

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held their monthly meeting on September 23, 2015. Attending the meeting were Ed Reitz, Douglass Township; Walter Woessner, East Coventry Township; Ryan Procsal and Steve Toroney, Pottstown Borough; Bill Soumis and Jim Marks, North Coventry Township; Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township; and Tom Troutman, Lower Pottsgrove Township; and Renee Spaide and Elwood Taylor, Upper 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. Procsal called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Procsal did a roll call and all municipalities were represented except for New Hanover Township.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of June Meeting Minutes

Mr. Reitz moved to approve the June 24, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Toroney moved to approve the July-September Treasurer's Reports and the revised May/June Treasurer's Reports. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Reitz moved to clarify making note of the reclassification of the Federal withholding charges. Mr. Soumis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to Move the October 28 Meeting to the SRGA Offices

Mr. Reitz moved to relocate the October 28 meeting to the SRGA Offices at 140 College Drive. Ms. Spaide seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Circuit Rider Update

Justin Keller was present and provided an update of his activities and he will provide updates on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Toroney moved to authorize signature of the DCNR Form required for the Year 1 reimbursement. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes from the May 2015 Recreation Committee Meeting were noted.

8. Mini Grant Update

Ms. Fabry provided an update regarding the mini grants. The 2015-2018 Mini Grant Program Application Round 1 is open through October 30, 2015. The payment for the completed Round 1 and 2 payments have been processed. The Round 3 Project documentation is due by September 30, 2015.

9. Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study – Matt Schelly, MCPC

Matt Schelly, Community Planner for the Montgomery County Planning Commission, provided a presentation regarding the Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study.

10. Budget Discussion

There was a brief discussion regarding the budget.

11. Development of Regional Significance

Beech Street Lofts (Pottstown Borough)

Ms. Fabry provided an overview of the Beech Street Lofts project. The project area is 1.02 acres which includes the building site along with parking areas. It will be a mixed use project to include 43 loft-style apartments, an ArtFusion studio and a Gallery/community space area.

East Coventry Elementary School (East Coventry Township)

A new East Coventry elementary school is proposed on Sanatoga and East Cedarville Roads. The plan proposes a new school, sports fields, etc. The site is 51.998 gross acres with a net acreage of 44.43 acres. It is not know at this point what will be done with the existing school building.

12. Regional Comprehensive Plan Adoption Update – Draft of New Cover

Ms. Fabry distributed two proposed Regional Comprehensive Plan covers. The group agreed that the cover with the circle is the best option.

13. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted that Wawa is open.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted that the 80-townhome project is progressing slowly and noted that the same developer bought additional land in the township and is proposing 26 townhomes.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted that Thriftway filed for bankruptcy. Also noted was that Spring Valley Farms got preliminary plan approval. Mr. Troutman noted that there is a pending grant for

the 422 ramp project. Also noted is that Buchert Ridge Phase 2 is in the preliminary approval stage.

New Hanover Township

No one was present.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Soumis noted that the Spring Valley Community Church on South Keim Street is proposing a new building.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Toroney noted \$4.3M to be invested in old buildings in the Borough and noted that \$500,000 has been raised for the carousel and the train station.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Taylor noted that the Alhouse Arboretum is opening.

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Valentine noted that an upscale discount grocery store is planned for Upland Square.

14. 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.

15. MCPC Update

16. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Troutman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary