

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARCH 28, 2018
(Approved April 25, 2018)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on March 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
Upper Pottsgrove Township –Elwood Taylor, Greg Churach
West Pottsgrove Township – No representative present
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 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Reitz did a roll call and all municipalities were represented with the exception of West Pottsgrove Township.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of revised January 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the January 24, 2018 meeting minutes as revised. Mr. Hiyrak seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Review of February 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the February 28, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Woessner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Churach abstaining due to his absence at the February 28, 2018 meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Procsal opened a Tri County Trails account and it was noted that all dues have been received from the municipalities. Mr. Zebrowski moved to approve the March Treasurer's Report. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Regional Recreation Coordinator Update

Michael Lane, Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator, was present to provide an update of the Regional Coordinator activities. Mr. Lane provided a sheet with a summary of

the projects he is working on and updates of all the grant activities noted was the estimate of grant activity to be at \$1.5M and projects are starting to be done before the deadlines end. Mr. Lane noted that the Regional Recreation Social will be held May 2 at the Manatawny Still Works.

8. **Tri-County Trails Project Update**

Michael Lane, Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee, and Craig Bachik of Navarro & Wright, provided an update of the Tri-County Trails Project. Mr. Bachik noted that conceptual plans were presented to the Recreation Committee in January. Mr. Lane and Mr. Bachik provided a comprehensive review of the trail segments included in the Tri-County Trails Project. Future and alternate alignments were examined.

Manatawny Trail

The Manatawny Trail runs through Pottstown Borough and West Pottsgrove Township. The Manatawny Trail offers cyclists and pedestrians direct access to varied recreational, institutional, cultural, and commercial amenities. The Colebrookdale railroad station is a great destination. Concern was noted about the high volume of traffic on Route 100 and how it would impact this trail segment and PADOT noted to not allow the trails to create drainage issues on Route 100.

Upper West Trail

The Upper West Trail runs through West Pottsgrove Township, Douglass Township (Berks County), Upper Pottsgrove Township, Douglass Township (Montgomery County), and New Hanover Township. The Upper West Trail will offer cyclists and pedestrians access to recreational and commercial amenities. Cyclists and pedestrians will be able to reach the Upland Square Mall, Murgia Park, Goose Run Recreation Area, Goose Run Trail, and other recreational amenities. There are some sight distance issues that will need to be addressed with PADOT and the trail would need to cross onto two (2) private properties. Cost estimate: \$380,000-\$510,000.

Pottsgrove Trail

The Pottsgrove Trail connects these municipalities to the Schuylkill River Trail, as well as to Pottstown's bicycle and pedestrian network with access to local schools and to the parks and trails. The trail will run along Pottsgrove Senior High School property, near Brookside Family Restaurant and near N. Charlotte Street, Kauffman Road and Buchert Road. A complete sidewalk will stop at Buchert Road. Roundabouts were looked at but they are not desirable to PADOT. Cost estimate: \$420,000-\$590,000.

Coventry Trail

The Coventry Trail is shared between North Coventry Township and East Coventry Township and it connects neighborhoods in the two townships to the Schuylkill River Trail. The Trail will connect Kenilworth Park to the Schuylkill River Trail adjacent to Route 422 and the future trailhead in Kenilworth Park. A footbridge crossing is proposed for connection to Kenilworth Park to Miller Road providing the neighborhood better access to Kenilworth Park and the trails. Cost estimate: \$630,000-\$890,000.

Mr. Woessner, representing East Coventry Township at this evening's meeting, exited the meeting at this time.

9. Development of Regional Impact

Hanover Crossing – New Hanover Township – 79 single-family detached dwelling units

Hanover Crossing is located on a 32-acre property on Swamp Pike and it proposes 79 single family dwelling village homes. It is located in the secondary growth area and it will open up three existing cul-de-sacs, sidewalks and a large amount of open space is proposed.

Mr. Zebrowski stated that the project is proposing cul-de-sacs that are too long and the denseness of the project does not fit in with the nature of the surrounding neighborhoods, also noting that the Sewer Authority has concerns about the need for grinder pumps due to elevations. Mr. Troutman noted concern regarding emergency access onto Swamp Pike. **No action was taken by the Committee.**

Budget Store & Lock Self Storage – Douglass Township – 70,800 total square feet office and storage buildings

A budget store and lock self-storage facility is proposed in Douglass Township at Jackson Road and Route 100 on a 9.5-acre site. There are currently some woodlands and the existing house has been demolished. Proposed is a 900 square foot office building and 69,900 square feet of storage buildings. Mr. Reitz noted that the buildings will be of attractive architectural design and the developer has agreed to provide an easement for a future market street site to run parallel to Route 100. **No action was taken by the Committee.**

10. 2017 Annual Report and Cover Letter

Mr. Troutman moved to accept and authorize distribution of the 2017 Annual Report and cover letter to those individuals on the distribution list provided. Mr. Zebrowski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Mr. Troutman moved to accept the distribution list as presented and authorize the expansion of the distribution list at the discretion of the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

11. Letter to DCNR Re: Mini-Grants Program Grant Funding

Mr. Procsal moved to approve sending the letter to the DCNR thanking them for the award of \$100,000 that will enable the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee to continue the Regional Partnership for Park Improvements Mini Grant Program in partnership with the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

12. 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

There was no new report for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

There was no new report for North Coventry Township.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted the proposed closing of the Pottstown YMCA. Peggy Lee-Clark, Economic Development Director, was present for discussion. Ms. Lee-Clark noted that there are \$11M in repairs needed to the building which could be deferred over time. Ms. Lee-Clark noted that a subcommittee has been formed to address finding another facility to fulfill the needs of the residents.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to authorize the Montgomery County Planning Commission to draft a letter of support for review and signature from the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee in support of the Pottstown YMCA to remain open. Mr. Procsal seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

There was no new report for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

No representative present.

13. 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.

14. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice is working on scheduling the next traffic committee meeting. There will be a Route 422 Corridor Coalition meeting on April 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the Limerick Township Building where SEPTA will be providing an update of Montgomery County's transportation funding program.

The Route 724 Business Corridor Committee meets every month at the Chester County Economic Council and the next meeting is scheduled for May 17.

Ms. Bice stated the Montgomery Awards submissions are due May 1.

15. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Soumis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary