

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 5, 2019

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on December 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Pete Hiryak
East Coventry Township- Walter Woessner
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – Jim Marks, Bill Soumis
New Hanover Township – Not represented
Pottstown Borough – Not represented
Upper Pottsgrove Township –Greg Churach, Elwood Taylor
West Pottsgrove Township – Not represented
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 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Soumis did a roll call and all municipalities were represented except for Douglass Township, Pottstown Borough, and New Hanover Township.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the October Meeting Minutes

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

5. Review of the 2020 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the PMRPC 2020 meeting dates as presented, the fourth Wednesday of each month except for November and December where a combined meeting will be held December 3, 2020. All meetings will be held at Pottstown Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Hiryak seconded the motion, Motion carried unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

7. Presentation: "Community Impacts of Multifamily Development"

Andrew Svekla, AICP, Associate Manager, Smart Growth, DVRPC, provided a presentation on Community Impacts of Multifamily Development.

- Renting is as high as it was in the 60's.
- Impacts and benefits of higher density residential were noted.
- The changing population is driving the demand for new types of homes: older segment is renting
- Key is to provide mixed uses, grow responsibly, and manage growth development while protecting natural resources.

- Higher density is sometimes difficult as it may not be compliant with existing zoning.
- Key measures of potential impact of development, how they are affect economy, transportation and community.
- The key takeaways are household size, focus on school age children and vehicle ownership.

Mr. Svekla provided his contact information if there are further questions or comments.

8. Presentation: “Suburban Homestead: A Primer on Best Practices and Management”

Presentation to be provided at a later date.

9. Development of Regional Impact – Westwood/Maguire – New Hanover Township

The Westwood/Maguire Development proposes 38 twins, 26 village houses, 8’ wide bike path along Rhoads Road, internal sidewalk network, and 18 guest parking spaces. Public sewer is accessible from Rhoads Road. Mr. Woessner noted the lack of emergency vehicle access in the cul-de-sac and noted an alternate route should be provided.

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 there is nothing additional to report for Lower Pottsgrove Township.

New Hanover Township

Nobody present for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted that North Coventry Township adopted the new Comprehensive Plan incorporating the PMRPC’s comments. There was a staff meeting regarding the Hoffecker Road/Route development plan which was found to be not compliant with Township ordinances and there are issues with density and access points.

Pottstown Borough

Nobody present for Pottstown Borough.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

West Pottsgrove Township.

Nobody present for West Pottsgrove Township.

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 letter in the packet which was sent to North Coventry Township regarding the PRMPC comments of North Coventry Township's Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Bice noted updates to the PMRPC Directory and Website. Directory changes to be forwarded for processing of a revised directory.

13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Churach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary