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2
3 **Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting**

4 Date: April 9, 2008
5 Time: 7:00 PM
6 Location: Hellertown Borough

7 A. **Call to Order:** Ed Inghrim

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9 B. **Roll Call:** Present: Ed Inghrim, Priscilla deLeon, Mayor Fluck, Jane Balum, Susan Baxter, Charlie Luthar,
10 Jack Cahalan. Guests: Jennie McKenna, Gail Noff, George Howey, Margie Segaline

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13 C. **Council of Governments:**

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15 1. The minutes of the March 12, 2008 meeting were approved following a motion by Priscilla seconded
16 by Jane.
17 2. Treasurers Report - Jack said the balance in the checking account as of March 31, 2008, is \$32,558.22.
18 There was a payment approved for Environmental Planning and Design for \$1,310.59. The
19 Treasurer's account balance as of March 31, 2008 is \$8,990.35. There were no payments, expenses or
20 receipts from that account in March. On a motion by Priscilla, seconded by Jane, the Partnership voted
21 to approve the Treasurers Reports.
22 3. Jack said he has two separate bills from Environmental Planning and Design. The first bill dated
23 March 10, 2008 for services rendered for February 1, 2008 to February 29, 2008 is for \$2,349.15. He
24 reviewed the bill and it is in order, and he recommended it be paid. On a motion from Mayor Fluck
25 seconded by Priscilla, the Partnership approved the first bill for services rendered from February 1-29,
26 2008 from Environmental Planning and Design for \$2,349.15.
27 4. Jack said the second bill is dated April 7, 2008 from Environmental Planning and Design for their
28 services from March 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008 for \$1,866.53 and it is also in order and he
29 recommended that it be paid. On a motion by Priscilla seconded by Jane the Partnership voted to
30 approve payment of the bill from Environmental and Design for March 1-31, 2008 for \$1,866.53.
31 5. Jack said he needs approval for transcription services that are needed from time to time because of the
32 length of the minutes and the lack of time he has to do them. He has to call upon the services of the
33 transcriptionist. He has a bill for \$60.00 for Diane Palik. On a motion by Mayor Fluck seconded by
34 Susan, the bill for \$60 from Diane Palik was approved. Ed said he really likes these minutes. Priscilla
35 said Diane Palik does our minutes for the Council meetings and they are verbatim. There is discussion
36 over length of our minutes at Council, but Priscilla would rather have them like that. Jack said when
37 EPD is not here; we want to make sure that we get down what is said.
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39

40 D. **Citizen's Comments on Agenda Items:** None

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43 E. **Comments on Non-Agenda Items:**

44
45 Margie Segaline said she wanted to know if anyone had any ideas how we could increase cultural
46 activities in the Saucon Valley, whether it be through the school district or other organizations. Did
47 anyone have any ideas? Priscilla said the Chamber did a very good job with the restaurant guide.
48 They have a meeting coming up Tuesday and this is the start of several things. Ed said Carolyn will
49 be going over this with her presentation. Priscilla said just because we ask for comments, it doesn't
50 mean people aren't going to be able to comment on other agenda items.
51

52 F. **Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan:**

53
54 Carolyn said we have a lot to discuss. She looked at the minutes from Friday's email and recognized
55 a little bit more of the context about your decisions from the last meeting and the high priorities and

1 the truly high priorities, and medium. They are working on that because they realized on Friday,
2 reading a little bit more about how you got to certain points, they want to make sure they have all of
3 this together. They talked to Charlie and Jack after the meeting to see where everyone was headed.
4 They took a shot at identifying, from your truly high priorities and your other high priorities, that
5 really everything can't be a high priority without being completely overwhelming or getting a staff of
6 20 people to help you accomplish all these things. Breaking it all down, they are trying to document
7 this. There is a discussion draft for tonight. She'd like to go over the discussion draft, based upon
8 Friday's email as well as some of the comments you just made about the cultural components. She'd
9 like to talk about some things in here. The part not included in this package is all the background data
10 and the mapping. After this evening, they will provide you with an updated complete draft and share
11 with you their thoughts about what realistically can be done in the next steps with the help of some
12 staffing that could come on board to guide you as a partnership. A list of 40 or 50 tasks over the next
13 decade is a big undertaking. With the responsibilities and involvement you all have in your everyday
14 lives, there are only so many hours of the day, and coupled with the expertise that someone is going to
15 assist you all in getting the right people up to the plate to follow through. You all have the ability and
16 the drive to do this. There is one thing like the Restaurant Guide, and working with the Chamber, as
17 well as getting into the day to day involvement with businesses to collect data. From a regional
18 planning perspective, ten months from now, ten years from now, building this kind of support
19 structure is fundamental to helping you all get where you want to go. You made all those steps and
20 the momentum is building and building and building. You don't want to lose it by stumbling over a
21 few things, and with the assistance of the executive position, you can just truly soar. Keeping that
22 position in mind, for someone who is going to be able to help you and take this piece by piece, that's
23 what the foundation of this is. The plan is addressing components required by MPC. They've got a
24 checklist. They started on that. Within the next ten days, they'll have that draft out to you. We are
25 going to talk about the schedule of when we need your help in reviewing and about public
26 presentations and working toward the end of this phase being a presentation to each of the entities
27 leadership in the late summer, early fall, before we get into any budgeting season. We are thinking of
28 September. For the public meeting, we are kind of looking at June 30. From the perspective of
29 completing the entire draft and getting it to you and giving you adequate time to review it, then we
30 will come back and dive into a few things and expand or pull back, then have some time to refine, and
31 then giving it to the public. In talking with Charlie and Jack, some of the excitement you had in going
32 through that list, all in all, we appreciate your participation. We wanted to get those comments and
33 compare where the differences were. There were a lot of things that had similar responses, but there
34 were a few items with different perceptions about what was important. That was very helpful for
35 them. You being able to go through those two sheets last month, while it may have been a little bit of
36 flip flopping and trying to evaluate things, as you move further down the line and getting into more
37 detailed projects and having other experts and different professions, you are going to have a lot more
38 decisions in terms of the types of things people are proposing to you, and decisions that you are going
39 to have to make with this representative body. Weighing out what is significant for an individual
40 entity versus the overall partnership is the first step towards that.

41
42 Priscilla said what you were saying before, we're all doing this and doing that, our municipal
43 meetings are now into the COG and we have the Chamber and other community groups, it's great.

44
45 Carolyn said the first resolution; ultimately, the individual entities are going to need to adopt this plan
46 through the resolution process. This is a barebones resolution, but recognizing there are components
47 that need to be brought up. We are very open to this and how you all want this to be implemented into
48 things. We want to also confirm who all was going to be signing off on this as well. We've included
49 the school district. They sign resolutions for all kinds of things. While you typically don't have a
50 comprehensive plan resolution, due to the fact that you are involved in this, and by the decisions and
51 terms of land use, in terms of some of the infrastructure or other types of spending, and because
52 population growth is going to be impacting you, we've included you in all this. We are going to keep
53 this as a discussion draft this evening, and have the other draft coming out for general distribution
54 after the discussion tonight. Going through this, and to keep things reasonable, we have the technical
55 studies as separate appendixes. There are about 150 pages just as an overall sizing of this which is

1 typical. There are other acknowledgements on page 9 for edits they've made or want to make to this.
2 They included John Bate as part of the Borough and want to confirm if he's on the committee or just
3 coming in as part of the public services discussion. Charlie said he was here for the public service
4 discussion. Carolyn said that is one correction we need to make then.
5

6 Carolyn said getting into the introduction, just recognizing how the plan is working. The reason
7 we've taken this approach, and its one approach we do often, we like to get the guts of things up front
8 so people can concentrate on the important aspects and the detailed data after that. The detailed data is
9 important, but we organize as the important issues first then, recommendations second and the
10 detailed components last.
11

12 Carolyn said in general, the opportunities and challenges are the region locations, the land use patterns,
13 transportation and infrastructure, amenities both civic and natural, and looking at other things in terms
14 of business community and economic development. Essentially the feed back we've gotten from the
15 public as well as some of the other efforts you are involved in, there are a few things in here (like the
16 gaming situation) that are going to be why you are headed the way you are. On page 23, it was talked
17 about briefly in the past, but when you look at topography, when you look at land form, when you
18 look at the character of existing development, and look at the transportation network, we've taken a
19 shot at presenting the school districts. Hellertown is much bigger than Hellertown's boundary and
20 that's not suggesting that land being included beyond Hellertown's border into an expanded
21 Hellertown Borough. However, from a character standpoint, both in the street and the open spaces
22 and some of the connections between things, we've looked at this in a broader area. Looking at the
23 orchard, agricultural activities, we are trying to typify what that may mean down the road. How this
24 relates to the next section, a few pages back, when we get into the land use components, we are going
25 to make recommendations with these different districts. When you get to some of the zoning work
26 down the line, you will be able to make reference to some of the planning distribution characteristics
27 and how that relates to land use, infrastructure and things like that, and a foundation for why some of
28 the zoning provisions are written in the way they are. Hellertown also, the expansion of that, is tying
29 to the discussions we've had about municipal service boundary because it's an intense area of
30 development. Opportunities within the township in the future, from an intensity standpoint, and an
31 infrastructure standpoint could be evaluated in that similar pattern. In your case, you have two
32 municipalities. We've tried to, for the purposes of regional planning, get rid of the municipal line, so
33 you're working with the outer perimeter, which is the township. If down the road, you are working
34 with other municipalities on other types of regional planning items, you've got the ability to keep in
35 mind, get rid of the municipal lines for a few of these things, and expand your opportunities. This is
36 sort of setting the stage if you go further down the road.
37

38 Priscilla said how did you come up with the names Walden Woods, Hickory Hills? She's not being
39 critical, but she doesn't want to lose the place names for our old villages. When you read our whole
40 comp plan and the history of the township, we have Shimersville, Wassergass, five or six of them.
41 She wouldn't want to lose that. She thinks she'd rather see the older names tied in than the newer
42 names. Bingen and Leithsville Area, she wouldn't want to lose that identity with the past. If you go
43 on the Internet, look up some of these old names, there was an article in the Bethlehem Globe and it'll
44 tell you about all of these towns.
45

46 Carolyn said the goals, at the end of last year; we had a good meeting on going through the ten items.
47 The ten items are ones that not only come in MPC, but what came out of the discussions from the
48 group, as well as some of our meetings, was the significance of recognizing your immediate
49 surroundings, development opportunities, redevelopment opportunities, being context sensitive,
50 managing growth, and those key items. The next series of pages go through the land use components
51 and we have an expansion of text in this, so we're going to be talking in detail about these areas. In
52 terms of civic, she's going to talk in detail about the comment that Margie made about using cultural
53 heritage influence in terms of economic and business development. In addition to trying to capitalize
54 on cultural aspects, being able to look at the historical, the cultural, the agricultural, the types of retail
55 that have come through in the past, and the types of educational opportunities, we were looking

1 beyond what the typical cultural amenities were. In one visit to Hellertown or Lower Saucon, you are
2 not able to experience the depth of all of that. However, you have the opportunity to make a first
3 impression. Then draw people back into getting to that next level and the next level and the next level.
4 The main area you get people's attention is 412, the Main Street corridor and 378. They have slightly
5 different characteristics as well as the cultural alone Main Street versus 378. Being able to use those
6 corridors, first, to make that impression about what culture is of the region. They are primary
7 business corridors. There are other opportunities for business and what has been part of the discussion
8 in this process is where are those other opportunities to expand within the reason. Being able to catch
9 people's attention within those two corridors and then have them experience things in the visit after
10 that and the visit after that. You have to make that first impression and catch people's attention and
11 setting yourself up for success and let them know what's beyond this corridor. That ties into the way
12 finding system and the gateway system. Taking the 378 western entrance with the Lower Saucon
13 Township is the blue and white sign, you have a little bit of right of way and can evaluate what some
14 additional right of way opportunities are. It doesn't have to be signage, but it can be signage and
15 recognizing that Hellertown established a prototype, or something that you can build upon at your
16 other entrances. That's your absolute first impression. In culture, agricultural and business, that can
17 be business that can be told in a snapshot. You do that successfully as you can build in that marketing
18 campaign like the restaurant guide, etc. You are building your a story. First getting the snapshot at
19 the boundary, then telling it within the corridor, then through the way finding system, whether it be
20 pedestrian or vehicular, and the other types of orienting people where they are relative within the
21 reason. You have several of these gateways where you are able to navigate people through ultimately
22 from that first impression to the more detailed experience and get them to stop in different places.
23 Your idea is one that she thinks embodies what everyone has been saying all along, and there are a lot
24 of technical details relating to taxes, building heights, rights of ways, and the population is well served.
25 What is the story, you as a region, are telling the rest of the world? Where are you going to start that
26 story? How are you going to take people through those chapters? Treating it like a book in school,
27 you have your introduction, your body and you've got your conclusion. You are doing the same thing
28 within your physical environment. Being able to sell businesses on that, that's when people are more
29 attracted to come in and say these people have it together. You've got all the pieces and just taking
30 these different initiatives under the guidance of a Director which will keep these priorities. There are
31 some long term activities, but there are some immediate priorities. Andy's plan is something that is
32 really significant to this package.

33
34 A member asked what about the blue and white "zoned community, building permits required" signs
35 at the entrances to the Township, do they turn people off? Carolyn said your are not selling yourself.
36 Priscilla said people look and say this is a zoned community and there are controls out there. A few
37 times a year, we have two weekly papers, the Valley Voice and the Saucon News. At Christmas time,
38 the Valley Voice puts out a song book type thing and in the summer time, the Valley Voice puts out a
39 welcome to Saucon Valley book, which lists all the civic groups and parks, and then on August 16,
40 both of the papers will put out a smaller type guide for Community Day. That's a way of promoting
41 what we have also. Carolyn said ultimately, Jack and her were touching base briefly about the one
42 most valuable thing we can do to move on to the next step, is not just identify immediate gateways
43 initiative, but looking at what are the steps involved in that. Looking at integrated type of designers,
44 pulling in culture, education, and the cooperation of what you are doing and thinking what those costs
45 are. Getting estimates of those and working them into your capital projects and phasing plans and
46 then doing the construction. Being able to provide you with a series of step by step, not being able to
47 do that for everything though.

48
49 Carolyn said moving on, she's going through page 35 and 36 where we are talking about the
50 infrastructure in terms of a municipal services boundary and that was the concept we've gone through
51 in terms of where the infrastructure ultimately can be and how that ties in with your land use decisions.

52
53 Carolyn said on page 37, this is something that will be very helpful, especially for Hellertown, and
54 also keeping in mind things that are underway with the business revitalization program. This
55 revitalization program, looking at how zoning is impacting on what you can do downtown and

1 thinking of business recruitment, and some of the step by step projects and efforts that should be
2 undertaken. Many months ago towards the beginning parts of the project, there was discussion about
3 making physical improvements along Main Street. That is mentioned in the plan. It's mentioned a
4 little further down as some groups are ready to start. When you look at all the steps that go before that,
5 it's important from efforts that have been taken so far and things that are on the book, how are you
6 going to ultimately want to go and how you are able to get the routes involved. If there are things that
7 have happened in the last couple of months that we're not aware of to further the plan, she'd like to
8 know.

9
10 Charlie said there's a lot going on with Hellertown's business revitalization program and they meet
11 tomorrow night again. They talk about a lot of things downtown like the lights, it was talked about to
12 go down to I-78. They were talking about getting park benches possibly through the Chamber
13 foundation.

