



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter
Lehigh Valley-Berks Section

March Monthly Newsletter

 News and Announcements

NEW

Section Event - Planning for Data Centers: Regional Perspectives and Local Implications

Join our section as we host our first CM event of the year on Monday, April 27th from 12pm to 1pm.

This webinar will provide planners with a practical, planning-focused overview of data center development, with emphasis on local land use implications, infrastructure demands, and regional coordination strategies. As interest in data center siting continues to grow across Pennsylvania, planners are increasingly tasked with evaluating proposals that have

significant impacts on zoning, utilities, transportation, energy systems, and community character.

The session will feature a moderated panel discussion bringing together perspectives from municipal and county planning, regional planning, and engineering and development professionals. Panelists will discuss how data centers differ from traditional industrial uses, common planning and zoning challenges, infrastructure and utility considerations, and best practices for local governments preparing for or responding to data center interest.

Participants will gain insight into how planners can proactively address data centers through comprehensive planning, zoning ordinances, development standards, and inter-municipal coordination.

To register click the button below.

[Sign Up Here](#)

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](#)

Schedule for Meetings

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**

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: Recipe for Heritage-Based Planning: Comp Plans, Placemaking and Partnerships

While mandated to be addressed by the MPC, historic resources and heritage planning can often be given little attention in comprehensive plans as compared with other planning topics. In Chester County, historic resources and heritage planning is on equal footing with other policies in Chester County's comprehensive plan, Landscapes 3, as one of six planning topical areas. Learn how historic resources and heritage planning policy is being put into action and especially the critical role of partnerships with municipalities and organizations to create tools, programs, and projects that effectuate policy and actions and can be used for municipal planning, local heritage

economy development, and preservation of lands and resources. A theme throughout the session is “place preserving as place making”. A case study of the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force partnership and Heritage Interpretive Plans and implementation show a type of successful approach. This session will focus on various initiatives that are replicable and will help you build your own recipe book. Other places can look to a similar strategy for their Comprehensive Plan and implementation. County, local, and non-profit/consultant presenters provide a varied and broad-based perspective.

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

Speaker(s):

Jeannine Speirs

Rich Phifer

Stephanie Armpriester

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

Deadline to register is March 31st.

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:

- [March 26 - LGBTQIA+ Visibility in Main Streets](#) (1.5 CM, 1 Eq)
- [March 27 - How Local Health Data Can Transform Your Planning Practice and Improve Outcomes](#) (1.5 CM, 1 Eq)
- [April 1 - Webinar Wednesday: A Recipe for Heritage-Based Planning: Comp Plans, Placemaking and Partnerships](#) (1 CM)
- [April 27 - Planning for Data Centers: Regional Perspectives and Local Implications](#) (1 CM)

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](#)

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



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

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United States of America

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