

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
APRIL 25, 2018
(Approved May 23, 2018)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on April 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Ed Reitz
East Coventry Township- Walter Woessner, Michael Moyer
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – 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 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Reitz did a roll call and all municipalities were represented with Dan Weand arriving at 7:02 p.m., representing Pottstown Borough.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the March 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Woessner moved to approve the March 28, 2018 meeting minutes as revised. Mr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Revisions being 1) removing the description ‘high’ before the word ‘elevations’ as it appears in the second paragraph under the Hanover Crossing discussion 2) note that Mr. Woessner exited the meeting after the Trails discussion and note such on all votes taken after Mr. Woessner’s exit.

5. Treasurer’s Report

There was a discussion regarding the \$719.00 shortfall for the Circuit Rider and Ms. Bice noted that the cost will be covered by Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation. Mr. Green moved to rescind the requirement of the six participating communities to pay the \$719.00 (\$119.83) per participating community) shortfall for the Circuit Rider. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Bice noted there has been an issue with getting the automatic checks from DCNR so the address for where the checks should be sent needs to be changed.

Mr. Procsal noted fees being charged to one of the accounts due to the rules of the account requiring a minimum of \$2,500 deposit and he is looking into getting the \$15 monthly fees removed due to the large amount of monies the Committee has in the bank.

Mr. Marks moved to approve the April Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Pottstown Regional Partnership for Park Improvements Mini-Grant Program Update

Ms. Bice highlighted the mini grant programs and provided an on-line map showing the various projects being done. The on-line map may be linked to the Committee’s website.

7. Development of Regional Impact

J.J. Kane Auctioneers, Inc. – East Coventry Township Still Works.

J.J. Kane Auctioneers, Inc. is proposing in East Coventry at the intersection of Route 724 and Fricks Locks Road 4,800 square foot of office space, 699,807 square foot of gravel inventory parking area and 710 parking spaces with 177 held in reserve. The site is on a 48-acre parcel which is undeveloped agricultural land with no current utilities on site. A small on-lot sewage facility, septic field and well are proposed. The auctions would be held 6 times a year, about every 60 days, which could create traffic issues as the auction could draw 14,000 cars a day. The East Coventry Township Historical Commission has expressed concerns as this road is the route to be taken to the old Fricks Locks, a historical site, Fricks Locks Village, which offers tours on Saturdays from May – October. Mr. Taylor asked if the plan is consistent with the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Mr. Cover responded that the plan is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

It was agreed that a letter would be drafted, for Mr. Reitz’s signature, noting the concerns and comments brought before the Committee. Those concerns being 1) used equipment leaking environmentally unsafe chemicals into the adjacent Schuylkill River and groundwater 2) traffic concerns – support of a T intersection at Route 724 and Fricks Locks Road, realignment of the intersection working with the Township, PADOT and adjacent landowners. A roll call vote was taken to draft and send the comment letter:

Douglass Township	-	yes
East Coventry Township	-	yes
Lower Pottsgrove Township	-	yes
New Hanover Township	-	yes
North Coventry Township	-	yes
Pottstown Borough	-	yes
Upper Pottsgrove township	-	yes
West Pottsgrove Township	-	yes

8. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted that the Budget Store & Lock Self Storage project is before the Planning Commission and is moving forward.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted that the new elementary school is scheduled to be completed in July and the costs came in under budget and also noted the 80-townhome development has broken ground.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted there is no new report for Lower Pottsgrove Township.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted there is no new report for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted there is no new report for North Coventry Township.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Weand thanked the Committee for the letter of support for the opposition to the closing of the Pottstown YMCA.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Taylor noted there is no new report for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Green noted that there is as an existing dam and spillway at Murgia Park and the stream coming from the dam separates Murgia Park and noted that a pedestrian bridge to go over the stream will be constructed to connect the two sides of Murgia Park.

9. 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.

10. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice noted the letter received from the Secretary of Agriculture thanking the Regional Committee for the letter of support for additional funding to fight the continued spread of the Spotted Lanternfly in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Ms. Bice noted that she sent out the PMRPC Annual Report.

Ms. Bice recommended that the Regional Committee discuss extending the Recreation Coordinator Program.

Ms. Bice noted events for local water resource success stories starting May 16 from 6:00 pm. to 8:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Community College at the Blue Bell campus, event is entitled Stormwater Management and Water Quality Restoration Efforts in Montgomery County.

11. Public Comment

Mr. Moyer noted that the new ramp on Route 422 is a great improvement.

Mr. Weand noted that engineering work is being done for the Keim Street Bridge with construction proposed to begin in 2020.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Weand moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary