

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2015

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held their monthly meeting on March 25, 2015. Attending the meeting were Ed Reitz, Douglass Township; Elwood Taylor, Upper Pottsgrove Township; Walter Woessner and Michael Moyer, East Coventry Township; Stephen Toroney and Ryan Procsal, Pottstown Borough; Bill Soumis and Jim Marks, North Coventry Township; Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township; Kurt Zebrowski, New Hanover Township; and Tom Troutman, Lower Pottsgrove Township.

John Cover – Montgomery County Planning Commission
Donna Fabry – Montgomery County Planning Commission

Bonnie L. Frisco – Recording Secretary

1. Welcome and Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Zebrowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Zebrowski did a roll call and all municipalities were represented.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of February Meeting Minutes

Mr. Toroney moved to approve the February 25, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

There was a discussion regarding the Legal Aid Fund.

Mr. Toroney made a motion to cap the Legal Aid Fund at \$25,000.00. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Toroney moved to approve the March Treasurer's Report. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Regional Comprehensive Plan

There was a lengthy discussion regarding language for the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to tolling on the region's roads.

During the course of this discussion Dave Kraybill commended the Committee on their ability to work together and noted that the Committee is a good example of a regional group having a strong positive identity that has had success with various endeavors.

Mr. Toroney moved to add language to the Comprehensive Plan stating that the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Committee will not support the tolling of any road in the region to fund any transportation improvements. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fabry will forward the proposed text for approval by the Committee.

There was a discussion regarding the Comprehensive Plan Measuring/Evaluation Tool. Mr. Woessner noted that the parcels obtained by the municipalities should be tracked as well and Mr. Cover noted that the parks should be tracked too, information that may be obtained from the Penn State report.

**7. Development of Regional Significance – Spring Valley Farms II
Lower Pottsgrove Township**

There was review and discussion regarding the proposed Spring Valley Farms II project in Lower Pottsgrove Township. The project is proposing using public utilities, the construction of 178 new homes, and 98 acres of open space.

Mr. Cover recommended the sidewalks be placed on both sides of the street and a covered bus pad be provided. Mr. Cover also noted that the project is consistent with the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

8. Mini-Grant and Circuit Rider Update

Ms. Fabry noted that Justin Keller is working on numerous grants and he will be submitting four applications to the DCNR. Ms. Fabry noted that they are closing out the First Round of mini-grants that were awarded last year. The Second and Third rounds will wrap up later this year. There is another round of DCNR grants (maximum \$200,000) for funding of recreation projects that were identified in the Penn State report.

9. Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study Kick-Off Meeting – April 30

Mr. Cover encouraged as many as could, attend the Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study Kick-Off Meeting. More specific information will be sent to the Committee.

10. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted that Wawa is progressing and Turkey Hill is proposing a store at Philadelphia Avenue and Gilbertsville Road.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted there are no new updates for East Coventry Township.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted there are no new updates for Lower Pottsgrove Township.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted there are no new updates for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted that North Coventry purchased 1.7 acres at Route 724 and Route 422 to bring the trail from Kenilworth to the Schuylkill River Trail. Mr. Marks noted that North Coventry is working with Justin Keller and they are focusing on the 22 acres of land south of Lowe's. Proposed is a municipal complex and they are looking at DCNR grants. They have had two public meetings and have a third meeting scheduled for April. Mr. Marks noted that the feedback being received is for passive recreation. Once the third meeting is complete Justin will apply for grants.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Toroney noted that the old Giant shopping center was sold and TSC will be staying at that location. The Family Dollar has gotten their street permit from PennDot.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Taylor noted there are no new updates for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Valentine noted there are no new updates for West Pottsgrove Township.

11. 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.

12. MCPC Update

No additional updates for MCPC.

13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Reitz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Toroney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary