

CENTRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2024 MEETING

2024 CRPC MEMBERS

Ray Forziat, Chair
College Township

Chip Jones
Halfmoon Township

Chris Gamble
Harris Township

William Burnett
Patton Township

Shannon Holliday
Ferguson Township

(vacant)
State College Borough

Neil Sullivan, Vice Chair
Penn State University

CENTRE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Director
Mike Tylka

Sustainability Planner
Pam Adams

Transportation Planners
Greg Kausch
Anne Messner
Jim Saylor

GIS Specialist
Steve Arnold

Office Manager
Marcella Hoffman



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The CRPC conducted its regular meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. and took action on the following agenda items:

Election of Officers for 2024 – Ray Forziat of College Township was elected Chair and Neil Sullivan of Penn State University was elected Vice Chair.

Meeting Dates, Times, and Location – The CRPC will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month during 2024, with the exception of the two joint meetings* with the COG Land

Use and Community Infrastructure (LUCI) Committee. All meetings will be held in hybrid meeting format until further notice.

The CRPC also took action to appoint William Burnett, Patton Township Planning Commission, to the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) to represent the CRPC on the Coordinating Committee.

Comprehensive Plan Update

The CRPC received a presentation regarding information related to the update of the Centre Region Comprehensive Plan. The Centre Region Comprehensive Plan has been updated about every 10 years since the early 1960s and was last updated in 2013. The Plan serves as a statement of the Region's vision for the future. It includes goals, objectives, and policies on a broad range of topics and provides strategic direction to guide the Region's growth while maintaining a high quality of life.

Because there are new CRPC members and because there was a long period of time between the last CRPC meeting back in September 2023, staff provided a brief overview of the work that has been done as of today.

2024 CRPC Meeting Schedule

February 1	August 1
March 7	September 5
April 4*	October 3*
May 2	November 7
June 6	December 5
July 11	February 6, 2025

(Comprehensive Plan Update continued)

At two meetings in 2023, CRPC was presented materials and provided input regarding staff work on the Comprehensive Plan Update to date and on a proposed path forward. As part of these discussions, CRPC gave direction to proceed with a plan update that is to be modeled after Greensboro, North Carolina. Previous staff had also completed a plan assessment, a draft schedule, a draft implementation plan progress report, and a draft engagement survey.

Phase 1 ENGAGEMENT	Phase 2 BIG IDEAS	Phase 3 OPTIONS	Phase 4 REFINE	Phase 5 REVIEW/ADOPT
Understand how the Centre Region is doing in achieving the vision of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan Identify Strengths and Challenges	What are the big ideas that the community wants to pursue? Based upon the results of Phase 1	Discuss options for setting the growth strategy for the Centre Region	Draft Centre Region 2040 Plan and get feedback on goals and policies Refine and adjust as necessary	Final review with the community, municipalities and final adoption. Satisfy MPC requirements for adoption
Community Engagement Survey	In Person Engagement	Develop Draft Big Ideas	Draft Centre Region 2040	Phase 5 REVIEW/ADOPT
Initial Community Engagement Survey Compile results Prepare initial report	Conduct in person events Test validity of the initial Community Engagement Survey Reach out to underrepresented groups	Develop draft big ideas to for the Centre Region 2040 Plan Community events Local meetings Social media	Reach consensus from the community on big ideas and actions Community events Local meetings Social media	Review by Centre County and adjacent counties and municipalities Public hearings Adoption

Staff reviewed the assessment takeaways, completed in 2023, which led to the decision of using Greensboro, North Carolina’s Comprehensive Plan as a model. Staff then briefly reviewed the key elements of the Greensboro model and provided examples of Greensboro’s “Big Ideas”.

Staff reviewed the proposed draft schedule for the Comprehensive Plan update that was completed by previous staff, and suggested revising the schedule to begin Phase 1 Engagement in Spring of 2024. This would put adoption of the Comprehensive Plan mid year of 2025. Lastly, staff solicited input from Commission members for the engagement plan. The CRPC provided the following comments for staff to consider:

- Staff should utilize online maps for the public to input their ideas and concerns.
- Staff should “meet the public where they are” and take advantage of the neighborhood association meetings that are already taking place in the municipalities.
- Staff should consider utilizing funds from being short-staffed to hire a consultant to help with the engagement phase because it will be the most critical piece of the plan.
- Staff should work with Centre Region municipal planning staff to assist with the engagement phase.

At the next meeting in March, staff will present an outline of the engagement plan, based on the discussions from both the Land Use and Community Infrastructure (LUCI) Committee and the CRPC’s February meetings. Staff will also bring forward a finalized timeline and a draft survey for the initial community engagement.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

COG General Forum

Monday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.

LUCI Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 7 at 12:15 p.m.

CCMPO Coordinating Committee

Tuesday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m.

CRPC Meeting

Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.



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