



COUNTY OF ERIE

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Brenton Davis
County Executive

Jessica A. Horan
Director

**Erie County Planning Commission
August 10, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.
Minutes
Erie County Conservation District**

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Quorum = 5

District/Designation	Municipality	Name	Present
District 1	Millcreek Twp	Matt Waldinger	Present
District 2	City of Erie	Lisa Austin	Present
District 3	City of Erie	Don Crenshaw	Present
District 4	City of Erie	Charles Casey	Present
District 5	Summit Twp	Mark Sleppy	Absent
District 6	UC Borough	Cindy Wells	Present
District 7	Fairview Twp	Jim Cardman	Present
At-Large	Elk Creek Twp	Michael Orr	Present
At-Large	Girard Borough	Jeanne Miller	Present
Alternate 1			
Alternate 2 (vacant)			
Alternate 3 (vacant)			

ALSO in attendance: Carl Ebert; Sharon Fronzoli; Jessica Horan, Director of EC Planning Department; Joy Fronzoli, EC Planning Department; Nancy Blimmel, EC Planning Department

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from last meeting:

C. Casey noted an error in the minutes. Senator Kelley is incorrect, it should read Representative Kelly. With the noted correction, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Don Crenshaw and seconded by Charles Casey. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Hearing of the Public: None

5. Presentation:

Erie to Corry Trail Feasibility Study and Tourism Analysis

Joy Fronzoli, of the Erie County Planning Department, gave a presentation on the Erie to Corry Trail Feasibility Study and Tourism Analysis. The Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development was awarded grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in December 2021 to support a feasibility study to determine a trail route through Erie County. The proposed trail would travel north from the City of Corry to the Mile 0 Medallion on Erie's Bayfront, as part of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. This project received priority recommendation resulting from the County's Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan, adopted as part of the County's Comprehensive Plan in July 2020. The project consultant team at Environmental Planning & Design completed the study as part of the planning process. The full study and Story Map is available on our website at [Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan - Erie County, PA \(eriecountypa.gov\)](https://www.eriecountypa.gov/Parks-Trails-and-Recreation-Plan-Erie-County-PA) and a direct link to the study at [Erie-to-Corry-Feasibility-Study-Report-FINAL-](#)

[rd.pdf \(eriecountypa.gov\)](https://www.eriecountypa.gov). We are currently looking for funding for a portion of the trail and have applied for a grant from America250. This plan will bring a positive economic impact to our communities.

6. Old Business:

1. Status of Amendment to Erie County SALDO on Solar Energy – Jessica reported that there have been some questions from County Council regarding the amendment. Once these have been answered, it will move forward towards adoption.
2. Assistance to municipalities for Zoning Amendments regarding Solar Energy – John McGranor has reached out to the municipalities offering help with zoning amendments regarding solar energy. John has a reviewed Millcreek’s ordinance and offered suggestions.

7. New Business:

- a. Please save the date - we are holding an Open House 9/14/23 4:00 – 6:00 to celebrate/introduce the Erie to Corry Trail Feasibility Study and Tourism Analysis. We will be inviting, stakeholders, potential funding sources, municipalities, etc. We hope to see the Planning Commission members as well.

8. Communications

- a. Department of Planning and Community Development Report – Jessica Horan reported:
 - The Planning Department has 3 open positions, including the Parks & Recreation Coordinator position which is partially funded by the DCNR. Please spread the word about our open positions.
 - The Hazard Mitigation Plan is in the process of being adopted by the municipalities with 30 having already adopted it.
 - We have discontinued our Municipal Stormwater Program (MS4) due to staffing issues. We now have a Whole-Home Repair Program and are administering the program with the help of the Corry and Erie Redevelopment Authorities. We received \$2.6 million, with \$½ million for training programs and the remainder for exterior home improvements and administrative costs.
 - The International Coastal Cleanup is being held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 9:00 -12:00. Please see our webpage for additional information at <https://eriecountypa.gov/departments/planning-and-community-development/programs/keep-erie-county-beautiful/international-coastal-cleanup/>
 - We have completed a study on the unserved areas for broadband. There are 3586 homes in Erie County who do not have internet at all. We are partnering with 2 companies, Charter and Windstream, to secure funding to bring service to those areas. The next phase of the project will be identifying the underserved (those without access to high-speed internet) locations in Erie County.
- b. Commissioner Reports
 - **District 1:** Matt Waldinger reported that they are continuing to work on the land development. They are also working on an extension to Presque Isle Trail with construction hopefully starting next year. They have also been updating their subdivision and land development ordinances.
 - **District 2:** Lisa Austin has nothing to report for now, however, for the next meeting she will be inviting another speaker.

- **District 3:** Don Crenshaw mentioned that the Bayfront Project was out to bid with the bids coming back more than \$35 million over the estimated cost. Also, they will be announcing a program that ties in with the governor's announcement of the Workforce Transformation Program to provide workforce development grants to ensure we have the skilled workers necessary.
- **District 4:** Charles Casey reported that there are many construction/paving projects underway. Veterans Park at 26th & State is almost complete.
- **District 5:** Absent
- **District 6:** Cindy Wells reported that they are working on many grants, Southwest Park proposal in, should be finished by end of September, complete re-do of park. The "Gateway" has a new giant chair in the area of the former Union City Dinor and have proposals for 3 murals in that area to be completed next year. Many buildings along Main Street being updated and Penn DOT finished road improvements.
- **District 7:** Jim Cardman reported on the downtown project. They are currently working on Phase 2, working with Penn DOT on Route 20 and Route 98. There is quite a lot of opposition to the proposed business park.
- Michael Orr from **Elk Creek Township** reported that they are still waiting on their Solar Ordinance from their attorney. They may need to revise it as it was based off of Washington Township's ordinance which they just amended.
- Jeanne Miller from **Girard Borough** reported that they are working with John McGranor to redo the Master Plan and ordinances (zoning.)

Lisa Austin requested that all meetings be available via internet/Zoom. We should meet in facilities that have internet connection so that our meetings are available to a larger audience.

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 12, 2023 at the First United Methodist Church in Union City.