

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARCH 27, 2019
(Approved April 24, 2019)

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

Attending were: Douglass Township- Ed Reitz
East Coventry Township- Walter Woessner, Michael Moyer
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 – Mark Green
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 were represented.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the February 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Churach moved to approve the February 27, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Soumis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Amendment is to omit the comments on Page 2, which were noted as being made by Mr. Woessner, relating to renewable energy.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Reitz moved to authorize Mr. Procsal to purchase another checkbook for the money market account. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Green moved to approve the March Treasurer's Report. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentation: PART Transit Development Plan – Kourtney High, Pottstown Borough

Kourtney High, Pottstown Borough, provided a presentation of the PART Transit Development Plan. PADOT has been approached for route restructuring as there is redundancy with the bus routes and if the routes are separated out more, more efficient service can be offered. Public outreach was performed, such as surveys. On board discussions resulted in suggestions such as bus shelters needed at High/Pleasantview & Charlotte/Prospect, service to Shoemaker Drive, Suburbia Shopping Center, Boyertown/Gilbertsville and King of Prussia. Discussed was extending service to Reading and connect to BARTA and there were many requests for train service. There is confusion with SEPTA connections as PART does not anticipate having the

technology to accept key cards until early 2020. The next step is to evaluate the data and data is being used to test potential alignments. Mr. Soumis asked if most of the riders are for shopping and other services and Ms. High noted that is the case but the hope is to obtain more work riders. Mr. Troutman asked who pays for the bus services and Ms. High noted the services are fully funded by grants. Ms. Bice noted the requested bus shelter at High/Pleasantview and stated that is an intersection that was identified in the DVRPC Traffic Study. Ms. Bice will put Ms. High in contact with Karen Whitaker of the DVRPC. Mr. Churach asked why small buses are used more often when the large buses are only half full and Ms. High noted that to obtain the grants large buses must be utilized.

7. Discussion: FY2020 DVRPC Work Program Project

There was discussion of the FY2020 DVRPC Work Program Project. The project is a High Street Corridor Study to identify multimodal design improvements for High Street. The study will consider and incorporate several elements into a cohesive design guide for the corridor. The High Street corridor is the Pottstown area's primary small business commercial corridor and main street. Multimodal access, efficient traffic circulation, and beautification along this corridor are important to the livability and economic vitality of the Pottstown region.

Mr. Troutman moved to approve moving forward with the FY2020 DVRPC Work Program Project, High Street Corridor. Mr. Procsal seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion: Pottstown Borough Downtown Zoning District Amendments

Ms. Bice noted that Pottstown is amending their use and use standards with focus on revitalization of the Pottstown downtown district. Ms. Bice provided an overview of proposed amendments. There is intent is to create definitions for used to be clear. Proposed are mixed uses such as galleries, groceries, indoor recreations, apartments, personal care, restaurants, outside retail, studios with some uses to be moved to the gateway district.

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 are still in the approval process and the proposed storage units at the old Jeep dealer site can use the existing building. The Sanatoga Green development has obtained more permits.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted at the old town center there is a pile of dirt behind the WaWa which was approved by the store. New Hanover Square Road bridge is closed.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted that the plans for the apartments/townhomes at Route 100 and Hoffecker Road have been withdrawn.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted the groundbreaking for the new train station.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

West Pottsgrove Township.

Mr. Green noted there is nothing additional to report 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 reviewed the Planning Smarter literature and list of classes offered by Montco.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Troutman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary