

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
JUNE 26, 2019
(Approved September 25, 2019)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on June 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Peter Hiryak
East Coventry Township- Walter 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 –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. Soumis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Soumis did a roll call and all municipalities were represented.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the April 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Green moved to approve the April 24, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Amendment being: under Municipal Update: New Hanover Township: Solomon Farms was not purchased but the Solomon Farms Conservation Easement was purchased.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Bice pointed out that starting with the May 1, 2019 treasurers report, the "Tri-County Trails" bank account has been closed because the grant with DCNR for this project was closed out. However, there is still an outstanding loan from the "Money Market" account to the "Tri-County Trails" account for \$5,321.00. A grant closeout check for \$5,659.00 has been received from DCNR which will repay the \$5,321.00 loan from the "Money Market" account. The Treasurer is working with Michael Lane, the Regional Recreation Coordinator, to use the additional funds from the DCNR closeout check for printing of the final trails plan documents.

Mr. Churach moved to approve the May and June Treasurer's Reports. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentation: 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

Craig Colistra, PhD, Program Officer for Recreation and Health, Pottstown Area Health & Wellness (PAHWF) Foundation, provided a presentation of the 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment.

Key points:

- Since 2004, PAHWF has done a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every 5 years and presented will be the current statistics of the health among tri-county residents. Data sources noted were: community database, 2018 tri-county household health survey, key informant interviews and focus group discussion.
- Statistics provided were study population counts, race and ethnicity, number of college graduates, 25+ (the higher the education the lower the mortality rate due to higher income), unemployment rate, 18+, median household income, families in poverty, access to healthcare, .
- Health behaviors were examined such as exercise, diet, smoking, drinking and consuming sugary sweet beverages along with opioid and heroin abuses.
- Health outcomes were health status (self-reported), obesity rate, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and mental health.
- Community supports for health behaviors were access to fruits and vegetables, feeling of community belonging, faith based organizations, access to parks and other resources.
- Mr. Soumis noted a disparity in the fertility rate listed in the report. A copy of the full report may be found at www.pottstownfoundation.org.

7. Ordinance Review – East Coventry Township – R-3 Residential District Zoning Map and Text Amendments

There was review of the East Coventry Township – R-3 Residential District Zoning Map and Text Amendments. The proposed amendments would add the following uses permitted by right: continuing care retirement communities and convalescent care, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, provided they are served with public water and public sewer, and medical, dental and chiropractic offices and to amend the official zoning map to rezone six parcels of land located at 1396, 1412, 1426, 1442 and 1446 New Schuylkill Road and 30 Old Schuylkill from R-3 to Commercial in order to establish a harmonious zoning classification with the surrounding properties and to conform to the actual uses being made of some of the affected properties.

Mr. Marks made a motion that the East Coventry Township – R-3 Residential District Zoning Map and Text Amendments are consistent with the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Update: Pottstown Regional Traffic Analysis

Ms. Bice noted Karen Whitaker, DVRPC, stated that the Pottstown Regional Traffic Analysis has been printed and will be posted on the DVRPC website.

9. Discussion: Summer Meeting Schedule

Mr. Procsal moved to cancel the July and August Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee meetings. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Hiryak 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 Sanatoga Green is moving on along. Spring Valley has applied for Phase 3.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted ongoing work on the New Hanover Township's Comprehensive Plan update.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted that the North Coventry Planning Commission completed the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan with the final meeting being in August, then the plan will go to the Board of Supervisors for advertising starting the 45-day review period for adoption in October or early November.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted the July 4th fireworks are set.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Churach noted the submission of a sketch plan for a 290 single family dwelling development at Route 100 and Farmington Avenue.

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Green noted the community pool appraisal was only \$150,000, as a result West Pottsgrove Township will fill in the pool and build a park and playground which will be put in next year's budget.

11. 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.

12. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice noted the three letters in the meeting packet; a letter of support from the PMRPC to the Department of Community and Economic Development for the Murgia Park – Manatawny Trail – Phase III Development Project, a letter of support from the PMRPC to Natural Lands for the DCNR C2P2 Grant Application: Camp Laughing Water Conservation Easement and comment letter from the PMRPC to Douglass Township for the Gambone-Holly Road Proposed Development.

Mr. Cover recommended that if any of the municipalities need a letter of support for a grant application or another item during the summer months when the PMRPC is not meeting, an a-mail poll may be taken and the Chairman can sign the letter. The Committee agreed this was an appropriate course of action as the July and August meetings will not take place.

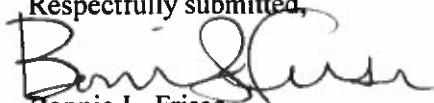
13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Troutman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Mr. Green 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