

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
JUNE 23, 2021
(Approved August 25, 2021)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting via teleconference on June 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Peter Hiryak
East Coventry Township- Not represented
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – Jim Marks, Bill Soumis
New Hanover Township – Kurt Zebrowski
Pottstown Borough – Not represented
Upper Pottsgrove Township –David Waldt, Greg Churach
West Pottsgrove Township – Not represented
Montgomery County Planning Commission – Marley Bice, Michael Lowrey
Matthew Edmond
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 except for Pottstown Borough, East Coventry Township, West Pottsgrove Township, New Hanover Township representative Kurt Zebrowski arrived at 7:10 p.m.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the May Meeting Minutes

Mr. Marks moved to approve the May 26, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Hiryak seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Churach abstaining due to his absence at the May 26, 2021 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the June 2021 Treasurer's Report. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion: Municipal Member Dues: Item to be discussed at a later date when the Treasurer, Mr. Procsal is present.

7. Update – Tri-County Passenger Rail Committee

Matthew Edmond, AICP, MCPC Assistance Director of Transportation and Long-Range Planning, provided an update of the Tri-County Passenger Rail Committee. The Tri-County Passenger Rail Committee meets once a month to create a consensus of what to achieve and do fact finding along with communicating with owners of local rail systems Norfolk Southern, Septa, Amtrak, and to try to secure grants to do studies. Meetings to continue into the Fall and projections to be established.

Mr. Soumis inquired about why the rail service stopped in this area and costs and low ridership was noted and the inability to electrify the rails which would have created cost savings. Mr. Marks asked how rail service could affect development and it was noted that DVRPC can look into that.

8. Update – High Street Corridor Study

Ms. Bice noted a virtual meeting for the High Street Corridor Study was held May 27 and there was discussion and feedback on the topic of angular parking, DVRPC noted that angular parking is doing well but not all agree.

9. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Hiryak noted that construction of the new Emergency Services building on New Philadelphia Avenue and Route 73 is projected to be complete by the end of 2021 or early 2022.

East Coventry Township

No one was present.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted that Spring Valley has not been completed sold yet.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted there is nothing additional to report for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted there is nothing additional to report for North Coventry Township.

Pottstown Borough

No one was present.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

West Pottsgrove Township

No one was present.

10. School District Updates: No one was present

11. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice noted there will be a webinar next Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. made available by the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the topic is emerging challenges in communities. The Chester County Planning Commission and Vision Partners Program is opening a new round of grants.

The PMRPC will not meet in July and August, unless deemed necessary, and starting September the meetings will be held at the Pottstown Borough Council Meeting Room.

12. Public Comment: There was not public comment

13. Adjournment

Mr. Troutman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary