

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 27, 2019
(Approved March 27, 2019)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on February 27, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Ed Reitz
East Coventry Township- Walter Woessner
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, Greg Churach
West Pottsgrove Township – Mark Green
Montgomery County Planning Commission – 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.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the January 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Woessner moved to approve the January 23, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Zebrowski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Green moved to approve the February Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Procsal noted there is an abundance of paper files associated with the Committee’s finance statements and requested that he be given approval to dispose of some of the excess files. Mr. Reitz moved to authorize Mr. Procsal, Treasurer, to put the statements on disk and dispose of paper files as appropriate. Mr. Weand seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentation: “Ready for 100% Renewable Energy”

Jon Leshar, Principal Environmental Planner II, Montgomery County Planning Commission, along with Jim Wylie and Bill Sabey, provided a “Ready for 100% Renewable Energy” presentation and focused on solar, geothermal and wind energy sources. Education and outreach are imperative for program success. A few municipalities have achieved 100% renewable energy and several municipalities have committed to 100% renewable energy. There are 1865 solar

systems in Montgomery County producing 23.2 megawatts of energy. Steps to take are building partnerships, provide ordinance expertise and support organizations that share similar goals.

Why 100% renewable energy? Fossil fuels cause rising cO2 levels and pollution which cause global warming increasing temperatures and frequency and intensity of heavy downpours which such conditions have increased by 71% in the Northeast. Montgomery and Chester County leaders are taking action relating to 100% renewable energy.

Mr. Green noted that the ordinances need to take into account utility costs and utilities must be notified first. Mr. Zebrowski noted the possibility of developers providing solar utilities and showing prospective homeowners the long-term savings.

7. Presentation: Pottstown Transit Development Plan – To be presented at next meeting.

8. Review of Draft 2018 PMRPC Annual Report

Ms. Bice provided an overview of the 2018 PMRPC Annual Report. Mr. Weand moved to authorize Ms. Bice to distribute the 2018 PMRPC Annual Report to those listed on the distribution list. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted there is nothing additional to report for Douglass Township.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted there is nothing additional to report for East Coventry Township.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted that the storage units on N. Charlotte Street received PADOT approval but still need to obtain township approvals. Developers are clearing ground at the Sanatoga Green development.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted there is nothing additional to report for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted there is nothing additional to report for North Coventry Township.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Weand noted that a restaurant is opening at the former Brickhouse space and they are in the process of transferring the liquor license.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Taylor noted there is nothing additional to report for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Green noted that Ross Store and Burlington Coat Factory will open at Upland Square late Spring or early Summer.

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 referenced the grant project close out letters for the Circuit Rider Grant and the Pottstown Regional Park Improvement Mini-Grant 2015.

Ms. Bice noted a full draft of the traffic analysis will be provided in May, also noting that Kourtney High will be at the next meeting to present the Pottstown Transit Development Plan.

Mr. Reitz suggested that Ms. Bice include in the next meeting packet highlights of the project suggestions for an upcoming grant opportunity.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary