

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2018
(Approved October 24, 2018)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on September 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Ed Reitz
East Coventry Township- Michael Moyer
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – Jim Marks, Bill Soumis
New Hanover Township – Not represented
Pottstown Borough – Ryan Procsal, Dan Weand
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. 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 West Pottsgrove Township and New Hanover Township, were represented.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the June 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the June 27, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried with abstentions from Mr. Churach and Mr. Soumis as they were not present at the June 27, 2018 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Weand moved to approve the July, August and September Treasurer Reports. Mr. Soumis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Review Draft 2019 Budget

Ms. Bice provided an overview of the draft 2019 Budget. Ms. Bice suggested the Circuit Rider account be closed due to the zero balance to avoid bank fees and any future activity may be handled under an alternate account. The municipality annual contribution will remain at \$3,000.00.

Mr. Soumis moved to accept the Draft 2019 Budget as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Presentation: Keystone Employment and Economic Plan

Mr. Cover provided an overview of the Keystone Employment and Economic Plan. Peggy Lee-Clark, Economic Development Director, was also present. The plan covers the area of Keystone Boulevard located in Pottstown Borough and West Pottsgrove Township. The presentation included the Principles for Development which included industrial, office space, multifamily (upscale apartments) mixed uses and supporting parks/open space, accessory services and retail as well as pedestrian-bicycling network, open space and landscaping.

The fiscal tax impact could potentially be an increase of tax revenues of \$9,998,848 with Residential totaling \$5,569,793 and Non-Residential totaling \$4,429,054. There was discussion of the development cost for one acre as being \$68,000 but Mr. Cover noted that there is a lot of fill leftover from the Route 422 project and there is the possibility of using that fill for the Keystone Boulevard project. The cost to continue the roadway at Keystone Boulevard could be \$5M but the use of fill from the Route 422 project could offset those costs. Mr. Cover noted those involved are working with the homeowners and this is not an eminent domain situation.

Mr. Cover noted that the next step is to proceed with the Requests of Interest (RFI). Mr. Cover asked the Committee if they would consider adopting a Resolution of Support for the Keystone Boulevard Project.

Mr. Reitz moved to authorize the preparation and approval of a Resolution of Support for the Keystone Boulevard Project on behalf of the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Presentation: Walk and Bike Pottstown

Kourtney High, Grants Administrator for Pottstown Borough, provided a presentation of Walk and Bike Pottstown. The goal of Walk and Bike Pottstown is to provide a safe network of walking and bike trails to commercial areas, schools and other destinations. Pottstown Borough received \$1.8M in project funding in 2014:

Phase 1: Extension of bike lanes on High Street and the installation of a cycle track, a.k.a., projected bike lane on Jackson Street, Beech Street, North and South Roland Street.

Phase 2: creation of bicycle boulevards on Evans Street, Franklin Street, Oak Street, Johnston Street, and York Street.

Phase 3: Sidewalk remediation at various location along the proposed route.

Ms. High noted the 2013 Walkability Study identified 11 streets for walk and bike improvements. Also noted was the Schuylkill River Trail was voted best urban Trail by USA Today readers. Ms. High noted there are bike trails to all the Borough schools except for Barta due to the safety issue with crossing Route 100. The different biking facility types are separate bike lanes, shared lane markings, traditional bike lanes and buffered bike lanes. Mr. Troutman asked if a Segway could be ridden on the bike lanes and Mr. Cover noted it would

be considered a motorized vehicle; therefore, should not travel in the bike lanes. Mr. Churach noted concern regarding snow plowing and damage to delineators and Ms. High noted the grant contract would not allow for the delineators to be removed.

9. Regional Recreation Coordinator Update

Michael Lane, Regional Recreation Coordinator, provided an update of his activities. Mr. Lane noted that the Tri County Feasibility Study and the designs plans are being finalized and the landowners will be receiving the plans and costs. The construction plans will be presented next month.

Mr. Lane noted he made a presentation to the Pottstown School Board regarding trail plans. Mr. Lane noted there was a presentation at this evening's Recreation Meeting and the Department of Agriculture has allocated more funding for spotted lantern fly treatment for trucking companies, parks, industrial and right-of-way areas. Mr. Lane stated that they are using an insecticide and then removing the tree bark and using an herbicide, the spotted lantern fly needs access to Atlantis trees to multiply. Mr. Lane stated that Atlantis trees may not be removed from properties.

Mr. Lane noted that the six municipalities participating in the Circuit Rider program have agreed to continue and resolutions will be adopted. Mr. Lane noted that he has been certified as a Playground Safety Inspector and such inspections may cause reductions in playground owners' insurance costs.

Mr. Lane noted that the Schuylkill Highlands are providing an award for the success of the Circuit Rider Program.

Upper Pottsgrove Township is revising their Comprehensive Plan and they have also submitted an application for the MCPC Planning Advocate Award which will be awarded on November 14.

Grant applications are being completed for the boat dock and completion of Pigeon Creek project for North Coventry Township.

Mr. Lane is working with Pottstown Borough for playground development equipment.

Douglass Township is moving along with the Douglass Park parking lot ADA renovations.

Mr. Lane noted that the NPDES permit for Lower Pottsgrove is pending.

West Pottsgrove has finished the bridge crossing over Goose Run Creek and Mr. Lane is searching for funding for the second bridge to cross Manatawny Creek.

10. 2018-2021 Pottstown Region Partnership for Park Improvements Mini-Grant Program Overview

Ms. Bice noted that the mini-grant contract term was increased to 18 months from 12 months and applications are being accepted until November 1 and application is open to all

communities. Grant applications may be submitted for projects such as trails, signage, playground equipment and user amenities.

There was review of the 2018-2021 Pottstown Region Partnership for Park Improvements Mini-Grant Program.

Mr. Soumis moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (PAHWF) and the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC) for the application to Pottstown Regional Parks Mini-Grant Program. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted that they have a mixed-use plan for Hill Road.

East Coventry Township

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

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted that Township Days will take place on October 20 at Ringing Hill. Also noted is that the Spring Valley a 178-home development has sold about 16 homes. Sanatoga Green has gotten the PA American Water Company permit but there are other permits that need to be obtained. There will be a truck auction at the old Toyota car lot.

New Hanover Township

There was nobody present to provide an update for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks stated there was a preconstruction meeting for the new Public Works building and the project should be completed by March or April. Mr. Marks noted North Coventry Township is updating their Comprehensive Plan. The Community Health Center has opened and there are 100+ employees as well as new food vendors at the North Coventry Mall. Golden Corral got Zoning approval so they will be opening at the North Coventry Mall in February or March.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Weand noted a relocation to the Carousel.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Taylor noted there was nothing of regional significance to report for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

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

12. 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 provided an update of the Pottstown Region Traffic Analysis and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) will present findings and preliminary recommendations for 9 study locations at the December 6, 2018 PMRPC meeting, those areas include Manatawny Street, High Street, Armand Hammer Boulevard, Hoffecker Road/Route 100 and Vaughn Road/Route 724. The remaining 9 study locations will be discussed at the January 23, 2019 PMRPC meeting. Ms. Bice recommended the municipalities' Traffic Engineers be invited to the two meetings.

Ms. Bice noted the response letter from Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regarding New Hanover's grant applications submittal to the FY 2018-2019 Multimodal Transportation Fund and they thanked the Committee for their interest and support in the transportation program. The grant applications are still under review.

Ms. Bice noted the Future of Manufacturing in Montgomery County presentation to be held at Ambler Yards on October 30, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., registration is at 3:30 p.m. Also noted was the AgBrew Culture events on September 28 in Royersford and October 19 in Landsdale. The event joins together growers and users.

Ms. Bice noted the plan for the 663 Storage Center, along N. Charlotte Street in Lower Pottsgrove Township, as it qualifies as a project of regional significance. There was concern noted that the project is in close proximity to houses. The buffer along Orlando Road should be maintained or increased. Mr. Troutman moved to notify Lower Pottsgrove Township of the buffering concerns of the Route 663 Storage Center project. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bice noted there will be discussion of the Tri County Trail Study at the October meeting along with discussion regarding a resolution for the DCNR grant fulfillments.

14. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Weand moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary