



*State of New Jersey*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUSINESS ACTION CENTER  
OFFICE FOR PLANNING ADVOCACY  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0820

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

GERRY SCHARFENBERGER, PH.D.  
*Director*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lieutenant Governor*

July 10, 2017

**VIA EMAIL**

Susan S. Gruel, P.P.  
HEYER, GRUEL & ASSOCIATES  
236 Broad Street  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Re: Lacey Township Plan Endorsement

Dear Ms. Gruel:

The Office for Planning Advocacy ("OPA") is in receipt of the request for a waiver of Plan Endorsement requirements that you submitted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:85-7.6(c) on behalf of Lacey Township dated April 25, 2017. Lacey requested a waiver of the following requirements:

1. Appointment of a Citizens Advisory Committee, N.J.A.C. 5:85-7.8(a)(1)
2. Execution of a community visioning program inclusive of at least three facilitated workshops and at least two public hearings (one each before the Planning Board and the Governing Body), N.J.A.C. 5:85-7.11(a)

Lacey seeks a waiver allowing the existing Planning Board to take the place of the Citizens Advisory Committee because the Planning Board has a number of Class IV members with a broad view of the community and planning expertise. Thus, Lacey states that the existing Planning Board would be able to serve the same purpose as the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Lacey also seeks a waiver from the community visioning program requirements because it has already undertaken five significant planning initiatives, which include four public hearings and two workshops. Thus, Lacey requests that the OPA accept these four hearings and two workshops as satisfying the community visioning program requirements.

The OPA provides this response in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:85-7.6(d). The Director of the OPA has the discretion to waive any of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:85-7.8, 7.9, and 7.11. N.J.A.C. 5:85-7.6(a). The OPA grants Lacey's requests, in part, as follows, because Lacey has substantially complied with the intent of the Advisory Committee and Community Visioning requirements. Thus, the OPA supports the creation of an Advisory Committee utilizing the

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existing Planning Board members as long as the rest of the Plan Endorsement regulations are followed to ensure that there is a sufficient amount of public participation. The OPA also agrees that the amount of community visioning sessions and public meetings can be reduced because Lacey has already held multiple meetings regarding its Master Plan from 2012 through 2017. Therefore, Lacey Township can hold two visioning sessions and one public meeting. However, an additional public meeting may be needed depending on public input and turnout.

Sincerely,

Gerry Scharfenberger, Ph.D.  
Director