer Grant
- Tyrone Borough & Snyder Township – Keller Engineers for PennDOT – Application to PA DEP for Chapter 102 Permit for Land Development for Pavement Preservation and Slope Stabilization
- Tyrone Borough – Rettew for Tyrone Borough - Grant Application to DCED PA Small Water and Sewer Program – Pennsylvania Avenue Sewer Repairs
- Williamsburg Borough & Woodbury Township – Keller Engineers for PennDOT Engineering District 9-0 – Application to PA DEP Chapter 105 Permit – Williamsburg Pavement Preservation and Drainage Improvements
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- Greenfield Township – Keller Engineers for Sheetz, Inc. – Application to PA DEP for Minor Permit Modification to Chapter 102 Land Development Permit for Sheetz Logistic Center Expansion
- Huston Township – Scotch Hill Solutions for Kulp Family Dairy, LLC – Waste Storage Facility – Chapter 102 Permit for Land Development and NPDES Permit Application to PA DEP
- Snyder Township – Rettew for Tyrone Borough Water Treatment Plant – Application to PA DEP for PWS Permit for Tyrone WTP Filter Rehabilitation Project

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for listed Items #11 on this agenda
Moved: Lawrence Carter
Seconded: James Dixon
Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

13. Blair Planning Commission By-Laws – Mr. McFarland reviewed that the By-Laws presented at the previous Planning Commission meeting that basically revises the Board membership to be regionalized rather than be municipal type. The other revision discussed was to change the title of Chairman to President, which was then decided to change to Chairperson.

Mr. McFarland stated the Board Member Handbook was also updated but does not require adoption by the Board.

Motion: To approve the updated Blair Planning Commission By-Laws for Item #13 on the agenda
Moved: Lawrence Carter
Seconded: James Dixon
Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

14. Planning Director's Report – Mr. McFarland provided updates on the following:

- Combined sewer system – A public outreach meeting was held in March, the first in a series, being spearheaded by Altoona, regarding mitigation efforts for the combined stormwater and sanitary sewer systems in nearly all of the Upper Juniata Watershed. The combined sewer systems have a negative impact on the sewer plants that are overwhelmed during a major storm event. A presentation may be provided to the Board sometime in the future.
- National APA Planning Conference – The major focal points of the conference were housing, transportation and hazard mitigation. There was also a focus on energy and is anticipated to be a big topic in planning over the next few years. Affordable housing is a national problem in the neighborhood of 4 million missing housing units. One of the transportation ideas promoted was to utilize buses currently used for senior service routes to become established routes to take riders to medical appointments.
- Allegheny Highlands Association of Realtors - A meeting was held with the Association as they are interested in being actively involved in trying to help find solutions to the housing needs.

15. Planning Commissioners' Forum – No comments.

16. Question From the Media – No questions were asked.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

17. Upcoming Events:

- April 23-25 – National Planning Conference Online Sessions
- April 28 – Pennsylvania Quarterly Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
- April 30 -- Community Sustainability Expo, Palmer Museum of Art
- May 2 – 'We Glow Together' Curve Fundraiser Game -PNG Field
- May 6 – Blair County CAP Planning Commission Outreach Meeting
- May 6 & 7 – South Central Mountain Regional Taskforce Symposium
- May 10 – 'We Glow Together' Fundraiser Walk -PNG Field
- May 16 – CPDAP meeting
- May 26 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

ADJOURNMENT

The next Planning Commission Board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at the Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.
Moved: Linda Smith
Seconded: Lawrence Carter
Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted



Date Minutes Approved


