

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 24, 2018

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on October 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township – Ed Reitz
East Coventry Township – Walt Woessner
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – Jim Marks, Bill Soumis
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

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Reitz called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Reitz 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 September 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Taylor noted a correction under municipal updates – Upper Pottsgrove Township was represented at the September 2018 meeting, however there was no new report for Upper Pottsgrove Township at the September 2018 meeting.

Mr. Churach moved to approve the September 26, 2018 meeting minutes with the correction noted by Mr. Taylor. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried with abstentions from Mr. Zebrowski and Mr. Woessner as they were not present at the September 26, 2018 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Bice discussed the Tri-County Trails grant closeout process and how DCNR withholds the last 10% of grant funding until after grant closeout. Therefore, a loan of \$6,000 is needed from the general bank account to the Tri-County Trails bank account in order to pay the last invoice to the engineering consultant. Once the DCNR grant is closed out the funds will be reimbursed to the general bank account. Mr. Reitz moved to approve the transfer of \$6,000 from the general bank account to the Tri-County Trails account. Mr. Procsal seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

6. Presentation: The Greater Pottstown Trails Feasibility Study (“Trails Study Part 1”)

Melissa Andrews, Environmental Planner for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), provided an overview of *The Greater Pottstown Trails Feasibility Study*, including a summary of the four trails: Manatawny Trail, Coventry Trail, Pottsgrove Trail, and West Trail. Topics covered in the *Feasibility Study* include early implementation projects, cost estimates, and next steps.

7. Presentation: Tri-County Trails Preliminary Engineering & Design (“Trails Study Part 2”)

Michael Lane, Regional Recreation Coordinator, provided an overview of the preliminary engineering and design work that has been completed for four key segments, including one trail segment from each of the four trails identified in the *Feasibility Study*: Manatawny Trail, Coventry Trail, Pottsgrove Trail, and West Trail. A trail alignment and detailed cost estimates have been prepared for each of the key trail segments.

Mr. Besold of the Montgomery County Planning Commission asked if the trails are being designed for both pedestrians and bicyclists. Mr. Lane stated that the trails are being designed to be ADA-accessible and serve multiple types of users.

Ms. Bice noted that a resolution is needed as part of closing out the DCNR grant for this project. Mr. Reitz made a motion to adopt the resolution as written. Mr. Procsal seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Presentation: BikeMontco Plan

Mr. Cover introduced Andrew Besold, Transportation Planner for the Montgomery County Planning Commission, and gave some background on *BikeMontco*, the Montgomery County Bicycle Plan.

Mr. Besold provided an overview of *BikeMontco*, which emphasizes physical improvements to roadways for on-road bicycle facilities and serves as a framework for municipal bicycle plans. Mr. Besold summarized the *BikeMontco* vision statement, themes, goals, and action items. A “Level of Traffic Stress” analysis developed by DVRPC was used as part of the analysis to identify the Planned Bicycle Network. Recommended facility types for the planned bicycle network are based on roadway type and speed limit. Mr. Besold noted that some improvements such as striping a bike lane could be implemented during other projects such as a repaving or road widening project.

Mr. Zebrowski asked Mr. Besold about the status of including a bike trail as part of a planned bridge replacement on Swamp Pike, which is a County-owned road, near New Hanover Square Road. Swamp Pike is identified as a “Priority Bike Route” within the County’s Planned Bicycle Network outlined in *BikeMontco* and New Hanover Township is interested in ensuring that the bridge replacement project is designed to accommodate bicyclists, in accordance with the *BikeMontco* plan. Mr. Besold clarified that his recommendation was to include six-foot wide bike lanes and route bicyclists through residential streets. There is also interest in potentially accommodating a center turn lane on the bridge due to proposed developments in the area. Mr. Kraybill, President of Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation, asked what is the next thing they need to do to intervene and advocate for New Hanover Township to get these improvements. Mr. Zebrowski noted that the bridge is in design. Mr. Cover noted that the County Planning Commission is working with the County Roads and Bridges Department to educate them about the new *BikeMontco* plan. Mr. Cover noted that the PMRPC municipalities

could help identify projects that involve County roads and consider a resolution to support improvements consistent with the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Troutman asked if the new bridge on Rupert Road in Lower Pottsgrove Township will include a bike lane. Mr. Besold noted that he was not sure if that road is on the Planned Bicycle Network.

Mr. Zebrowski asked for support for the Swamp Pike and New Hanover Square Road bridge improvement to incorporate a bike lane because Swamp Pike is identified as a priority bike route. The bridge should be designed to be wide enough to accommodate a 10-foot wide bike lane to connect to proposed trails as part of the adjacent Farmview Acres proposed development. Mr. Zebrowski made a motion to draft a resolution of support to widen the bridge to accommodate a bike lane and forward the letter to the appropriate County officials. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

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

East Coventry Township

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

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Spring Valley is starting to look at the second phase. Sanatoga Green is working through various approvals.

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. Procsal noted there is no new report for Pottstown Borough.

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.

13. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice noted that the comment letter for the 663 Storage Center proposal discussed at the September 26, 2018 meeting is included in the meeting packet for the Committee's information.

Ms. Bice noted that the next meeting will be on Thursday, December 6th where Karen Whitaker from DVRPC will be presenting data and recommendations for the first nine intersections studied as part of the Pottstown Region Traffic Analysis. The second set of locations will be discussed at the January meeting.

14. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Soumis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Marley Bice, AICP
Principal Planner
Montgomery County Planning Commission