



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter
Lehigh Valley-Berks Section

Monthly Newsletter

 February 2026

There may be snow, but it's not slow!

Hello planners!

I hope everyone has been surviving the previous snowfall in our area and will be bracing for another round this weekend. Despite the cold and weather, it has not slowed down the work us planners have been doing locally and across the state!

Here in our Section, we are hard at work preparing for our Annual PA Planning Conference in Bethlehem and working on several exciting CM events for this year. Planners in the Lehigh Valley and Berks County have been busy tackling new land use challenges such as data center proposals, on top of working on various planning projects, comprehensive plan updates, and navigating changing political landscapes. When we say [It Takes a Planner](#), we truly mean it!

Across the state, housing is taking the forefront. With help from the [Office of Community Planning](#), the Governor has released the state's first [Housing Action Plan](#), calling for reform to promote more new housing and expanding homeownership. Several state representatives and senators are also preparing various new bills aimed at tackling these challenges ahead on.

No matter if it's locally or across the Commonwealth, planners are at the forefront of critical issues affecting everyone. With so much happening, it is important for planners to stay up-to-date through educational events and networking with colleagues. Our Section aims to help meet those needs with our regular meetings, social events, and [educational calendar](#).

We hope you will consider joining us at an upcoming meeting or event to learn how you can get involved. Please let us know how we can best help you!

Craig Beavers, AICP Candidate

Section Chair



 **News and Announcements**

Schedule for Meetings

Thank you to everyone who was able to make our February meeting at The Shelby! We had a great time catching up and talking about upcoming events and initiatives.

Please see below for our Full Section Membership Meeting schedule for the rest of the year. More information will be

provided as we get closer to the event.

- **Thursday, May 14, 2026 - Hamilton Family Restaurant**
- **Friday, August 14, 2026 - TBD**
- **Thursday, November 19, 2026 - TBD**

City of Easton seeking Chief Planner/Zoning Officer

The City of Easton is looking for a highly motivated and experienced planner to serve as their Chief Planner/Zoning Officer.

This position manages all of the City's planning and zoning matters, including long-range planning, development review, and regional coordination.

Interested candidates must be AICP-certified and be in good standing with APA PA. Salary starts at \$110,000. To apply or learn more, click the link below

[Learn More](#)

Call for Presenters Open

The 2026 Call for Presenters is open! Proposals are being accepted online only via the Chapter website. The **deadline to submit your proposals is Friday, March 13, 11:59 PM.**

Traditional and non-traditional sessions will be accepted.

We encourage anyone and everyone to submit a proposal for a session, mobile tour, or other workshop. We would love to represent any recent planning initiatives, projects, or successes of the Lehigh Valley and Berks County.

To learn more or to submit a proposal, click the button below.

[Click Here for More Info](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

We are pleased to announce that the City of Bethlehem will host the Pennsylvania Chapter American Planning Association Conference on **October 18-20, 2026**. This prestigious event will welcome more than 400 planning professionals who will engage in comprehensive training, strategic networking, and professional development activities.

This year's conference theme "***Forging the Next 250 Through Preservation, Innovation, and Collaboration***" will comprehensively highlight the growth and future of Pennsylvania's planning profession, underscoring the Commonwealth's pivotal role in transforming its history through regional development and innovation. Sessions will focus on critical topics including land use planning, affordable housing solutions, sustainable infrastructure planning, transportation planning, historic preservation, geographic information systems,

and economic development strategies designed to strengthen communities across diverse urban and rural settings. Attendees will gain valuable insights from industry leaders on implementing future-focused planning approaches.

The conference presents an exceptional opportunity for organizations to showcase their expertise and capabilities to planning professionals and policymakers from across the Commonwealth.

We encourage anyone who may be interested in becoming a sponsor, exhibitor, or advertiser for our upcoming conference to visit the link below to learn more.

[Click Here for More Info](#)

Section Volunteers Wanted!

We have several volunteer opportunities open for anyone in our section who is interested. These positions have a low-time commitment, allow for AICP credits, and are a fun way to connect with colleagues across the region! If any of these items interest you, please reach out to Craig or Samantha.

- Election Nomination Committee - This committee consists of three people who collect the names of interested candidates for section office, and distribute the candidates list and ballot. Commitment involves 1-3 meetings total, and about 30 minutes of data collection.
- Education and Events Committees - We have two committees for our section that help with our work. One is our Education Committee, working to promote planning to

our local colleges and schools. The second is our Events Committee, developing CM events and social gatherings.

We welcome anyone and everyone to help out with these two committees! If you might be interested in volunteering, please fill out the form below:

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

Webinar Wednesday: Preparing a Litigation-Proof Land Use Application

As NIMBYism grows exponentially, more and more land use applications end up in court. Learn how to litigation-proof your applications from original submission through the notice of decision and how to make an ironclad record, including tips on preparing your witnesses and dealing with represented objectors, all in the context of the standard of court review and other key legal issues.

CM credit is pending approval. You must attend the webinar live in order to earn CM credit.

Speaker(s):

Christopher Costa, Kevin Moore, Tina Roseberry

The Pennsylvania Chapter is not responsible for the materials or opinions of the speaker(s) you will hear

Deadline to register is March 3

If you're interested in sponsoring a Webinar Wednesday session or have a session for Webinar Wednesday please contact us.

Send your request to admin@planningpa.org.

[Register Now](#)

Upcoming Events

Our Section provides a calendar of CM events, local initiatives, and major planning meetings. Here are a few upcoming events of note:

- [February 25 - Planning with the Future](#) (1 CM)
- [March 4 - Webinar Wednesday: Preparing a Litigation-Proof Land Use Application](#) (1 CM)
- [March 5 - Succession Planning for Planners](#) (1 CM)
- March 12 - Conference Planning Committee Meeting
- March 13 - Call for Presenters Deadline

To view more events and CM webinars, click the button below.

[View More Events](#)

Employment Opportunities

Our Section highlights a variety of planning and planning related jobs in our area. Here are a few open positions:

- [Senior Transportation Planner - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission](#)
- [Chief Planner - City of Easton](#)

To view more job opportunities, click the button below.

[View More Jobs](#)

 **SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

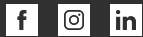
Liked this month's newsletter? Don't forget to spread it out!



**Lehigh Valley/Berks Section,
APA PA**

Allentown, PA

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