

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

May 13, 2026

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Glenn R. Knoblauch called the monthly meeting of the Berks County Planning Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, in person in the 1st floor conference room at South Campus.

2. ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

Glenn R. Knoblauch, Chair
David Mattes; Secretary
Jodi Gauker
Thomas C. McKeon, AICP, CEcD
Lee C. Olsen, AIA, NCARB
Kevin Lerch
Carolyn Rodino
Gavin Milligan

Also Attending:

Ashley Showers, Executive Director
David Peris, Berks County Assistant Solicitor
Leo Scott, Assistant Director
Matthew McGough, Transportation Planner III
Michelle Franklin, Planner III
Taylor Lawrence, Planner III
Beth Burkovich, GIS Analyst
Laura Mursch Hosie, Intergovernmental Planner III
Alan Piper, Transportation Planner III
Amanda Timochenko, Transportation Planner II
Shanice Ellison, Planner I
Rick Royer, Design Planner
Derek Harris, Economic Development Coordinator
Mark Mohn, Gov't Affairs Director, Reading-Berks Association of REALTORS®
Jeremy Zaborowski, Director of Industrial Development Authority
Alex Darlington, Lyons Borough
Jaime Perez, Director Berks County Redevelopment Authority

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 sharing the monthly Subdivision and Land Development reports. Specifically, there were 18 plans received for review including a new wedding venue in Amity Township, 4 commercial buildings in Caernarvon Township and a farm equipment business in Perry Township. Director Showers also noted that several revisions were made to the Subdivision and Land Development dashboard to assist users with understanding the plans. To date the dashboard has been viewed by 690 people.

Director Showers then provided an update on the Imagine Berks Comprehensive Plan regional meetings. Specifically, attendance at each region and feedback received to date. Additionally, Director Showers invited the Board members to attend the remaining meetings.

The report concluded with a review of upcoming partner events including the Ag Department's pop-up Farmers Market on June 13th, RPHILS night 6/16, the June 18TH Community Spotlight Virtual event and Berks Nature's June 24th Municipal lunch and learn.

5. Authorize the Chairman to issue a letter to the Redevelopment Authority stating the certified blighted property acquisition of 2037 Girard Avenue in Spring Township is consistent with the Berks County Comprehensive Plan Update 2030.

MOTION: Dave Mattes made a motion to approve the authorization as presented. The motion was seconded by Gavin Milligan and passed unanimously.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve April 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Land Development & Subdivision Activity Report/Summary: March 19, 2026 – April 23, 2026
- C. Approve Endorsed Land Development & Subdivision Activity: April 2026

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

7. STAFF, STAKEHOLDER AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Michelle Franklin – Exide Clean Up Update

Ms. Franklin provided a summary of her attendance at the April 22nd EPA community information meeting regarding the ongoing Remedial Investigation of the former Exide Technologies Superfund Site. EPA representatives provided an update on the investigation process, noting that the site is currently in the characterization phase to determine the extent of lead contamination. While the investigation is expected to take 4–5 years, cleanup activities may begin within the next 1–2 years. Soil testing is being conducted within a one-mile radius of the site, with residential properties exceeding EPA screening levels prioritized for remediation. EPA representatives emphasized that property owner consent is required for both sampling and cleanup activities. Additional groundwater, stream, park, and greenspace sampling is planned. The EPA will continue accepting applications for testing and cleanup assistance, and a final Remedial Investigation Report will identify long-term cleanup alternatives. The meeting also noted that a prospective purchaser of the former Exide facility is expected to address outstanding cleanup obligations under PADEP's voluntary cleanup program.

B. Ashley Showers – Legislative Run Down

Ms. Showers provided an overview of current state legislation related to the Municipalities Planning Code, housing and growth management, data centers and emerging industries, and transportation and infrastructure. She discussed the potential impact of these proposals on the Planning Commission’s work and noted that the Commission will continue to monitor legislative developments and assist municipalities in implementing any new regulations.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jodi Gauker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:59p.m. The motion was seconded by Lee Olsen.

Glenn R. Knoblauch, Chair

David Mattes, Secretary