14
15 Jane said when you say that the first floor of all buildings should be reserved for non-office people;
16 does that mean you want residential people on the first floor? You shouldn't say non-office. Carolyn
17 said in the core of Main Street, the core's boundary is a little nebulous at this point as it relates, in part,
18 to the availability and proximity of parking. That's part of the parking study. Yes, recognizing that
19 those street fronts want to be high pedestrian and office is beyond that so that people can have
20 services within relationship to one another, but you want to create that vibrancy. Mayor Fluck said
21 one of the things is to make zoning changes for the Main Street. It's just going to hurt Hellertown.
22 How can you draw anybody in if you need to have two stories. We don't really have that small retail
23 in Hellertown like we used to. Carolyn said going back to what is the message you are presenting to
24 the outside world and what is it that businesses may be attracted to building on to the assets you have
25 now. If retail services for the people you have within this near vicinity can be considered for a certain
26 area and that you have a captive audience, you don't want to completely abandon retail if it ties into
27 the message you are giving to the residents as well as the overall region. Patterns have changed and
28 people's shopping has changed.

29
30 Carolyn said in a regional relationship section on page 43, on impacts on page 45, from a Partnership
31 standpoint, some of the things we talked about are Partnership oriented. Some are things
32 municipalities should be coordinated on and the school district is involved in, but you are also able to
33 take care of these things on your own, depending on your resources. Regional relation impacts and
34 polices are probably the two pieces of this plan, where you are as a group, are setting the stage for
35 what happens down the road for the Partnership as well as the community groups, who will help in
36 supporting your efforts.

37
38 Carolyn said staff we talked about. We mentioned part time or full time. It may start part time, but
39 full time is where you are going to be want to go. That means you are going to have to pay someone.
40 Think in terms of the ability to start something like a peer-to-peer program, and DCNR has one, and
41 there's a similar one through DCED to get funding and slowly build the kitty so that person can have
42 funds coming from the different groups. They are a very skilled individual, experienced, energetic
43 and recognizing the complexity of all the different types of projects you have. There are so many
44 opportunities. They are all high priorities, but they can't all be high at this time, not at this second.
45 Thinking about staffing and recreation which in recent months are more realistic. The school district
46 should be involved in that manner by keeping abreast what's going on with the open space and how
47 that may relate to some of the programs the school is offering and not only getting outdoors, but
48 looking at the greenways. You have opportunities for educational components. Stream quality, we
49 got into that a little bit also, and incorporate it into some of the curriculum. Joint services, again, the
50 composting, you've taken that initial step. The fire groups, the meeting we had in January was
51 fantastic. Encouraging enterprise expansion, we talked about a lot of history here, and it doesn't mean
52 Main Street has to grow like a big city. We are able to draw upon Lehigh University, young minds
53 from school, the business people that are here today and bringing those people together. Maybe it's
54 one week a year, but it's another week of activity and can even be tied in with Community Day. It
55 may provide an opportunity because people may not come out for other events, but are coming out for

1 Community Day. With the enterprise zone, that's how you can build this and that relationship is
2 underway and just being able to go to the next step.
3

4 Carolyn said the Transportation Advisory Group, was the next one. Being able to stay abreast of what
5 the activities of the LVPC are and what some of the projects are related to some of their transportation
6 studies that they are taking on as well as we all live in places where getting projects on lists for
7 improvements can take a massive amount of time. If you are able to have not just one township or
8 borough coming and knocking on the door saying we have a group that have some interested residents
9 as well as experienced professionals, so when you guys need information, are ready to make
10 improvements, or trying to evaluate what is feasible from your right of way perspective and building
11 that relationship, how are you as a partnership going to be sharing this information? You've
12 established the website links and the plan when it's ready to be put out to the public meeting. You
13 can get that out so people have a chance to look at that. The Director, using that website and other
14 avenues, trying to get the message out, we can still rely on volunteers and the way in which people's
15 time is being stretched.
16

