

Minutes of Bern Township Planning Commission Meeting – 10 June 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jay Daley at 7:30 PM.

Members present were: Jay Daley; Chris Becker; Jim Colflesh; Steve Tricarico; Mike Werley; and Solicitor, Keith Mooney.
Absent: Engineer Kent Morey

Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Chris Becker made a motion with a second by Mr. Mike Werley to approve the minutes of the 13 May 2025 meeting of the Bern Township Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Mr. Steve Tricarico made a motion with a second by Mr. Jim Colflesh to approve the minutes of the 12 November 2024 meeting of the Bern Township Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Subdivision/Land Development Plans: None

Comprehensive Plan: There was discussion about establishing a committee to review the Bern Township Comprehensive Plan. However, Mr. Mooney stated that that had already been done. Irene Reed, Brian Potts, and Steve Tricarico got together and reviewed the plan taking into account previous comments from Beth Burkovich, Steve Tricarico, Chris Becker, and other Commission members relating to changes and concerns about the Comprehensive Plan. They incorporated those changes and concerns into a revised draft which Irene Reed E-mailed to all concerned. However, that revised draft was not received by a majority of the Commission members. Irene Reed re-sent the Email tonight during the meeting.

Further discussion continued on whether to accept the Comprehensive Plan, (revised draft that was re-sent to all Planning Commission members), or to have the members take both the original and revised copies home for comparison.

Solicitor Keith Mooney stated that he will also Email comments from the Berks County Planning Commission to members of the Bern Township Planning Commission.

By consensus, the members decided that further action on the Comprehensive Plan would be tabled until the July 2025 Planning Commission meeting. This will allow the members to make a side-by-side comparison of the initial draft and the revised draft prior to the July meeting.

Mr. Colflesh asked how the township plans to address the issue of senior housing since the township demographics show an increase in the senior citizen population.

Solicitor Mooney provided input by reminding the commission members that the Comprehensive Plan is really a guide to be used by the Township Supervisors for them to make sound zoning and development decisions in the future.

Mr. Colflesh also requested an explanation on the "Town Center Concept". Solicitor Mooney explained the concept.

Mr. Becker asked how we plan to address agricultural land preservation.

Additional discussion focused on past and current development plans.

Mr. Tricarico discussed possibly increasing lot size requirements in the AB and RR districts so that the township can retain its rural atmosphere.

Mr. Werley brought up the recent article in the "Reading Eagle" about PENDOT's proposed improvements to the Rte 183 Corridor. Township Manager Brian Potts explained some of PENDOT's preliminary plans.

Solicitor's Comments: None

There being no further discussion, Mr. Colflesh made a motion with a second by Mr. Becker to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM with the next meeting scheduled for 8 July 2025 at 7:30 PM.

Mike Werley, Acting Secretary