

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2013

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held their monthly meeting on December 5, 2013. Attending the meeting were Ed Reitz, Douglass Township; Alyson Elliott, Lower Pottsgrove Township; Elwood Taylor, Upper Pottsgrove Township; N. Lance Parson and Walter Woessner, East Coventry Township; Stephen Toroney, Pottstown Borough; and Rebekah Elliott, North Coventry Township.

John Cover – Montgomery County Planning Commission  
Meredith Curran – Montgomery County Planning Commission

Bonnie L. Frisco – Recording Secretary

**1. Welcome and Meeting Called to order.**

Mr. Reitz called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Mr. Reitz did a roll call. New Hanover Township and West Pottsgrove Township were not represented. North Coventry Township was not represented at time of roll call but Ms. Elliott arrived at 7:10 p.m.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**4. Review of the September 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Toroney moved to approve the September 25, 2013 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Parson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (PAHWF)**

Ms. Curran noted that the sub-committee had a meeting this evening and provided an update. Ms. Curran noted that a representative from Lancaster who is a Regional Recreational Coordinator gave an overview of the job. Ms. Curran read the Rules and Responsibilities and noted that the Regional Recreational Coordinator will be housed at the Schuylkill River Heritage building.

Ms. Elliott moved to have the Regional Recreational Coordinator housed at the Schuylkill River Heritage building. Mr. Toroney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Toroney moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for December with a balance of \$106,556.74. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Preparing for 2014**

### Meeting Schedule

Mr. Toroney moved to set the 2014 meetings for the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee to be held every fourth Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (January through October) and a meeting will be held the first Thursday in December at 7:00 p.m. The meetings will be held at Pottstown Borough Hall. Mr. Parson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### Reorganization of Leadership

It was noted that reorganization of leadership will have to take place for 2014. It was noted that a couple of the member townships have not served in leadership roles yet and that should be considered at reorganization.

## **8. Review of Comprehensive Plan Update**

Ms. Curran provided an update of the Future Land Use Categories and Maps. It was noted that there should be a transition between rural and dense categories. Ms. Curran asked the group to send their comments so they may be incorporated into the next draft.

## **9. Issue of Regional Significance – Lower Pottsgrove Township**

Lower Pottsgrove Township has requested to change a portion (5 acres) of land zoned HI to be changed to zone IN. The change is consistent with the regional comprehensive plan. Mr. Toroney did note concern about duplicating businesses such as Dunkin Donuts and WaWa and leaving Pottstown with empty building.

## **10. DVRPC Transportation Assets Management Project - Update**

Mr. Cover noted that DVRPC is working on the Regional Assessment Management Plan of township roads, bridges and infrastructures. The new transportation bill will allow progress to take place with fixing roads and bridges. Mr. Cover suggested that an engineering firm be hired to do assessments of all township bridges and it was noted that PennDot is already doing bridge assessments and is corresponding with townships about such.

## **11. Stewardship Plan**

Mr. Cover noted that Peter Williamson of Natural Lands Trust is looking at a stewardship plan for the maintenance of natural open space. Montgomery County Planning Commission is willing to do a regional (to include all four (4) regional planning committees) stewardship plan to encompass open space and cost of maintenance and the turnback to natural state for use for application of a grant from DCNR and Montgomery County Planning Commission would provide a match to satisfy DCNR requirements.

Mr. Reitz moved to authorize the Montgomery County Planning Commission to prepare a stewardship plan to include a survey with recommendations. Mr. Toroney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that someone will need to be appointed to the steering committee.

## **12. Municipal Updates**

### Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted that the Wawa project is progressing and Gambone has submitted a rezoning request for commercial, single family homes and parks, mixed use development.

### East Coventry Township

Mr. Parson noted that the East Coventry Township Planning Commission is in discussions with a developer proposing a townhouse community with clustering.

### Lower Pottsgrove Township

Ms. Elliott noted that Lower Pottsgrove has completed a draft ordinance for the Sanatoga interchange.

### New Hanover Township

No one was present from New Hanover Township to provide an update.

### North Coventry Township

Ms. Elliott noted that North Coventry Township is discussing the new location of the Police, Public Works, and Administrative offices on Route 100.

### Pottstown Borough

Mr. Toroney noted that the mini-golf course is complete, the Hill School is in the second phase of their project, the Family Dollar will be moving into the old Rosenberry's site, and the Borough is redoing its Comprehensive Plan and getting it ready for review.

### Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Taylor noted that Upper Pottsgrove Township's open space program is growing.

### West Pottsgrove Township

No one was present from West Pottsgrove Township to provide an update.

## **13. School District Updates**

### Boyertown Area

No one was present.

### Owen J. Roberts

No one was present.

### Pottsgrove

No one was present.

### Pottstown

No one was present.

**14. MCPC Update**

Mr. Cover noted that of all the comprehensive plan reviews the PMRPC was the most attended.

**15. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**16. Adjournment**

Mr. Toroney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Recording Secretary