

September 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday | September 16, 2021 | 10AM

Via Zoom



Municipal Attendees: Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills; Ben Estell, Dormont; Tim McLaughlin, Aspinwall; Lindsay Powell, Pittsburgh; Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Shawn Alfonso-Wells, Swissvale; Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Vanessa McCarty-Johnson, Homestead; Amanda Sloane, Bellevue; Jack Betkowski, Ross; Deborah Gross, Pittsburgh; Michael Lamb, Pittsburgh; John Stinner, Jefferson Hills; Deneen Underwood, Carnegie

Other Attendees: Nick Mackereth, DCED; Eric Macadangdang, GSPIA; Joseph Marlitt, GSPIA
GSPIA/CONNECT: Lydia Morin, Tess De Jong, JoEllen Marsh, Kelley Kelley, Brett Stewart, Eric Raabe, Blair Mickles

The Zoom room opened at 9:45am for members to casually chat with one another

Introductions, Call to Order and Agenda Overview by Chair Patricia DeMarco

- There will be American Rescue Plan funding coming someday, somehow; those of us in a better position can take full advantage. We need to understand what's coming down to us

Action items:

- Attend Local Government Academy Webinar "The American Rescue Plan – Advice for Municipal Spending" <https://localgovernmentacademy.org/the-american-rescue-plan-advice-for-municipal-spending/> Thursday, September 23 at 2:00pm
- Stay tuned for ARPA funding potential for Sustainability projects/efforts coming from Sustainable Pittsburgh

July 2021 Executive Committee Minutes

- We did not get to this agenda item. We will vote to approve the July 2021 EC minutes at our December 9th EC meeting.

Introductions Around the Table Municipal Updates

Prompt: "Share one of CONNECT's priorities that your community is addressing"

- Swissvale: Implementing LEAD, taking advantage of green building practices because we're probably getting new municipal building, and working with Eric on Climate Action Plan.
- Turtle Creek: Trying to recruit police and other staff because there is currently a shortage.
- Dormont: Reviewing our recently adopted long zoning ordinance, working on a mobility audit.

- Aspinwall: Third and final sewer separation, working with GSPIA CONNECT capstone on Communications & Technology working group.
- Etna: Transportation and complete streets (we received a [great place award](#) for Butler Street)
- Ross: Our board is very interested in LEAD and volunteer fire.
- Green Tree: We're also finding police candidates (talk of emergency consolidation is always bubbling beneath the surface), still working on executing transfer agreements, focusing getting our new personnel acquainted with Coordinate PA.
- Sharpsburg: engaged in LEAD, a lot with CAP, bike/pedestrian mobility and infrastructure, and we have a new opportunity for shade tree inventory and green infrastructure.
- Mt. Lebanon: Our parks master plan is being developed, engaging residents, urban tree canopy management + finding funding, working on our draft CAP, and a subcomponent of that is complete streets. Need to find the opportunity with ALCOSAN projects to integrate with complete streets and/or other potential big bangs for buck.
- Carnegie: Complete streets, playground equipment with new rain garden.
- Pittsburgh: Land steward/land management, maintenance, and turning this work into job development, which all goes hand in hand with our land bank and helping first time homeowners. Finding policies when we have very different land markets: gentrifying and abandoned/delinquent. Also, tree canopy, scooters, and using ARPA funds.
- Jefferson Hills: working hard on LEAD, recently submitted our cohort interest form, we're looking to divert people by the 1st of the year! Also, we just completed our 10-year comprehensive plan.
- Homestead: Comprehensive plan with West Homestead and Munhall – a cohesive 3-borough community, discussions around bus service in West Homestead, building new stormwater retention green space by one of our schools, and together we used Act 152 to tear down some buildings.
- Bellevue: new to my role in Bellevue and to the CONNECT group, happy to be here and learn more about what CONNECT and you are all doing.
- Forest Hills: we've adopted an active transportation plan, grant to work on complete streets policy which will begin shortly. Looking to implement our CAP. When we do, we'll focus on borough buildings to set an example. We're engaging with LEAD, and our council is very receptive to the volunteer fire work as well.
- FYI: Allegheny County needs more poll workers!

Action items:

- Apply for and/or share the opportunity to work elections in Allegheny County. See more information at the bottom of these notes.
- Reach out to other members who are working on similar projects.

CONNECT Staff Roundtable Introductions and what we're working on

- Tess De Jong, Project Coordinator
- Eric Raabe, Community Projects Manager
- Brett Stewart, Future of Fire Coordinator
- Blair Mickles, Future of Fire Intern
- JoEllen Marsh, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Director
- Kelley Kelley, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Community Outreach Coordinator

Action Items:

- Read JoEllen's email from 9/17 about LEAD's Policy Coordinating Group meeting on 9/23, and other updates.
- Save the date for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Happy Hour with the LEAD National Support Bureau on Wednesday, October 20, 5:00-7:00pm.

Membership Engagement

- Introduction to Membership Engagement Survey. This will help us stay on track for what you want for our Executive Committee, Working Group, and Subcommittee meetings.
- We took the survey in the meeting:
https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0w9NXPQcTgiiZ7w
- Introduction to Member Retreat in January 2022. This will be an onboarding and re-onboarding event for new and returning municipal representatives, to learn more about CONNECT and how to be involved. The goal is to institutionalize it every year.

Action items:

- [Take the Membership Engagement Survey](#)
- Share the [survey](#) with the CONNECT representatives in your municipality

Friendraiser Planning Update

Thank you to those who sent us suggestions for locations. Many have high potential. We are comparing a few factors like cost, restrictions, accessibility, technology, and COVID safety and will present the top contenders to our board to decide next week.

Action Item: Save the Date for the Friendraiser: Tuesday, November 16th, 5:00-8:00pm.

Closing Thoughts

- Next Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, December 9th, 10:00am
- "It really helps to connect both when times are tough... and when times are not tough!!"

Action item: Register for the next Executive Committee Meeting: [Thursday, December 9th, 10:00am](#). Registering will save it to your calendar.

Adjourn 11:15am

Continued from above: Allegheny County needs more poll workers! Demonstrate your civic participation by serving on Election Day as a Judge, Inspector or Clerk of Election. Poll workers, also referred to as election officers, earn from \$150 to \$175 for the day. New poll workers also receive paid training. Poll workers must be comfortable with interacting with the public, and keeping up to date with election changes. There is a high performance expectation on Election Day and well-trained poll workers are instrumental in our ability to realize that goal. To apply to be a poll worker, please complete [a poll worker application online](#). You will be redirected to the county's Support Center site where you will need to log in or create an account. Once logged in, select the "Request Service" tile and then choose "Election Poll Worker" to provide your responses if you're not automatically directed to that page. Please share!

Upcoming CONNECT Events (updated 9/21/21)

Click the title links to register for the Zoom meeting and receive the Zoom link.

[LEAD Subcommittee](#)

Recurring monthly, Mondays 2:00-3:00pm

Next Meeting: September 27, 2021

[The Future of Fire Subcommittee](#)

Recurring monthly, Wednesdays 12:30-1:30pm

Next meeting: October 6, 2021

[Strategic Network Leadership Training Sessions](#)

Thursday, September 30, 2021 | 9:00-11:00am

Thursday, October 21, 2021 | 9:00-11:00am

Thursday, October 28, 2021 | 9:00-11:00am

Strategic Network Leadership Training Closing Session x CONNECT 7th Annual Fundraiser

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 | ~4:00-8:00pm

Location TBD

[Executive Committee Meeting: Working Group Year-End Progress Reports & Action Items](#)

Thursday, December 9, 2021 | 10:00am-12:00pm

1st Annual CONNECT Executive Committee Retreat

Thursday, January 27, 2022 | 10:00am-2:00pm

This will serve as our bimonthly Executive Committee meeting

12th Annual Legislative Session & Reception

Thursday, April 21, 2022