



COUNTY OF ERIE
Erie County Planning Commission
 Erie County Courthouse
 140 West Sixth Street - Room 119
 Erie, Pennsylvania 16501
 Phone: (814) 451-6336
 Fax: (814) 451-7000

Mark J. Corey
Chairman

Gerry Dahl
Vice-Chairman

**ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 MEETING MINUTES**

March 12, 2009

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at **7:00 PM** on **Thursday, March 12, 2009** in the **Admiral Room** at the **Raymond M. Blasco Memorial Library**, 160 East Front Street, Erie PA.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC members:	Representing:
Mark Corey	County of Erie (Chair, Exec. Board)
Gerry Dahl	Corry City (Vice-Chair, Exec. Board)
Carol Loll	County Council (Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Joseph Legnasky	Lake City Borough (Exec. Board)
Jim Comstock	Albion Borough
Edward Williams	Erie City
Jim Cardman	Fairview Township
Paul Pangratz	Girard Township
Don Mulson	Mill Village Borough
Patricia Pfahnt	Venango Township
Planning Department Staff:	
Jake Welsh	

Executive Board members present – 5 of 9; quorum attained

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Mark Corey called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was given.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No public comments were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2009 MINUTES

A motion was made by Charles Casey and seconded by Joe Legnasky to approve the February 5, 2009 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Erie County Greenways Plan:

Jake Welsh provided an update on the status of the Erie County Greenways Plan. He stated that the draft is still being revised by the ECDP staff, before it will be ready for consideration by the County as a final draft. Discussion followed regarding the remaining plan contents being revised, and the tentative timeline for a final draft to be ready for endorsement by the ECPC, which will likely be the May meeting.

Municipal Road Salt

There was a brief follow-up on the road salt issue, with discussion focusing on the prices being quoted from suppliers for next year's order.

NEW BUSINESS

2009 ECPC Roles / Initiatives

Jake Welsh provided an overview of several handouts that were mailed to the ECPC members with the March meeting notice. ECPC roles discussion centered on the planning commission duties as outlined in the ECPC By-Laws and also a review of the PA DCED Planning Series publication from the Governor's Center for Local Government Services, "The Planning Commission in Pennsylvania".

Jake then reviewed the Planning Department initiatives that the ECPC will be involved with in 2009, including the updates and enhancements to the Erie County Comprehensive Plan and the Erie County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Jim Cardman asked if the County had a Capital Improvement Program that focused on County-owned infrastructure such as buildings and properties, and suggested the ECPC be utilized for input on those issues, as well. Discussion followed regarding possible topics and areas for future ECPC involvement.

OTHER BUSINESS

ECDP Report

Jake Welsh reviewed information provided in the monthly activity report handout that was mailed to the ECPC members with the March meeting notice. Jake noted that there was a minor change in the organization of the information in the status report, and highlighted a couple areas of interest.

Municipal Report

Mark Corey noted that Mill Village Borough was undertaking an update to their zoning ordinance and map. Discussion followed.

Hot Topic

There was general discussion of the current situation in Wattsburg Borough regarding the recent resignation of several Borough officials and the pending appointment of new Council members. Discussion followed regarding several scenarios that the Borough is facing, such as not being able to achieve quorums at municipal meetings, and the inability to conduct day-to-day business without a functioning governing body.

Discussion shifted to the process of consolidation or merger between adjacent municipalities. The consolidation of Fairview Borough and Township in 1999 was discussed as a successful example in Erie County of how the process works in Pennsylvania.

Stormwater Management Plan Meeting

Jake Welsh informed the members that the next meeting of the Watershed Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) is being scheduled for April 9 at the Erie County Conservation District (ECCD) office to discuss the County Stormwater Management Plan, the same night as the next scheduled ECPC meeting.

Jake requested that the April ECPC meeting be moved to the ECCD office, and held at 6:30, to accommodate the PAC meeting, and allow the ECPC members the opportunity to attend the PAC meeting. The April meeting notice will reflect the change in time and location.

There was also discussion about possibly moving the start time of all future ECPC meetings to 6:30.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.