

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARCH 23, 2016
(Approved April 27, 2016)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held their monthly meeting on March 23, 2016. Attending the meeting were Ed Reitz, Douglass Township; Ryan Procsal (Treasurer), Pottstown Borough; Dominic Gentile, West Pottsgrove Township; Jim Marks and Bill Soumis, North Coventry Township; Tom Troutman, Lower Pottsgrove Township; Kurt Zebrowski (Vice Chair), New Hanover Township; Michael Moyer (Chair), East Coventry Township; and Gregory Churach, Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

Bonnie L. Frisco – Recording Secretary

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 New Hanover Township, Pottstown Borough and West Pottsgrove Township were not represented at that time but representatives from each community joined the meeting shortly after roll call making every community represented.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of February Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the February 24, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Churach abstaining due to his absence at the February 24, 2016 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

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

6. Greenway Study Update: Stewardship Assessments

Diane Rosencrance of Natural Lands Trust was present to provide and update of the Greenway Study.

7. Circuit Rider Update

Justin Keller was present to provide a Circuit Rider update and gave an overview of what he has been working on. Mr. Keller asked for a resolution for the Tri-County Primary Trail Study Phase 2. Mr. Moyer read the resolution's contents. Mr. Marks moved to approve the

resolution for the Tri County Primary Trail Study Phase 2. Mr. Gentile seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Mini Grant Update

Mr. Keller provided an update of the Mini Grants. Ms. Fabry mailed out contracts and letters to the recipient municipalities.

9. TCDI Grant Opportunity

Justin Keller provided an overview of the TCDI grant opportunity (Regional Wayfinding Sign Design Standards and Digital Information Project) for a maximum amount of \$175,000. Mr. Keller noted that Douglass Township, West Pottsgrove Township, Upper Pottsgrove Township and Pottstown Borough are on board with the TCDI Grant. Mr. Keller will discuss the TCDI grant with Lower Pottsgrove Township and North Coventry Township. A project is to be announced in July with a project ready to go in August-September. It was noted that if New Hanover Township and East Coventry Township would like to participate they would each need to contribute \$4,000.

10. Regional Traffic Impact Study

Mr. Cover provided an overview of the benefits of a regional traffic impact study. Matt Edmonds, head of the Montgomery County Transportation Department, was present. Mr. Edmonds noted that a regional traffic study would get a handle on the traffic patterns as a result of the New Hanover Township project. Mr. Edmonds noted grants and noted that the Wayfinding Signs grant is the best option for the region. The group agreed to look into a multi-municipal Act 209 Study. The PMRPC will discuss this issue at the next couple meetings prior to making a decision. Mr. Reitz made a motion for the group have discussions with a traffic engineer regarding an Act 209 Study. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Gigabit Initiative (Ultra High Speed Broadband System)

Ms. Fabry noted a public meeting being held regarding Gigabit Initiative on April 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hill School.

12. Development of Regional Significance – 1097 State Street (West Pottsgrove)

This item is tabled.

13. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted there is nothing to report for Douglass Township.

East Coventry Township

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

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted that Sunnybrook and Landis Store are open and a Liberty Thrift is moving into the Kmart building. Also, a barbeque restaurant is opening.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted New Hanover Township will place the traffic study on their agenda.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted that a company is buying the Coventry Mall property in April and they will move forward with redevelopment.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted that Pottstown Borough's streetlights will be retrofitted with LED lights.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Gentile noted there is nothing 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

16. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Reitz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary