

**DOYLESTOWN BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**MAY 10, 2022
MEETING MINUTES**

The special meeting of the Doylestown Borough Planning Commission was held at Borough Hall at 7:30 PM on May 10, 2022. Members present were as follows:

James Lannon, Chair
Gus Perea, Vice Chair
Heather Mahaley
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 Councilpersons Wendy Margolis, Dennis Livrone, Larry Browne, Jennifer Jarret, Amy Popkin, and Tim Brennan.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mr. Lannon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of Martin Corr.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DISCUSSION: Michael Roedig and Lynn Lai, of the Bucks County Planning Commission, explained the goals and objectives of an implementable comprehensive plan, which will include consistent input from the community throughout the process. Tonight began the plan's kickoff, starting with the review of the internal survey results. A detailed community survey will be made available to the public, which will be generated over the next several months. Next, based on those survey results, smaller brainstorming workshops will be put together to focus on particular issues, bringing together members from various boards and committees in the Borough. Documents will be generated based on the recommendations from those smaller group workshops, and the implementation process will begin.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Aldredge, 53 N Church St: asked if this is meant to specifically target infrastructure. Mike explained the plan will go where the surveys lead, and where the issues arise. Mr. Aldredge's concerns lie with keeping the integrity of the historic district. Gus and James both explained this plan is truly comprehensive and will encompass all needs of the Borough.

Judy Marchand, 61 Woodbridge Drive, questioned the internal questionnaire; Mike explained that is not where the survey is generated, but is just one portion of it.

Jean Rollo, 165 Decatur St, asked how the group plans to encourage full participation in the survey. Mike, along with John Davis, explained there are many ways to encourage participation, including social media.

INTERNAL SURVEY RESULTS:

Mike reviewed the results of the internal survey results. The internal survey was conducted to evaluate which goals are still relevant from the prior Comprehensive Plan Update, which was prepared in the mid-1990s. Top chosen issues included historic preservation and future development as well as traffic and pedestrian concerns, among others. Housing and industrial goals and objectives as well as circulation and recreation/open space within the Borough were reviewed more thoroughly.

Wendy Margolis asked about the environmental goals in the Borough survey, and Mike noted that is included in the vision statements and will be introduced as a point of discussion.

Douglas Pundock, 61 Woodbridge Drive, questioned some of the details regarding traffic planning portions of the internal survey. Mike noted some of the goals listed were from previous comprehensive plans and are no longer relevant concerns. John Davis noted that specific goal in the previous comprehensive plan was related to traffic along the 611 bypass and necessary signage directing motorists to the most appropriate exit.

Seargant Paul Kreuter asked the group to clarify the comparison between the last comprehensive plan and the survey. It was explained that the survey will review what needs still exist from the previous comprehensive plan as well as new concerns Borough residents have for the future.

BRANDING/PROMOTION:

Lynn reviewed their branding draft, which includes designs and images connecting historic buildings found in the Borough. These ideas can be used in mailings as well as social media etc. Lynn Bush, Maryann, and Kim felt it may be better to include the new buildings in the branding as well, in a way to connect the Borough's past to the future. Phil agreed with the fact that the County Courthouse is a key element to our community. The Commission members agreed that the graphic design is nice but would like to see the County buildings included.

METROQUEST COMMUNITY SURVEY:

A video was shown explaining the program used to design the survey. Mike shared a template survey and asked for thoughts to be shared at a future planning meeting. He noted this is completely customizable based on the needs and requests of the Borough. D-Mail as well as social media will be used to distribute the surveys as well as having a computer in the Borough Hall lobby for community members to come in to complete the survey and get assistance with it if needed.

Maryann asked how the economic differences can be addressed. Mike can't promise the survey will be fully representative of all members of the community but they will do all they can to ensure all members of the community are included. She also questioned confidentiality and if the survey will be identifiable; she felt there are positives and negatives to that possibility. Mike will provide more information on that.

Mike explained the timing of the public survey; could be ready by August, but suggests waiting until September. There is no meeting in June; meetings are planned for July and August.

In response to questions from Nicholas Weremijenko, owner of 28 West State Street, James explained the survey will be open to business owners as well as residents.

Steve Nelson, resident of East Street, thanked Borough Council for working on this initiative. At a recent Doylestown Environmental Advisory Council meeting, it was discussed that other commissions and boards would be asked to provide input. James noted there will be many meetings and all are invited. Steve also encouraged the use of computers at the library as well as making computers available at Borough Hall and/or other locations throughout the Borough for survey completion.

Jim Aldredge asked if renters would be included in the survey, to which James explained renters make up a large portion of the community and input of all residents and property owners is valuable.

Amy Popkin asked if part of this program will include looking at things being done in comparable boroughs around the country, with the hope of gaining insight into other ideas. Mike explained that is part of their assessment.

Tim Brennan spoke to the issue of incorporating the old into the new, and wants to focus on preserving the history of the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Lannon, seconded by Mr. Perea, the Commission adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Kramer