17 Carolyn said we're going to talk about zoning, then truly high priorities. How many people know
18 what the benefits are to doing a multi-municipal plan? Because from a policy standpoint, you all have
19 an incredible opportunity to do a number of things that individual municipalities cannot do or may not
20 do. The joint zoning map is one, the joint zoning ordinance is another, but thinking about specific
21 area plans and thinking of some intergovernmental cooperation agreements, you have the opportunity
22 to truly work with the development community and have some flexibility, in a more detailed level,
23 balance out what land use means on population, taxes, impacts on natural resources and traffic. You
24 can look at things in a different type of review process. It's a type of process that can be very
25 appealing to a development community, as well as your time investment becomes a little condensed,
26 so you can do more things effectively. The school district, we're recommending is actually part of the
27 review process. They may not be making the official vote at the municipalities meeting, but
28 incorporating the school district as part of the review process as they are able to see where there are
29 larger scale projects coming on and what that means from a potential growth perspective and what
30 that may mean a few years down the line. For example, if the school district is thinking of an x
31 number of homes, and we know that this is a four phase plan with so many homes in each phase,
32 you're able to recognize if it's a market towards seniors, towards families, then you'll have that
33 information and keep abreast of what kinds of families and what that means for you a couple of years
34 down the line for preparing for a growing school population. Developments of regional impact are
35 another type of review process that the MPC permits multi-municipal groups who look at things in a
36 multi-municipal manner. Also, there's a different review process that is sort of a condensed type of
37 thing and incorporated the school district's review in that. That is not a standard thing, however,
38 because growth in the community is such an important aspect, recognizing how that development is
39 coming on line is giving you the ability to plan a little bit more strategically. The proposal is on the
40 table as part of this plan in an effort to make you all a part of the planning process.
41

42 Jane said the zoning between Hellertown and LST. Are you suggesting that they come up with a joint
43 zoning? Priscilla said when we initially started this, it was going to be a future thing, a
44 recommendation, but the end result of the multi-municipal plan was that each one of us would take it
45 back to our respective council's and approve a multi-municipal comprehensive plan, and from there,
46 we would independently change our own zoning laws. Depending on what conference we went to,
47 some instructors told us we had to follow up with the joint zoning and others said we didn't have to.
48 Carolyn said you don't have to.
49

50 Carolyn said moving to the next section, page 50, we are making that recommendation. Priscilla said
51 she doesn't know if we are ready to do that yet. Do we or don't we send the school district our plans?
52 Ed said he agrees with Carolyn that the school understand the potential growth, but it's equally
53 important to understand the type of growth. If he was the emperor, he would say we could build big
54 mansion or restrict living units. Priscilla said over the years, we've had different policies, and at some
55 point, we used to send to the school district routinely, the plans. She doesn't know if it stopped or not.

1 Priscilla said the borough and the township should sit down and begin to understand what is the
2 potential of doing a joint zoning. Priscilla said one time we had new developments on the agenda
3 when we first started meeting. Someone asked who would be paying for this extra staff? Carolyn
4 said there is one ultimate way of doing it. Jack said the salary for a director would depend on what
5 the partnership wanted to pay. Susan asked about the funding with the school district. Ed said it's not
6 just pay, its pay and benefits. Jack said it up to the Partnership as to whatever you want to offer them,
7 and he's sure the person attracted to that probably will be someone who is semi-retired, or someone
8 out of college. Carolyn said there's different ways of doing this depending on what the Partnership is
9 ultimately seeking to do. To us and the team, the Partnership is the one who is keeping their fingers
10 on things that are going on from a regional perspective. Not keeping all the individual municipality
11 actions under their guns. She's holding the big golf umbrella here, and she's got the larger scale
12 projects with the cooperation. That's what we're doing.
13

14 Jack said if you want to look at other examples of COGs in Pennsylvania, some of them actually
15 operate programs that were previously done separately by individual municipalities. They run the
16 programs which are revenue producing and pay the salaries. Some of these COGs have their own
17 office buildings. You can go as far as you want with the Partnership structure.
18

19 Carolyn said on page 51, when you look at the priority actions, these are truly high items and
20 considered as a regional based entity, to what the Partnership is. What this means is how all of these
21 detailed recommendations relate to one thing or another. First, setting up for leadership in the Saucon
22 Valley. Secondly, developing the joint zoning ordinance and zoning map. Thirdly, promoting land
23 use densities which are compatible with infrastructure capabilities essentially designated the
24 municipal services boundary and that is incorporated into your official zoning map as well.
25 Formalizing and recognizing the diversity of housing that you are able to offer people. What are you
26 ready to support 50 years down, 75 years down the road. Looking at the regional greenways and open
27 space network. Encouraging redevelopment of the Champion Spark Plug Factory. It is Main Street
28 all wrapped into one site in terms of the amount of energy that it is going to take the group or the
29 individual or stakeholders in trying to recruit and make decisions and organizing it from a zoning
30 perspective. It's the gate way to your community. It's everything wrapped into one. It doesn't have
31 to happen in 2009, but you don't want to wait a whole lot longer in taking those next steps.
32

