

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
SOUTH CAMPUS
400 E. WYOMISSING AVE., SUITE D, BOX 2
MOHNTON, PA 19540

June 10, 2026

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Glenn R. Knoblauch called the monthly meeting of the Berks County Planning Commission to order at 3:08 p.m. The meeting was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, in person in the 1st floor conference room at South Campus.

2. ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

Glenn R. Knoblauch, Chair
Sarah Phillips, Vice Chair
David Mattes; Secretary
Jodi Gauker
Lee C. Olsen, AIA, NCARB
Gavin Milligan
Thomas C. McKeon, AICP, CEcD

Also Attending:

Ashley Showers, Executive Director
David Peris, Berks County Assistant Solicitor
Matthew McGough, Transportation Planner III
Michelle Franklin, Planner III
Taylor Lawrence, Planner III
Beth Burkovich, GIS Analyst
Laura Mursch Hosie, Intergovernmental Planner III
Michael Golembiewski, Planner III
Alan Piper, Transportation Planner III
Amanda Timochenko, Transportation Planner II
Devon Hain, Transportation Planner II
Rick Royer, Design Planner
Mark Mohn, Gov't Affairs Director, Reading-Berks Association of REALTORS®
Jeanne Johnston, Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College
Kelly Hughes, Account Clerk III

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

A. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ashley Showers began her report by welcoming new Account Clerk III Kelly Hughes. Director Showers invited Board Members to introduce themselves and share some background about themselves.

Director Showers continued her report by sharing the monthly Subdivision and Land Development reports. Specifically, there were 9 plans received for review including an egg breaking facility in Tulpehocken Township, additions to Muhlenberg School District's Junior High and Administration buildings as well as 2 poultry barns in Heidelberg Township. Director Showers also noted that we have received 3 zoning ordinance amendments so far in June, and 11 additional zoning amendments regarding data centers for review.

Director Showers then provided an attendance update for the Imagine Berks Comprehensive Plan Regional Meetings, which included 43 of Berks County's 72 municipalities, 7 of the County's 18 school districts as well as higher education institutions, all three County Commissioners, and six state and federal elected officials.

Director Showers reviewed upcoming partner events including the June 18th Spotlight Community Virtual event and Berks Nature's June 24th Municipal Lunch and Learn.

Director Showers provided update on the Transit Oriented Development Public Hearing at City Council that Shanice Ellison attended.

The report concluded with an update from Director Showers on the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Final documents will be submitted to PennDOT by June 26th for approval.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve May 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Land Development & Subdivision Activity Report/Summary: April 24, 2026 – May 20, 2026
- C. Approve Endorsed Land Development & Subdivision Activity: May 2026

MOTION: Jodi Gauker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Sarah Phillips and passed unanimously.

6. STAFF, STAKEHOLDER AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

- A. Sarah Phillips – Outreach Efforts

Ms. Phillips initiated discussion on outreach efforts and identified that there was a low response to community outreach surveys and that there is room to enhance municipality participation at the regional meetings. Ms. Phillips wants to ensure all the information done through Imagine Berks' studies and planning gets to where it was intended. Discussion ensued on different avenues and steps on how to get information out to the municipalities and the community. The initial recommendation was collaboration with the municipalities, which would lead to increased community engagement. Proposed outreach suggestions included dividing the municipalities by regions to enhance relationship-building, utilizing social media platforms, and reaching out through email communications.

Ms. Phillips concluded by confirming that members of the planning commission would be open to reaching out to municipalities, introducing themselves, and providing information about the

upcoming June 18th community forum, plus ensuring they are familiar with the E-Flash newsletter. Director Showers recommended targeting municipalities that did not attend the regional meetings. Next month, members will provide an update on their outreach efforts.

B. Jeanne Johnston – Albright College – Center for Excellence in Local Government (CELG)

Ms. Johnston provided a summary of her attendance at the regional meetings. Feedback from municipal participants suggested interest in future seminars and classes, and other possible educational initiatives for municipalities were identified. A future open house could present an opportunity for the planning commission to contribute through a speaker or materials. Bimonthly municipal secretary meetings present an additional opportunity to convey information. Director Showers noted that the newly elected officials' training series, which has been a successful program, and is held every two years, but expressed that conducting the training annually could be more beneficial in relationship-building between the planning commission and municipalities. Ms. Johnston discussed with a colleague resurrecting Citizens Academy, a program designed to educate citizens on how local government operates.

Ms. Johnston noted that the Center for Excellence in Local Government (CELG) is currently at a good point and able to make some tweaks with the organization and its programming. She added that CELG is no longer offering technical assistance with aspects such as budgets and that Albright has formed a sister organization, The Institute for Non-Profit and Civic Administration, to handle those functions. CELG's focus is educational initiatives.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jodi Gauker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:46p.m. The motion was seconded by David Mattes.

Glenn R. Knoblauch, Chair

David Mattes, Secretary