

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 28, 2015

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held their monthly meeting on October 28, 2015. Attending the meeting were Ed Reitz and Peter Hiryak, Douglass Township; Michael Moyer and Walter Woessner, East Coventry Township; Tom Troutman, Lower Pottsgrove Township; Kurt Zebrowski, New Hanover Township; Bill Soumis and Jim Marks, North Coventry Township; Ryan Procsal, Pottstown Borough; Elwood Taylor, Upper Pottsgrove Township; and Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township.

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

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. Kurt Zebrowski arrived at 7:05 p.m. and continued chairing the meeting.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of June Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the September 23, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

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

6. Circuit Rider Update

Ms. Fabry announced that the Recreation Committee conducted the 6-month evaluation for Year 2 of the Circuit Rider position. Justin Keller will be invited to present an update at the next Regional meeting.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to advance 10% of PA DCNR's annual contribution for the Circuit Rider position to the Schuylkill River Greenway Association (SRGA) from the Money Market Administrative sub-account. The distribution to SRGA will be made at the time funds from PA DCNR are released annually. Mr. Soumis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Mini-Grant Update

Ms. Fabry announced that applications for the first round of the 2015-2018 Mini-Grant Program are being accepted through October 30, 2015.

8. Update of New Hanover Town Square

Crystal Gilchrist, Montgomery County Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the project and updated the Committee on transportation improvements that will be required as part of the project. Ms. Gilchrist confirmed that a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) would be required by PennDOT for Route 663 and by Montgomery County for Swamp Pike. Improvements must be approved and implemented prior to HOP approval. Improvements will be evaluated on a phase-by-phase basis during the 4-phase project.

Mr. Soumis inquired whether the school districts are aware of the project's impact in terms of the potential increase of students. Ms. Fabry commented that representatives from each school district in the Region are invited to monthly meetings.

Mr. Taylor expressed concern that the required traffic studies did not address the potential traffic impacts along Gilbertsville Road to Route 100.

After a discussion about the effects of zoning in terms of a trip generation, Ms. Gilchrist offered that the County's Transportation Section could provide trip generation counts based on the zoning requirements currently in place in each municipality.

Mr. Cover stated that the Regional Committee budget was available for hiring a traffic consultant to conduct a transportation study to address the project's wider regional impact.

9. Budget Discussion

Mr. Moyer made a motion to create a sub-account in the Money Market Account for studies of regional impact and to provide \$25,000 in funds from the Administrative sub-account. Mr. Procsal seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

After discussion by the group about the annual dues for 2016, Mr. Moyer made a motion to accept the annual invoice as presented for \$3,000.00. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz commented that the Board of Commissioners adopted the traffic study ordinance. The Township is revising their Act 209 Impact Fee ordinance to include

new intersections. Also noted was that construction of the Township's new public works building is underway.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted that East Coventry Elementary School is requesting several variances in December. Also noted was that the 80-townhome development is expected to return to the planning commission in November to present revised landscaping plans.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman announced that Ray Lopez has been appointed as the new commissioner representative to the Regional Committee. Mr. Troutman stated that Spring Valley Farms has preliminary approval and is awaiting approval from PennDOT. Also noted was that the Sunnybrook addition is currently under construction.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted that the Town Center group has been in for two meetings with staff and designers. Also noted was that plans were recently submitted for a residential development at Moyer Road and Route 663, known as the Zavano's tract. Plans had previously been submitted 7 or 8 years ago by a different developer.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Soumis stated that the Township is moving forward with its public works building. Also noted was that the proposal for the church at Coventry Christian needs help with addressing stormwater management issues.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal indicated that the Borough is preparing a letter to the Regional Committee in regards to the New Hanover Town Square proposal and potential traffic impacts. Mr. Procsal noted that construction continues on the Borough's new public works building. Also noted was that the Borough held a CARES Community Clean-Up Day in conjunction with volunteers from The Hill School.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Taylor indicated that the Township is considering building a new public works building. Also noted was that approximately 800 ash trees on public property within the Township have been marked for removal due to infestation by the Emerald Ash Borer.

West Pottsgrove Township

No update.

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 updates

Ms. Fabry noted that PennDOT will soon begin resurfacing Route 100 in Douglass and Upper Pottsgrove Townships between Farmington and the Berks County line. Also noted was that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3.

13. Public comment

There was no public comment.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Troutman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,