

MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
GWA PAT

June 14th —Joint Public Hearing for City of Williamsport and
Townships of Armstrong, Loyalsock, and Old Lycoming
6:30 – 8:00 pm, Trade and Transit Center II Community Room



Attendees:

Kim Wheeler, AICP, PCD

Fran McJunkin, CFM, PCD

Elected Officials:

Jim Dunn, Armstrong Township

John Ottaviano, Armstrong Township

Richard Staib, Armstrong Township

Don Noviello, City of Williamsport

Bonnie Katz, City of Williamsport

Elizabeth Miele, City of Williamsport

Randall Allison, City of Williamsport

John Bower, Loyalsock Township

Marc Sortman, Loyalsock Township

Paul Nyman, Loyalsock Township

William Burdett, Loyalsock Township

Glenn Williams, Old Lycoming Township

John Eck, Old Lycoming Township

Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming

Public: see attached sheet

Joint public hearing opened at 6:30 PM

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome

Kim Wheeler facilitated the meeting and began the presentation. She thanked the members of the PAT commended them for their commitment to this update effort, and asked that everyone sign-in.

Four of the six Planning Area municipalities were represented by a quorum of elected officials. Kim then summarized the efforts undertaken to arrive at this point and that the focus of this effort is to provide an implementation strategy that builds off of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan.

Agenda Item #2 – Plan Process

Kim discussed the following items that comprised our planning process:

- **Information Gathering**
 - 4 Public Meetings held throughout the county
 - Facilitated focus group secessions
 - Public surveys (on-line & in-person)
- **PAT Makeup and Responsibility**
 - Each municipality was represented on the PAT, in addition to community and regional representatives
 - Responsibility was to convey current trends and experiences, prioritize issues, and recommend actions to address those issues

Kim then reviewed the contents of the draft plan and the schedule going forward:

- **The 2016 Plan is focused on implementation**
- **Plan Organization**
 - Community profile, Implementation Strategy, Growth Area & Future Land Use Map changes, and Appendices
 - There were 9 priority issues and projects that the PAT had determined to be most important in the planning area
- **45 Day Public Review Period**
 - Draft plans have been distributed to both PAT & contiguous municipalities, school districts and the general public
 - The public has the opportunity to comment on the plan until July 31st
 - Minor edits will be considered during the review period; any significant changes to document will require an additional public hearing
- **August Adoption**
 - Barring any major edits, each GWA municipality with a quorum at this public hearing can adopt the plan by resolution at a regularly scheduled meeting following the July 31st comment period
 - Any significant requested changes will be distributed to the PAT members for review
 - Kim will be providing each municipality a sample resolution for adoption of plan

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comment

- Jerry S. Walls, Joint Rail Authority, Susquehanna Greenway, GWA Resident
 - In general does support the plan as presented
 - Mr. Walls said the Joint Rail Authority will cost share with Riverwalk extension, as well as a variety of projects in the GWA area.
 - Mr. Walls urged the airport terminal project to go forward.
 - Mr. Walls was glad to see the Pathways to Health was recognized in the plan and urged the City to adopt the Bicycle ordinance.
 - Mr. Walls supports the Genesee Greenway which connects New York to Jersey Shore, PA. He wishes to see the connection continued through Williamsport. Believes it is very good for eco-tourism and recommends engaging UMPC through proactive civic engagement.
- Jim Dunn, Armstrong Supervisor, Lycoming County Planning Commission, GWA Resident
 - Mr Dunn supports the effort to have a New York to Chesapeake Bay trail and stated that Lycoming County can have to connections through trails currently being considered.
- William (undocumented last name), Resident, Old Lycoming Township,
 - Takes exception to the Riverwalk as a bicycle trail and calling it safe. He feels it is not compatible with walking and says he has to go to Pine Creek to feel safe riding a bike.
 - He believes we need to involve the youth in Arts& Cultural Programs
 - He referenced Hiawatha murals housed at Curtain Elementary School in Williamsport School District.
- Michael Ochs, Resident- City of Williamsport
 - Asked when we would have passenger Rail service in Williamsport

- Suggested we look at reducing our carbon footprint.
- Mr. Ochs was concerned about our landscape and burner barrels
- Agrees that the area recreation sites should be mapped for the public.
- He is concerned about the Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plans and its cost as well as any superfund sites
- Believes the community needs exercise and recreation. Commented on poorly maintained sidewalks.
- Feels obesity is an issue and linked it back to recreation in Tennis and basketball courts, or lack thereof.
- Loyalsock MS4 is going to be big and concerned about fertilizer and grass clippings
- City of Williamsport Councilmember Don Noviello expressed a desire to have more media exposure on the Comprehensive Plan.

Joint public hearing adjourned at 8:00 PM.