

**DOYLESTOWN BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**JULY 12, 2022
MEETING MINUTES**

The special meeting of the Doylestown Borough Planning Commission was held at Borough Hall at 7:30 PM on July 12, 2022. Members present were as follows:

James Lannon, Chair
Gus Perea, Vice Chair
Lynn Bush
MaryAnn Baenninger
Kim Jacobsen
Karyn Hyland, Director of Building and Zoning
John Davis, Borough Manager
Phil Ehlinger, Deputy Borough Manager

Also present were Mayor Noni West and Borough Council President Jack O'Brien.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by Mr. Lannon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of Martin Corr.

MEETING MINUTES from the May meeting were approved as amended.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DISCUSSION

- **Branding and Promotion:** Revisions to the branding elements were made, after reviewing the feedback provided, and the changes were presented by members of the Bucks County Planning Commission. Included in the new design are the County Administration Building as well as several iconic Borough buildings, trees, and colors of the Doylestown Borough logo. The Commission would prefer to see more residential and family aspects shown as well as the Justice Center, and not the former courthouse. Additionally, some of the details of the buildings that are shown are not showing with accurate proportions, which would affect the immediate recognition of those iconic buildings. The Commission agreed they'd prefer the former Café Alessio building and the 22 East Oakland Avenue be removed from the branding drawings.
- **Metroquest Survey:** Details of the survey were reviewed, with screen-by-screen examples, with listed items and the ability to rank them by importance. This will show priorities of the respondents. The group had a lengthy discussion on what items should be listed on the survey, including housing opportunities, accessory dwellings, and other primary housing issues. Historic preservation, including the demolition of buildings, and arts/cultural resources are also to be included, as well as transportation/traffic/parking, economic vitality, walkability, and sustainability/conservation. Mr. Ehlinger explained trash collection is not necessary to the Comprehensive Plan, as the Borough is not interested in being involved in that free market business at this time.

President Jack O'Brien spoke on the survey and who it is intended to reach. Mr. Lannon explained all people who live and work in the Borough. The survey is anonymous; however, there will be questions as to where those completing the survey live and work.

Judy Stratton spoke on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission, and asked for details be added to the survey regarding preservation of wooded areas of the town. She also felt storm water management is an issue to be addressed.

Dennis Livrone felt that trash collection should be listed as a discussion point on the public survey, along with recycling, yard and food waste.

Kristen Winters spoke on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Council with the request to add things such as storm water management. Also, they would like to see walkability added a specific point of discussion on the survey.

Larry Browne suggested emergency preparedness education and the critical changes occurring in emergency management services.

Amy Popkin spoke as well on the walkability of the Borough, and felt it would be interesting and helpful to know more about the habits of members of the community and how local businesses are supported.

Grant Alger suggested the questions should be about what is most important to the residents.

Parking management is also a topic for the survey, however, the Commission suggested removing the questions regarding water service in the Borough. Borough character is also discussed in the survey, including cultural resources, green space and tree canopy. Climate change will be a detailed topic as well as higher-density housing questions. Also, quality of life questions ask to rate various categories including transportation, housing opportunity, economic opportunity, and recreation. Commission members suggested making the questions more specific.

Additional information requested in the survey includes demographic data, including whether the respondent is a resident of the borough, business owner, property owner, employed in the Borough, or a recreational visitor. The Commission believes there is value in being able to look for patterns based on this information.

Due to the length of the meeting, the updated survey draft will continue being discussed next month in addition to how the public will be notified of the survey and how it will be available.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Lannon, seconded by Mr. Perea, the Commission adjourned at 10:03 PM in honor of Mayor Libby White.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Kramer
Meeting Minutes Secretary