

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

JUNE 24, 2020

(Approved July 22, 2020)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a teleconference meeting on June 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Not represented
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, 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. 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 West Pottsgrove Township and Douglass Township.

3. Review of the May Meeting Minutes

Mr. Waldt moved to approve the May 27, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Zebrowski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

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

5. Presentation: Keim Street Gateway Plan: A Vision and Master Plan for the Keim Street Gateway

Guests: Pattie Guttenplan, RLA, AICP, MCPC Section Chief – Design Planning & Graphic Design
Tamar Nativ, MCPC Planner II

Phase 1 – North Gateway

- Focus on development on Keim Street
- Utilize vacant land
- Make area more inviting

Phase 2 – South Gateway

- Realign Keim Street
- Full connection to Schuylkill River Trail
- Gateway park

Former Keim Street and current Keim Street were compared and the current conditions have transportation challenges, height limitation on the North bridge, wide curb cuts or lack of curbs, broken and missing sidewalks, etc.

Timeline

- Project Kickoff – January 2019 – meet with Task Force, site visit, review previous studies
- Analysis – April 2019 – Meet with stakeholders, analyze land uses and market issues, analyze circulation issues
- Preliminary Design – July 2019 – Initial circulation concepts, initial trail and streetscape design, public event with Task Force
- Initial Recommendations – January 2020 – Phase 1 and 2, circulation and trail connections, land uses and building heights, streetscaping and greening, meet with Task Force
- Plan – June-July 2020 – Final design, report, zoning recommendations

Public Participation

The Task Force held an Open House with food tents. Plan was presented June 8 to Pottstown Borough for 30-day comment.

Mr. Soumis asked if the EPA was involved with the remediation of the brownfields areas and Ms. Guttenplan noted she is not aware of any EPA grants so far. Mr. Soumis asked about the overpass clearance and it was noted clearance is less than 13', accommodating a small truck.

6. Ordinance Review: Douglass Township – R-4 Residential District Zoning Text Amendment

Ms. Bice provided an overview of the Douglass Township – R-4 Residential District Zoning Text Amendment to amend the densities in the R-4 Residential District from five (5) dwelling units to eleven (11) dwelling units per acre. This item is tabled to the next meeting to give Douglass Township an opportunity to present the proposed ordinance amendments to the PMRPC and discuss consistency with the PMRPC Comprehensive Plan.

7. Ordinance Review: Douglass Township – Route 100 Corridor Master Plan Overlay District Zoning Text Amendment

This item is tabled to the next meeting to give Douglass Township an opportunity to present the proposed Master Plan Overlay District Zoning text amendment to the PMRPC and discuss consistency with the PMRPC Comprehensive Plan.

8. Discussion: Summer Meeting Schedule

The PMRPC will meet in July via teleconference and as of now a meeting will not be held in August, unless otherwise deemed necessary.

9. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Nobody present for Douglass Township.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Woessner noted that East Coventry Township is working on ordinance reviews.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted there is nothing additional to report for Lower Pottsgrove Township.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted that review of the Comprehensive Plan continues.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted there is a new developer for the Route 100 and Hoffecker Road project which proposes 60 units but there are several obstacles to address.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted that the KEEP Overlay District Plan is progressing and restaurants are doing well with outdoor dining.

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.

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 noted:

- The KEEP Overlay District letter in the packet which was sent to the Pottstown Borough Manager.
- The PMRPC Annual Report was sent out and can be found on the PMRPC website.
- The High Corridor Study is ongoing.
- The Pottstown Area Recreation Committee (7 participating municipalities) plan to be participating in an intergovernmental agreement in July or August.
- Mr. Soumis asked Ms. Bice to contact West Pottsgrove Township for the contact information for West Pottsgrove Township's representative to the PMRPC.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Churach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Mr. Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary