

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 22, 2017
(Approved March 22, 2017)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held their monthly meeting on February 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Ed Reitz, Peter Hiryak
East Coventry Township- Walter Woessner, Michael Moyer
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – Bill Soumis, Jim Marks
New Hanover Township – Kurt Zebrowski
Pottstown Borough – Dan Weand, Ryan Procsal
Upper Pottsgrove Township – Elwood Taylor, Gregory Churach
West Pottsgrove Township – Dominic Gentile
Montgomery County Planning Commission – John Cover, Donna Fabry
Recording Secretary – Bonnie L. Frisco

1. Meeting Called to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Mr. Moyer did a roll call and all were represented with the exception of Pottstown Borough whose representatives arrived shortly at 7:05 p.m.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of January Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the January 25, 2017 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Amendment being:

- Municipal Updates, New Hanover Township, please note that the New Hanover Township Board received an overview of the airport property project at their Board meeting not at the project site

5. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Fabry provided a brief overview of the February Treasurer's Report.

6. Medical Marijuana Facilities

Ms. Fabry provided an overview of Act 16 of 2016 – Pennsylvania Compassionate Medical Cannabis legislation. It was noted that the permitting for such may need to be handled on local and regional levels. The PA Department of Health will break out the permitting system by region. Permits are transferrable within counties within the region. Other points noted:

- Treatable conditions are determined by State
- Forms of treatments are pills, oils, gels, vaporization, tincture, liquid

- Planted based forms are not permitted by PA law
- Dispensed only to patient and caregiver – in possession of a valid PA license from the PA Department of Health
- Overviews provided on the following:
 - Growers/processors
 - Grower/processor facility security
 - Fees and other requirements
 - Zoning must meet regulations for other manufacturing processing and industrial facilities, recommended to keep use in industrial areas
 - Growing facilities to be enclosed
 - Dispensaries
 - Fees and other requirements
 - Not to be located near schools
 - Dispense only to patients and caregivers
 - Zoning – recommended in commercial districts, downtown shopping districts, industrial areas not recommended for dispensaries

Mr. Moyer asked the group if they would like to pursue cannabis issues on a regional level. Mr. Gentile moved for the Committee to consult with their individual Boards about how they would like to address Medical Cannabis. Mr. Soumis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. 2016 Montgomery County Land Development Report Presentation

Ms. Fabry provided a presentation of the 2016 Montgomery County Land Development Report. Ms. Fabry provided the 2016 Annual Summary. Items covered for 2007-2016:

- Total annual submissions graph, submissions by municipality, proposed acreage for development, proposed acreage by type, proposed residential units by type and by municipality
- The largest residential proposals in 2016 were in Lower Pottsgrove Township
- Proposed non-residential square footage for developments by municipality and the largest non-residential square footage for developments in 2016 were Lower Pottsgrove and West Pottsgrove Township
- The largest non-residential proposals in 2016 were in Lower Pottsgrove Township
- Proposed zoning amendments graph
- Conclusion, synopsis

8. Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals

There was a discussion as to whether the Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals should be handled on an individual or regional basis. Ms. Fabry noted that Berks County handles the Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals on a countywide basis. Ms. Fabry will send a memo to everyone regarding the various options for handling this item.

9. Traffic Study Update

Mr. Cover noted the MCPC is working with DVRPC on the Traffic Study and noted that a representative will provide an overview at the April meeting.

10. Circuit Rider Update

Ms. Fabry noted that there was a trails committee meeting and they are working on a Tri County regional trail and an update will be provided at the April meeting.

11. Mini Grant Update

No new update.

12. Greenway Study Update

No new update.

13. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted that Douglass Township is rebidding their new Highway Maintenance Building and the estimated cost is \$1.1M.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted there is nothing new to report for East Coventry Township.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted there is nothing new to report for Lower Pottsgrove Township.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted there is nothing new to report for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted that Gabe’s Store will open mid-March at the North Coventry Mall.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted that the Fecera’s project is moving along.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Taylor noted there is nothing new to report for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Gentile noted there is nothing new to report for West Pottsgrove Township.

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

Ms. Fabry noted that the deadline for the Montgomery County 2040 grant applications is March 1. Ms. Fabry noted that Montgomery County is working on a Bike Montco Plan and surveys have been sent to managers so please provide feedback.

16. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Gentile moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary