

Planning Commission

July 21, 2026

The meeting of the Towanda Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 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, Vice Chair Kevin Doupe, Kelly Shay, Erin Groves, Roger Hatch, Scott Hauser

Absent Members: William Kovalcin, Carol Westafer, Mark Christini

Others: Leigh Vargason Borough Secretary, Fred Smith Solicitor, Barry Thrush Code Officer

Visitors: Mr Bradford, Daily Review Reporter

Public Comments: No Public comments or concerns.

Minutes:

The minutes from the January 20, 2026 meeting were approved, 1st motion K. Doupe and 2nd S.Mize

Variance Request Hearing minutes May 5, 2026 approval 1st motion R. Hatch, 2nd S. Mize

Special Exception Request 11 North Main Street- June 9, 2026 approval 1st E. Groves, 2nd R. Hatch

New Business

The Commission discussed a request from Borough Council to consider whether a local ordinance is needed to regulate E-bike, E-scooters, and similar “micro-mobility devices.

- Members reviewed example language from another municipality (Sayre) and related materials summarizing Pennsylvania Vehicle Code provisions governing E-bike, E-scooters, Segways, and similar devices.
- It was noted that:
 - The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code already provides detailed classification and regulations for these devices, including:
 - Where they may operate (roadway, sidewalks, private property, etc.)
 - Applicable age restrictions
 - Helmet and equipment requirements
 - The state regulations distinguish among multiple device types (e.g., bicycles, e-bikes/pedal cycles, scooters, Segways, motorized wheelchairs), and are considered clear and comprehensive.
 - The example ordinance from another borough focused largely on helmet requirements and in cases adopted requirements more restrictive than state law (e.g., a uniform age cut off), which members felt could create confusion if Towanda Borough adopted different age or helmet standards than those in State Law.
- Members expressed that the main concern in Towanda is enforcement of existing State Law, particularly in areas such as Parkway, and the business district, rather than lack of regulations.
 - It was noted that the Borough already has local restrictions on bicycles on certain sidewalks (e.g., in business district) and that state law requires yielding to pedestrians.
 - General agreement, that an additional local ordinance could “muddy the waters” given the complexity of the existing State framework and the number of different device types.

After discussion, the Planning Commission reached consensus that the existing Pennsylvania Vehicle Code adequately regulates e-bike, e-scooters, and related devices, and that Towanda Borough does not need to adopt a separate local ordinance at this time.

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Motion: K. Doupe, 2nd R. Hatch that the Planning Commission recommend to Borough Council that Towanda Borough rely on and enforce the existing Pennsylvania state law regarding e-bikes, e0scooters, and similar devices, and that no additional local ordinance be adopted at this time.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ongoing Business

As there was no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Next Meeting schedule for August 18, 2026

Respectfully submitted.

Leigh Ann Lattimer
Towanda Borough Secretary/ Treasurer