

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
JANUARY 22, 2020

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting on January 22, 2020 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, D.W. Boone Flint
Pottstown Borough – Ryan Procsal, Dan Weand
Upper Pottsgrove Township –Greg Churach, David Waldt
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 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Reitz did a roll call and all municipalities were represented except for West Pottsgrove Township.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Reorganization

Mr. Cover proceeded with the reorganization and asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

Mr. Reitz moved to nominate Mr. Soumis to be appointed the Chair, with there being no other nominations, Mr. Troutman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Soumis then proceeded with the meeting.

Mr. Reitz moved to nominate Mr. Troutman to be appointed the Vice Chair, with there being no other nominations, Mr. Churach seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zebrowski moved to nominate Mr. Procsal be appointed the Treasurer, with there being no other nominations, Mr. Weand seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zebrowski moved to reappoint Ms. Frisco to be the Recording Secretary. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

5. Review of the December Meeting Minutes

Mr. Woessner moved to approve the December 5, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Reitz and Mr. Zebrowski abstaining due to their absence at the December 5, 2019 meeting.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Reitz moved to approve the January Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Procsal noted he will check into the Credit Union for a better interest rate.

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

Daniel Farina, Planner II, MCPC, provided a presentation on Suburban Homestead. Key points:

- Regulations, best practices and ordinances for bee keeping, chickens, gardening and composting were discussed.
- Mr. Troutman asked if the growing of hemp is allowed and Mr. Farina noted it is not.
- Mr. Soumis noted beekeeping classes he attended and noted they are very interesting.
- Mr. Zebrowski noted bee keeping complaints in New Hanover Township and stated the resident had to move the bees as concerns were noted of bees being kept too close to property lines especially when there is a lot of activity.

On another subject, Mr. Farina noted the importance of the census and distributed information regarding such. Communities that don't have a good census return rate receive less funding.

8. Discussion: Regional Planning Overview

Ms. Bice noted there are copies of the PMRPC documents, such as the Regional Planning Handbook, the Intergovernmental Cooperative Implementation Agreement, the Comprehensive Plan, for new members or any of those that need copies.

9. Discussion: Recreation Mini-Grant Overview

Ms. Bice noted the first round of mini-grants included 10 projects for \$173,550, the second round of mini-grants included 10 projects for \$197,054 and the third round have four active projects for \$100,000 and other applications may be reviewed for an additional \$100,000 in funding. The mini-grants will be closed out at the end of 2021. Pottstown Health and Wellness has expressed willingness to continue to participate in the mini-grant program and provide matching funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Reitz to approve authorization to work with the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation to apply for DCNR funding to continue the mini-grant program. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Update: High Street Corridor Study

Ms. Bice provided an update of the High Street Corridor Study. The Corridor has been divided into five (5) sub-corridors and provided were drawings of such. The next steering committee is scheduled for April.

11. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Reitz noted the Avante Apartments are being added to and houses are to be built on the old Zern property.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted there is a 1-lot subdivision being reviewed in East Coventry Township.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted there are permit issues with the Pleasantview Road project.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted the town center meeting with the Board and Planning Commission. Also noted was the recreation building off Hoffmansville Road.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted that North Coventry Township is in the process on hiring a new Police Chief and noted the Township Manager is retiring.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted that Sunnybrook had a presentation of the children's discovery center.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

West Pottsgrove Township

Nobody present 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 noted the draft 2020 PMRPC directory. The Montco 2040 implementation grant is open until March 1 and there is \$2.25M available, suggested projects are Main Street projects, revitalization, walk/bike and open space projects and acquisition. Mr. Marks asked the status of the Parks and Recreation Committee implementation agreement and Mr. Cover noted the agreement will need to be reviewed by all participating municipalities and solicitor comments will be incorporated with a projected time for the Committee to be independent by mid-year.

14. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Reitz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary