

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MAY 23, 2018

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on May 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Pete 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 – Ryan Procsal
Upper Pottsgrove Township –Elwood Taylor, Greg Churach
West Pottsgrove Township – Not represented
Montgomery County Planning Commission – John Cover, Marley Bice
Recording Secretary – Bonnie L. Frisco

1. Meeting Called to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the April 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Woessner moved to approve the April 25, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Zebrowski seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Churach abstaining due to his absence at the April 25, 2018 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Zebrowski moved to approve the May Treasurer's Report. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Pottstown Sustainability Plan

Jon Leshner, Principal Environmental Planner, Montgomery County Planning Commission, provided a presentation of the Pottstown Sustainability Plan.

What the Pottstown Sustainability Plan addresses is quality of life, partnership between the Borough and School District and using the ideas such as lead by example, determine what is good, what works and finding a balance, organize efforts internally and externally, save money and resources, and using the Sustainability Plan as a grant funding tool. A key observation noted was that when it comes to health issues zip code may be more important

that genetic code, meaning environment and lifestyle choices are important to health and the zip code in which you live can be a major factor.

Four components of the plan noted were Principles, Vision, Goals and Action.

It was asked how to identify actions and how to implement them and track them. Ms. Bice noted that the PMRPC could aid in the tracking of action items. Mr. Troutman inquired about how projects are funded and Mr. Leshar noted that funding is handled on a case by case basis.

7. Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee (PARRC) and Circuit Rider

Discussion

Carol Lewis, representative for the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee (PARRC) provided a brief presentation on behalf of the PARRC relaying the importance of the Circuit Rider/Regional Coordinator position and the PARRC recommends the program continue as it aids the communities with planning, grant opportunities, etc. The DCNR funding for the position will end in 2019.

Mr. Marks asked what the cost would be to the participating municipalities. It was noted the costs could be from \$5,000 up to \$7,000 or \$8,000 per year per participating municipality. The Schuylkill River Greenway Association has agreed to house the position for the next 5 years from 2020-2024. Michael Lane, Circuit Rider/Regional Coordinator, will be doing presentations to all the member municipalities. Craig Colistra, Pottstown Health and Wellness, noted that Pottstown Health and Wellness is interested in continuing to support the Circuit Rider Program but specific funding is not known at this time.

Mr. Taylor moved to continue to have the PMRPC be the umbrella parent organization for the Circuit Rider Program if the program continues. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Developments of Regional Impact

Sanatoga Green – Lower Pottsgrove

For informational purposes – Ms. Bice provided an overview of Sanatoga Green located off Evergreen Road which includes 147 townhouses, 343 apartments, 4,599 sq. ft. clubhouse, 50,000 sq. ft. medical office building and 108 room 3-story hotel on 51.75 acres. Mr. Troutman noted that their Planning Commission will be discussing the plan on June 13.

Summer Schedule

Mr. Moyer brought up the subject of the summer schedule and moved to cancel the July and August PMRPC meetings. The motion failed due to lack of a second to the motion.

Mr. Hiryak moved to cancel the July meeting and have the August meeting at the discretion of the Chairman. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried with one nay vote from Mr. Moyer.

9. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Hiryak noted there is no new report for Douglass Township.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted that J.J. Kane Auctioneers withdrew their plan. Mr. Woessner asked that letters sent on the behalf of the PMPRC be placed in the Committee's packets.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted that Spring Valley has sold several lots.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted that the Fire Company is building a new substation at Little Road and Route 663 and it should be done by the end of summer.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Soumis noted the 724 Corridor Planning meetings are sponsored by the Chester County Planning Commission and the information provides is comprehensive.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted that the YMCA building was bought by a private investor, Chuck Gulatis, and space will be leased to the YMCA so services can continue to be provided to the community. The investor has also invested in the Sunnybrook and Stokesay Castle. Mr. Procsal noted that the Brew Pub is almost complete. Also noted was a new restaurant, The Avenue, located at 107 E. High Street.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

West Pottsgrove Township

There was nobody present to provide an update 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 next month there will be information regarding the Keystone Economic Plan and an update of the Regional Greenway Study.

Ms. Bice noted the Bike Montco event to be held June 20 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell.

Ms. Bice noted that the DVRPC has completed a draft of the Greater Pottstown Trails Feasibility Study and Mr. Lane noted a resolution would need to be passed for the approval of the plan and he can provide sample language for the resolution. It was recommended a presentation of the final draft of the Pottstown Trails Feasibility Study be provided.

DVRPC is in the process of doing traffic counts at the traffic intersections identified in the Traffic Study.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Troutman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary