



COUNTY OF ERIE
Erie County Planning Commission
 Erie County Courthouse
 140 West Sixth Street - Room 111
 Erie, Pennsylvania 16501
 Phone: (814) 451-6336
www.eriecountyplanning.org

Gerry Dahl
Chair

Jan Cornwell
Vice-Chairman

**ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 MEETING MINUTES**

JUNE 11, 2015

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at Avonia Beach Park, 101 Avonia Road, Fairview, PA.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC members:	Representing:
Gerry Dahl	Corry City (Chair, Exec. Board)
Paul Pangratz	Girard Twp (Exec. Board)
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Twp (Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Jim Cardman	Fairview Twp (Exec. Board)
Carol Loll	County Council
Terry Bowersox	Cranesville Borough
Ken Barner	Elk Creek Twp
Kenneth Neuburger	McKean Twp
William Kuhn	Platea Borough
Planning Department Staff:	
Kathy Wyrosdick	
John McGranor	
Brittany Prischak	
Guests:	
Amanda Bair	Fairview Twp
Judy Schroeck	Fairview Twp
Linda Bliley	Greene Twp

Executive Board members present – 5 of 9; quorum attained

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Gerry Dahl called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was given.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None

THANK YOU FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP

Fairview Township made its Avonia Beach Park facility available for the meeting. The Township also provided dinner for those attending the meeting. The Planning Commission expressed its thanks to Fairview Township. The facility is beautiful, and the Township's hospitality was greatly appreciated.

APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Charles Casey and seconded by William Kuhn to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

ECDP MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Kathy Wyrosdick – New Director

John McGranor introduced Kathy Wyrodick as ECDP's new director. Kathy earned a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Marshall University. She was most recently the Director of Planning and Development for the City of Fairmont, West Virginia. She is a Certified Planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and a member of the American Planning Association (APA). She has 17 years of professional planning experience.

Kathy took a few minutes to talk a little bit more about her background. She expressed her commitment to Erie County and its residents, and is looking forward to working closely with the Planning Commission, municipal leaders and other community members.

Historic Resource Inventory

Preservation Erie retained Wise Preservation Planning LLC to complete a county-wide inventory of historic resources. The inventory catalogs approximately 31,000 historical properties. It is available for viewing at www.eriebuildings.info. In addition to the inventory, Wise Preservation Planning LLC is also drafting a methodology report that will describe the inventory process, and include recommendations for revising the National Register of listed historic districts, as well as creating new National Register listed historic districts. According to Preservation Erie, the report is expected to be completed within the next month.

ECDP and Preservation Erie have recently applied for a grant through the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) for phase 2 of the project. The recently

completed inventory and soon to be completed methodology report will be used as background information to support the development of a Cultural Heritage Plan for Erie County. The plan will enable communities, property owners, organizations, and agencies to better appreciate the cultural and economic value of historic buildings and sites in their communities, and assist civic leaders in planning for their protection and integration into economic revitalization strategies. Results of the grant application are expected within the next month.

The current Historic Resources element of the County's comprehensive plan was adopted in 2003. It is now over 10 years old, and needs to be updated. The Cultural Heritage Plan, when completed, will serve this purpose. The intent is to present it to County officials for adoption as an element to the County's comprehensive plan.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

In conjunction with the May, ECPC meeting, a public hearing was held to discuss the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. As a reminder, the deadline for applications for funding assistance is July 31, 2015. The maximum application amount is \$75,000, and the minimum is \$25,000. The deadline to contact ECDP for assistance with income surveys was June 5, 2015. However, Joe Berdis has indicated that he will still accept requests for assistance with income surveys. Anyone interested in submitting an application is asked to contact Joe for additional information and to discuss the potential project. Joe may be contacted at 451-6016 or jberdis@eriecountygov.org.

Agricultural Land Preservation Program

The County is currently working to preserve 8 farms, with a total of approximately 800 acres. The farms are located throughout Erie County, with 3 farms located in North East Township, 3 in Venango Township, 1 in Union Township and 1 in Fairview Township.

Current program funding is approximately \$1 million. The County program has preserved 7,400 acres of farmland since its inception in 1993. Preservation of these 8 farms will increase the total preserved acreage to approximately 8,200 acres.

As part of the program, the County is responsible for stewardship of the agricultural conservation easements. All preserved farms will be inspected for compliance this summer. Land owners will be notified in advance.

Erie County Greenways Program – Act 13 Grants

County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper has recently announced that Erie County is awarding \$200,000 to six (6) organizations to undertake projects that will improve the quality of life in Erie County through the preservation and enhancement of the region's natural, scenic and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment.

The funding was made available by the Pennsylvania Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund. Funded organizations and projects include:

- Erie County Conservation District - \$13,000 – Headwaters Park Improvements
- Erie County Health Department - \$14,000 – Let's Move Outside!
- Harborcreek Township - \$23,000 – Sixmile Creek Park Trail Rehabilitation
- North East Borough - \$50,000 – Gibson Park Improvements
- Presque Isle Light Station - \$50,000 – Presque Isle Lighthouse Improvements
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy - \$50,000 – Lower Elk Creek Restoration

The next application round is anticipated for spring 2016.

Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM)

Julia Donahua, who currently administers the County's Coastal Zone Management Program, is moving to the Denver, Colorado area. Her last day with the County will be June 16th. The County is currently working to find a replacement.

The next CZM grant round opens August 17th and closes on October 19th. Estimated funding available is approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Erie County Recycling Program (ECRP)

Brittany Prischak, the County's Sustainability Coordinator, provided the following activity report for the Recycling Program.

The ECRP sponsors recycling drop-offs in the southern tier of the county for those municipalities whom it is both difficult and not cost-effective to have curbside recycling collection. Last year the one in Waterford Borough was closed due to contamination issues; since then, the one located at the Washington Township building has become inundated with more recycling than they can handle. In order to alleviate that, we have decided to open a drop-off at Franklin Township, which will be on July 1st

We are continuing the HHW & E-waste collection events at 1624 Filmore Avenue, held on the 2nd Saturday of every month. More information can be found on our website: www.eriecountyrecycling.com

The Annual Recycling Summit, meant to educate the municipalities and their recycling coordinators, is occurring next Thursday, June 18th at the Bayfront Convention Center from 8-2pm.

We are continuing our Composting education workshops, four per year. The next one will be in Fairview at the Pleasant Ridge Park on Wed, June 17th from 6-8:30pm. The last one will be at the Summit Township building on Sat, August 8th from 9am-11:30am and registration will open about four weeks beforehand. Visit environment Erie's public workshops page to register.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Erie County Municipal Solid Waste Plan (MSWP)

Brittany Prischak presented the following information about the MSWP.

Solid Waste is trending down, although we are up a little from last year. In 2013, 285,000 tons were sent to landfills, and 300,000 tons were sent to landfills in 2014.

Recycling is trending down (which is not good). In 2007, 170,000 tons were recycled. This dropped to 69,000 tons in 2013 and just under 50,000 tons in 2014.

The Goals & Objectives of the plan are to consider the feasibility of a large scale composting collection process for Erie County, increase commercial recycling through better reporting and more enforcement of local ordinances that require commercial recycling, litter Prevention specifically focusing on cigarette butts and illegal dumping, and a Comprehensive Recycling Educational Campaign with a regional look to increase consistency of the messages being used.

The current ordinance to control solid waste flow was adopted in 1995. The new ordinance will update and replace the current ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to control the flow of waste within the county to only certain landfills and mandate the reporting of both waste and recycling generated, collected and disposed of.

Changes between the current, 1995 version and the new one are as follows:

1. No longer allowed to charge fees for licensing of waste transporters
2. The responsibility of monitoring and enforcing the ordinance has moved from the County Health Dept. to the Recycling Program.
3. Minor updates to reporting requirements and penalties and enforcement

The ordinance also identifies the landfills we have capacity agreements with. There are seven (7) and our agreements run from 2014-2024.

The approval process includes a 30-day public comment period, tentatively scheduled to open on Tuesday, June 16th. This will allow all of the municipalities to review the planning document and the ordinance draft and submit comments or approval or both. The documents will be submitted via email to all municipal contacts and recycling coordinator contacts. If approved by the municipalities, it will be submitted to County Council for approval. If approved and accepted by County Council, it will then be sent to the PA DEP. Final approval and endorsement is anticipated by early fall of 2015.

OTHER BUSINESS / MUNICIPAL REPORTS

Gerry Dahl commented on the beauty of the Avonia Beach facility, and asked Jim Cardman to give a brief history. Jim noted that the Township acquired the property from the Brugger family approximately 12 years ago, and has been making improvements since that time. The park provides public, beach access to Lake Erie.

Gerry Dahl recently spoke to Jan Cornwell, and noted that Jan was concerned about her inability to attend ECPC meetings for the past few months. The ECPC members voiced their full support for Jan, and wish her a speedy recovery. The ECPC is very appreciative to the commitment and service that Jan has provided, and looks forward to her return.

Carol Loll noted that Council is holding its monthly meetings at locations throughout the county during the summer months. The July 14th meeting will be held at the Presque Isle Stull Center / Joy Center, the August 11th meeting will be held at the Elk Creek Township Building, and the September 8th meeting will be held at the Harborcreek Township Building. The full schedule and additional details are available on the County website www.eriecountypa.gov. Charles Casey said that varying the meeting locations was a "good thing". Other members agreed.

John McGranor asked for input regarding the delivery of future meeting agendas and meeting minutes by email, rather than by regular mail. It is understood that not all ECPC members have email. Regular mail will be used in those cases. However, delivery of meeting agendas by email will reduce costs and reduce paper waste. Even if only half of the ECPC members agree to the use of email, the cost savings will still be worthwhile. Those in attendance were supportive of using email in the future.

Gerry Dahl suggested that a few extra copies of meeting agendas should be made available at future meetings, just in case members of the public are in attendance.

Charles Casey asked if ECPC was going to cancel the July meeting, as it traditionally does. After a very brief discussion, the members voted unanimously to cancel the July meeting.

The next ECPC meeting will be held on August 13th, at the Erie County Conservation District. Gerry Dahl noted that a picnic dinner will be provided. The meeting will start at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.