

## Chapter 16

### REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Haines 11-19-2003. Amendments noted where applicable.]

#### GENERAL REFERENCES

Planning Commission — See Ch. 15.

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#### § 16-1. Creation; membership; terms.

Haines Township hereby joins with the municipalities of Centre Hall Borough, Gregg Township, Miles Township, Millheim Borough, Penn Township, and Potter Township to create the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission as per the guidelines set forth under Article XI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Fifteenth Edition of Act 247 as amended January 2001.<sup>1</sup> Each participating municipality shall appoint two members. The term of each member shall be two years.

#### § 16-2. Purpose.

- A. The seven municipalities of the Penns Valley area have come to recognize that the issues associated with growth and development, such as, but not limited to, traffic congestion, air and water pollution, and loss of open space, are too large for any one municipality to deal with. They further recognize that current growth and anticipated growth, if not properly managed, will lead to the diminution of the region's quality of life. They are concerned that current zoning requirements which call for each and every municipality to provide for a full range of uses, regardless of historic development patterns, is inefficient and potentially destructive to the region's economic and social structure.
- B. To this end, the seven municipalities of the Penns Valley area hereby embark on a course of action to implement multimunicipal planning. Haines Township empowers the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission to undertake the development of a Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan that shall encompass the seven municipalities of the Penns Valley area.

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1. Editor's Note: See 53 P.S. § 11101 et seq.

**§ 16-3. Powers and duties.**

The Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission shall have the responsibility to prepare a Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan for the seven participating municipalities of the Penns Valley area. To this end, the powers and duties of the Commission are as follows:

- A. To prepare a Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Article XI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.
- B. That in the preparation of the Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan, the members of the Commission shall represent the interest of their respective municipalities, and may cast one vote per municipality on all matters that require action.
- C. The recommendation of the Commission shall be advisory only.
- D. The municipalities may extend the power and duties of the Regional Planning Commission by resolution of all participating municipalities.
- E. The Commission shall be guided by the bylaws of the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission Attachment No. 1.

**§ 16-4. Withdrawal.**

Any participating municipality may withdraw from the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission after six months' formal notice. Formal notice must be submitted in writing with the consent of the respective governing body authorizing withdrawal from the Regional Planning Commission. Upon receiving notice that a municipality wishes to withdraw from the Regional Planning Commission, the governing bodies of the remaining municipalities shall promptly schedule a meeting to consider whether the remaining municipalities wish to continue with the Regional Planning Commission. Municipalities who choose to withdraw shall still be responsible for their share of costs for the six-month formal notice period.

**§ 16-5. Dispute resolution.**

In instances where a dispute arises between two or more municipalities as to the contents of the Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan or the interpretation of this chapter, the Regional Planning Commission may retain the services of the Centre County Planning Office or any other organization that specializes in mediation. The parties involved in the dispute shall be responsible for any costs incurred for mediation.

**§ 16-6. Severability.**

The provisions of this chapter are severable, and if any section, sentence, clause, part or provision hereof shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall not affect or impair the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, parts or provisions of this chapter. It is hereby declared to be the intent of this Board that this chapter would have still been adopted even if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional section, sentence, clause, part or provision had not been included herein.

**§ 16-7. When effective.**

This chapter shall be effective five days after its enactment by all the participating municipalities.