33 Jennie said look at the American Candle Place in Tannersville. They have bus loads of people coming
34 in and spending their money on candles.
35

36 Carolyn said joint services, continue to explore those and volunteerism. From these nine, and
37 expanding upon how all these other detailed items relate to these priorities and how these are setting
38 the stage for all of the other things. You can take these nine, identify them, break out a few because
39 each of them has a little bit of a different aspect of the multi municipal plan. The greenways is natural
40 resources, the volunteerism is the civic pride, the specific plans you are looking at balance of land use
41 and infrastructure. The zoning is technical. You have a set of different skills and different levels of
42 involvement, and then from these, how can that lead into the resident. We want to set you up for
43 success. These are items that you can use MPC right off the bat as a way to ask for the process, how
44 you work through this as well as the recommendations we are going to be making.
45

46 Jennie said she was remembering at our last meeting, we were struggling with the "high" items and
47 we came up with ways to look at it that night with tasks of how to accomplish those goals. Carolyn
48 said underneath that will be the first step, evaluating of what are the trade offs, what does it mean
49 from a process standpoint. Are you all able to keep your own planning commissions, keep your own
50 zoning boards, or you can look at combining them. You are not necessarily going to adopt this in
51 September and write an ordinance right away. There's a little bit of time in there where you are going
52 to be flushing out what the benefits and details. They are going to help you with that. Susan said
53 there is a lot of repetition and the group needs to go through and organize things.
54

1 Carolyn said from the minutes and from the last set of emails, we're now able to understand how you
2 were identifying the relationship. Someone said there was a lot of redundancy. Carolyn said there are
3 overlaps, but with these discussions, you are going to see there are a few new ones in there and from
4 the involvement of one group related to infrastructure versus with one group related to open space.
5 Looking at your two sets of feedback and your detail of the minutes, they understand it much better.
6

7 Charlie said there were certain goals we wanted to accomplish and certain tasks. Carolyn said that is
8 the run through of parts 1 and 2. Part 3 is the background and economics. We are anticipating maybe
9 two weeks from now, you'll have the full package and what we want to do is give you the time
10 between now and the next meeting to look at things. In May, that's your meeting so we can dissect
11 and condense and then bring those items to the table and get you the updated draft and that's the one
12 we're anticipating to go forth to the public. They are strategizing on having a public meeting June
13 30th to say the plan is out, you have summer. There's a review period in there. Then in the fall, being
14 able to go forth with the comments received from the public, take them into consideration with all of
15 you and decide if you want them incorporated into the plan, and then putting that document together
16 to bring to the Council for a presentation and public hearing. You have to have a public meeting and
17 then have a public hearing. The meeting doesn't have to be recorded. You have to have the meeting
18 prior to the hearing. We're able to continue to meet with you as a group during that timeframe and
19 prepare for the fall. They picked the 30th of June as it was the fifth Monday. You have enough time
20 between now and June to get the word out that the draft is coming out after the end of May. Your task
21 is for you to wait for us to give you the package, review it, come on May 14th and that's when we
22 want to hash out what your perspectives are on the recommendations and what the reality of some of
23 those may be, what questions you may have. If you have the opportunity to give them questions prior
24 to the meeting, it would be helpful and they can come and dive right in.
25

