

# Planning Commission

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September 16, 2025

The meeting of the Towanda Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Towanda Municipal Building, 724 Main Street, Towanda PA.

The meeting was called to order by Shane Mize at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chair Shane Mize, Mark Christini, Kelly Shay, Carol Westafer, Scott Hauser

**Absent Members:** Kevin Doupe, William Kovalcin, Erin Groves, Roger Hatch

**Others:** Leigh Vargason Borough Secretary, Fred Smith Solicitor

**Visitors:** Mr Bradford, Jenalee Coe NHS Student, Mr. Rounds NHS Teacher

## Public Comments:

NHS Student Jenalee Coe introduced the proposal for a community dog park, near the Memorial Park pavilion area.

## Highlights:

- The lack of designated off-leash areas in Towanda
- Residents show interest in pet friendly spaces, with limited options currently available.
- Dog park would encourage exercise, social interaction, and family activities for residents.
- For pets it would provide safe play, off leash freedom, and better behavior through activity.
- For the town, it would improve liability, increase community pride, attract visitors, and potentially boost nearby business.

## Community Engagement and Funding:

- Community engagement features include book nook, pamphlet holders, donation bins, and a camera for 24 hr. monitoring
- Funding sources include the town budget, state or local grants, and community fundraising events.
- The NHS club would be responsible for routine upkeep and monthly maintenance.
- The borough would handle waste disposal, and the park would follow strict safety and cleanliness rules.

This proposal aims to bring people together, strengthen community pride, and turn unused land into a vibrant hub for residents and pets.

## Minutes:

The minutes from the July 15, 2025 meeting were approved, 1<sup>st</sup> motion M.Christini and 2<sup>nd</sup> S.Mize

## New Business

Regional Comprehensive Plan kick off meeting was held, which involves Towanda Borough, Towanda Township, North Towanda Township, the plan involves various aspects like recreation, mapping, and transportation. The goal is to provide a blueprint for future grants and funding opportunities.

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## Ongoing Business

Solar energy Solicitor F. Smith spoke on implementing an ordinance to cover Solar Panels installations. We currently do not have specific zoning code for installing solar panels. F. Smith presented a governor's model ordinance, M. Christini motioned that F. Smith updates his suggestions on the governor's model and bring back to the Planning Commission meeting to be chewed on and then be comfortable with it and then make a motion, hopefully to send it to council. S. Mize second motion, all in favor of F. Smith bringing an updated model to the next plan committee to be reviewed.

Welcomed new members Kelly Shay, and Carol Westafer

As there was no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 7:36p.m.

Next Meeting schedule for October 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Vargason  
Borough Secretary