

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2018
(Approved March 28, 2018)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on February 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Ed Reitz, Pete Hiyrak
East Coventry Township- Walter Woessner
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – Bill Soumis, Jim Marks
New Hanover Township – Kurt Zebrowski
Pottstown Borough – Ryan Procsal, Dan Weand
Upper Pottsgrove Township –Elwood Taylor
West Pottsgrove Township – Mark Green
Montgomery County Planning Commission – John Cover, Marley Bice
Recording Secretary – Bonnie L. Frisco

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Reitz called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of January 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Zebrowski moved to approve the January 24, 2018 meeting minutes to include the revisions discussed. Mr. Soumis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

It was noted that the check was received for Year 4 for the Circuit Rider and a check was received for the Tri County Trails grant. Mr. Weand moved to approve the February Treasurer's Report. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Multi-Regional Greenway & Stewardship Study Update

Eric Jarrell of the Montgomery County Planning Commission and Kelsey Boyd of Naturals Lands Trust were present to provide an overview of the Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study. Mr. Jarrell discussed several components of the study that are relevant to the Pottstown Region, including rural greenway delineation and an evaluation of main street greenways.

Kelsey Boyd provided an overview of the stewardship assessments being conducted for municipal and county parks. Site visits are being conducted at each location to identify vegetation communities, important habitats, and opportunities for trails and recreational improvements.

Mr. Jarrell mentioned that he would like to come back to the Committee in April, May or June to discuss the greenway identified in the Pottstown Region and recommended stewardship strategies.

Michael Lane, Circuit Rider, asked if there could be an environmental assessment of the parks and Ms. Boyd said the municipalities should have that information. David Kraybill, of Pottstown Health and Wellness, noted the benefits of having economic development around the trails and suggested making main street greenways friendlier and easier to walk around. Mr. Cover noted that signage systems could be directly connected to economic development. It was noted that recreation ties in with health.

7. DVRPC Pottstown Regional Traffic Study Discussion

The Committee reviewed the identified traffic areas resulting from the map pinning exercise from last month's meeting and a follow-up discussion between transportation planners at DVRPC, MCPC, and Chester County. Mr. Cover suggested the Committee look at secondary roads that either have traffic concerns now or are anticipated to be impacted by increased traffic volumes from large proposed developments in the future and get the list down to 10-12 intersections.

- Map ID 1 - Middle Creek and Congo Road – to remain
- Map ID 2 - PA73 and Middle Creek Road – to remain
- Map ID 3 - Swamp Pike and Middle Creek Road – remove because developer of New Hanover Town Center has plans to improve this intersection
- Map ID 4 – Cross Road and Moyer Road – remove because intersection is being reconfigured by a developer so that the intersection will be further back from Route 100
- Map ID 5 – Charlotte Street and Moyer Road – remove because traffic light is being proposed by the Township
- Map ID 6 – New Hanover Square Rd and Swamp Pike – remove because traffic light is there already, could maybe improve with striping but bridge width constrains west side of Swamp Pike
- Map IDs 7, 8 9, and10 – Bleim Road, PA663, New Hanover Square Road, Pleasantview Road, High Street and Sanatoga Road - to be addressed as one item
- Map IDs 11and 12 – High Street, Armand Hammer Blvd, and Moser Road - to be addressed as one item
- Map ID 13 – Keim Street and PA724 – remove because Keim Street bridge not likely reopen soon
- Map ID 14 – Keim Street and Cedarville Road – remove because Keim Street bridge not likely reopen soon
- Map ID 15 – Laurelwood Road and PA724 – remove

- Map IDs 16, 17, 18 – Grosstown Road, Manatawny Street, Sell Road, and Glasgow Street -to be addressed as one item
- Map ID 19 – Wells Road and PA 724 – to remain
- Map ID 20 – Bethel Church Road and Old Schuylkill Road – to remain
- Map ID 21 – State Street and Farmington Avenue – to remain

Intersections that were added to the list based on the Committee’s discussion are:

- Armand Hammer Boulevard
 - @ Medical Drive
 - @ 422 Interchange
- Hoffecker and Route 100
- Vaughn Road and PA 724
- Bethel Church Road and PA 23

Mr. Woessner noted that no development for East Coventry Township was showing on the map.

Mr. Soumis noted that the intersection at Hoffecker Road and Route 100 in North Coventry Township is dangerous and Mr. Marks noted the same about Vaughn Road and Route 724.

8. Review Draft of the 2017 PMRPC Annual Report

The draft of the 2017 PMRPC Annual Report was provided to the Committee for their review.

9. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

There was no new report for Douglass Township.

East Coventry Township

There was no new report for East Coventry Township.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

There was no new report for Lower Pottsgrove Township.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski requested a letter of support from the Committee to aid in obtaining a multi-modal transportation grant to install improvements at the intersection Route 73 and Route 663 South. Mr. Soumis moved to approve the letter of support for New Hanover Township. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

North Coventry Township

There was no new report for North Coventry Township.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Weand said there have been complaints from Rte 422 drivers regarding the removal of the yield signs.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

There was no new report for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

There was no new report for West Pottsgrove Township.

10. 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.

11. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice noted that the 2017 Annual Report will be on the agenda for next month.

There was discussion regarding the funding for the Circuit Rider as the grant will be ending in 2019 and Mr. Soumis suggested the numbers be discussed soon so the participating municipalities can plan accordingly.

Ms. Bice stated that the Montgomery County Planning Commission is having an Open House on March 7, "Let's Connect", to meet staff.

Ms. Bice noted the Montgomery Awards is open and recommended municipalities make their submission.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Woessner moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bonnie L. Frisco".

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary