

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
JUNE 27, 2018
(Approved September 26, 2018)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on June 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Pete Hiryak, Ed Reitz
East Coventry Township- Michael Moyer
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – Jim Marks
New Hanover Township – Kurt Zebrowski
Pottstown Borough – Ryan Procsal
Upper Pottsgrove Township –Not represented
West Pottsgrove Township – Steve Miller sitting in for Mark Green
Montgomery County Planning Commission – John Cover
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 with the exception of Upper Pottsgrove Township were represented.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the May 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the May 23, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Cover noted that a \$719.00 reimbursement was received from Pottstown Area Health and Wellness for the circuit rider costs that were not covered by DCNR and also noted that there was a closeout payment of \$2,500.00 made for the Pollock Park Master Plan. Mr. Zebrowski moved to approve the June Treasurer's Report. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Plan – Draft Recommendations for Pottstown Region

Eric Jarrell, Section Chief – Community Planning, Montgomery County Planning Commission was present to provide a presentation of the Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Plan and draft recommendations for the Pottstown Region.

Mr. Jarrell provided a presentation focusing on Main Street Greenways, Greenway Stewardship. Points noted for Main Street Greenways is to provide safe walkable Main Street destinations, provide green landscapes where there would otherwise be barren land or macadam, and provide sustainable landscapes with increased stormwater management. Noted for Greenway Stewardship is municipal park stewardship assessments and the development of a “Stewardship Guidebook” for use by municipalities and private landowners. Also covered was Rural Resource Stewardship covering Preservation Zones (public lands, parks, open space, etc), Management Zones (100’ riparian buffer area and Conservation Zone (300’ riparian buffer area, woodlands and canopy conservation).

Recommendations

Downtown Pottstown

- Sidewalks, crosswalks, bump-outs, ADA ramps
- Street trees, streetscape treatments
- Use of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) including rain gardens and vegetated swales

Pottstown Main Street – High Street

- Extend grass strip with the opportunity for bioswale or rain gardens
- Improve intersections with updated crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety
- Replace gravel with bio infiltrated trenches for water quality and added tree health
- Replace Bradford pear trees with more appropriate trees and replace missing street trees
- Enhance plaza at Wells Fargo to include additional vegetation or green stormwater infrastructure (GSI)
- Enhance municipal parking lot with additional GSI
- Add crosswalk at Borough Hall
- Install additional green at Manatawny Green incorporating GSI when possible.

Gilbertsville Main Street

- Add landscaping to parking areas with excess impervious surface and identify opportunities for GSI
- Work with landowners to replace trees to recreate landscape
- Add landscaping to parking at Fire Hall and integrate GSI where possible.
- Consider alternatives to mailboxes in the sidewalk area to increase walkability and aesthetics
- Work with PADOT to restripe Philadelphia Avenue creating possibility for wider sidewalk and border between Congo Road and Jackson Road to create a village center.
- Use greenery and vegetation at businesses like Patriot Buick for better aesthetics.

A draft of the report is projected to be completed in September or October.

Mr. Troutman recommended the 100’ buffer be increased to 200”.

Mr. Zebrowski noted concern about pushback from private landowners and Mr. Jarrell noted that landowners will be sent invitations to educational events.

Mr. Zebrowski asked if the Regional Committee is a good place to discuss stormwater issues and Mr. Jarrell noted that this project is a good opportunity to discuss stormwater issues.

Mr. Reitz noted the replacement of trees on private property, homeowner's front lawns, and asked if Penn State could provide more cost-effective ways to replace trees because replacing trees is very costly.

Mr. Zebrowski noted that cluster development is not beneficial and asked why not just spread out the houses to save green space and Mr. Jarrell noted that may not be the right application for certain development and higher density areas may be an ordinance issue.

7. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted that the parking lot behind the township building is being improved.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Moyer noted there is no new report for East Coventry Township.

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 stated that the mall is purchasing a Golden Corral franchise which will be placed between the Gabe's and TGIF and the health complex will be complete in a couple of weeks. The First National Bank is moving to Reading. Also noted was the bids for the road crew building construction are due in July.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted that the new pub has opened and the 4th of July celebration is on schedule.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

There was nobody present to provide an update for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Miller noted there is no new report for West Pottsgrove Township.

8. 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.

9. MCPC Update

Mr. Cover noted Zoning Courses sponsored by Montgomery County which will be held September 13, 20 and 27 at Upper Merion Township and they are 2 ½ -3-hour classes and the cost is \$110 per person, the class is limited to 30 people.

Mr. Cover reminded everyone of the summer schedule and there will be no meeting in July and as of yet there are no pressing matters for August but whether August's meeting is held will be at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

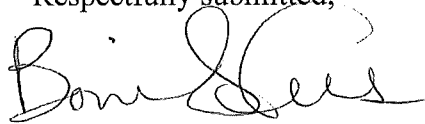
10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Procsal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary