



MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of New Jersey

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL

100 North Road (Route 513)
Chester, New Jersey 07930-2322
(908) 879-6737
(908) 879-4205 (fax)
www.nj.gov/njhighlands



CARL J. RICHKO
Chairman

BENJAMIN L. SPINELLI, ESQ.
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Plan Conformance Committee

FROM: Benjamin L. Spinelli, Esq., Executive Director

DATE: February 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Plan Conformance Committee Minutes – February 10, 2026

A Plan Conformance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 12:30 pm via Zoom. The following participants were present:

Committee Members present: Council Chair Richko, and Committee Members Basralian, Bush, Kibler and Van Abs.

Staff Members present: Ben Spinelli, Gabrielle Gallagher, James Humphries, Elizabeth Ward, Kelley Curran, Neda Hartman, Carole Ann Diction and Annette Tagliareni

GAU Member present: Michael Eleneski, Associate Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit (GAU).

Council Chair Richko opened the meeting at 12:30pm.

Chair Richko noted that he added Member Basralian to this committee and will announce other assignments at February's Council meeting.

Amended Petition for Plan Conformance for a Center Designation, Bernardsville Borough (Somerset County)

Elizabeth Ward, Principal Planner presented the Amended Petition for Plan Conformance for a Center Designation for the Borough of Bernardsville, Somerset County. This same presentation will be provided to the full Council at its February 19th meeting.

Chair Richko asked if there were any comments/questions.

New Jersey Is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Follow the New Jersey Highlands Council @njhighlandscouncil

Member Van Abs questioned if the parcel which shows in the Protection Zone to the left of the designated center is correct. Ms. Ward responded that she will verify with GIS staff.

Member Kibler asked if Mine Brook is a C-1 stream as he is aware that the Borough has flooding issues. It was noted that Mine Brook is not a C-1 stream. Member Kibler questioned why the flooding issue was not addressed in the proposed Highlands center designation. Mr. Humphries responded that Highlands staff could add a condition to the Amended Petition. Member Van Abs then asked if the report would need to go through another public comment period. Ms. Gallagher noted that the condition will be a response to one of the comments received.

Member Basralian asked how many centers have been designated and what have we learned. Mr. Spinelli responded that the municipality has their own timeline but we can follow up with them to lay out a plan. Mr. Spinelli noted that five center designations were placed on hold due to lack of progress. Some have renewed their efforts in response.

Mr. Humphries noted that Council staff will provide a brief presentation to the full Council at its next meeting explaining Highlands Plan Conformance Center Designations in more detail.

Member Van Abs made a motion to move Bernardsville Borough's Amended Petition for Plan Conformance for a Highlands Center Designation to the full Council for consideration; Member Kibler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 12:49p.m.