26 **G. Brief Reports and Discussion Items**

- 27
- 28 1. **Casino Update:** Jack said they discussed this earlier. They will be attending the meeting on Monday
29 night and we hope that our proposal moves forwarded to the County Council and gets adopted.
30
 - 31 2. **Joint COG Projects:**
 - 32 a. **Yard Waste Recycling Committee:** Jack said the compost center will be re-opening on April
33 18th. Jack said they are in the process of organizing a joint Yard Waste Recycling Committee.
34 They will be approving that at the upcoming Township Council meeting. Charlie said they got
35 together on possible grants under DEP for equipment needed at the compost center which are
36 90/10 matches that will only require about \$20,000 from our capital budget.
37
 - 38 b. **Pool Pass Reimbursement:** Jack said pool pass rebate was approved by both councils. The
39 residents from the township will now pay the same fee as Hellertown residents and will not
40 have to go back to the township for a rebate.
41
 - 42 3. **Polk Valley Road/Walnut Street Intersections:** Charlie said regarding the Walnut Street
43 intersection improvements, there will be a brief construction meeting next week with the contractors
44 to talk about the traffic signals. A letter was sent to all of the property owners about the date. There
45 will be some disruption as the sewer line is on the cemetery side so Wally Zimpfer from the school
46 district will be contacted. It will take about 20 to 25 days.
47
 - 48 4. **Joint Enterprise Zone:** Jack said there is no update.
49
 - 50 5. **Tax Reassessment:** Ed said he met with Rep. Karen Beyer about this issue. He'll give you an update
51 at the next meeting. He's really frustrated with this whole issue.
52
 - 53 6. **Fire Services:** Jack said no update. We haven't heard anything from the State. Charlie said one thing
54 that was talked about was incentives. Jack said one of the incentives that was recommended were to
55

1 offer a discount or free pass to a firefighter and family at the community pool. That's something one
2 of our Council members asked us to look at. There is a cost involved. They don't have the figures
3 together yet.
4

- 5 7. **Leithsville Act 537**: Jack said that the response to the Borough's issues and concerns with the
6 proposed route of the sewer line is still being worked on at the township level. The Township
7 Authority is going to be giving an update to the Township Council.
8
- 9 8. **School Board State Rebates**: Ed said several months ago the school board had voted to match the
10 state rebates for low income people and they've had a good response to that from the Township and
11 Hellertown people. It's basically for seniors with low income. Our match his up to \$650. There are
12 residents from Hellertown and LST that are getting \$1,300 back. It's been successful. Mayor Fluck
13 asked if the seniors know that? Ed said yes. It's in the local papers, in the public notice section. The
14 medium school tax in the school district is \$3,200. They have to come into the school and get the
15 form filled out. Maybe Lower Saucon and Hellertown could put the notices into their newsletters.
16 Charlie said they can announce it when people come in and pay their taxes. Ed said we're one of the
17 few school districts in the state that actually matches the state. Mayor Fluck asked if there was a way
18 you could get some of the forms to the Borough. What if some of those residents don't drive? Mayor
19 Fluck said some of our seniors can't get to the school, but they could probably walk to the Borough.
20 Just get the announcement out and some forms to the Borough.
21
- 22 9. **Other**: Priscilla thanked the Borough to let them park overnight in their Water Street park for the
23 Living History Day. They had a wonderful "Meet the Artist" reception on Sunday. The exhibits are
24 going on until May 11th. Next Saturday there is a Living History Day at Heller Homestead. They are
25 going to have a camp set up and they will be in costume and you can walk the homestead track. In the
26 evening, there is a candlelight tour and go through the homestead and go through the camps and they
27 will have little things going on.
28

29 Charlie talked about cleaning up on Earth Day at Thomas Iron Works and Water Street Park. It was
30 interesting about the comment to "Adopt a Park". Even if they pick up one piece of paper, at least
31 people care enough.
32

33 Ed said at the school, on April 15th and 16th, they will be staging accidents and drunk driving and
34 having the EMS come in.
35

36 The Farmers Market opens on May 4, 2008.
37

38 Jack said almost 30 tons of paper has been collected so far in the yellow/green Abitibi bins. It's been
39 significant. It's amazing the amount of paper being dropped off.
40

41 Priscilla said the Restaurant Guide is out. Mayor Fluck said there are some mistakes in it.
42

- 43 H. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM following a motion by Priscilla, seconded by
44 Mayor Fluck, and unanimously approved.
45
46
47
48

Next meeting at the Saucon Valley School District on May 14, 2008