

**MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 26, 2022

(Approved February 23, 2022)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC) held a meeting via teleconference on January 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Douglass Township- Peter Hiryak
East Coventry Township- Larry Tietjen
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township –Bill Soumis, Jim Marks
New Hanover Township – Kurt Zebrowski, Keith Youse
Pottstown Borough – Ryan Procsal
Upper Pottsgrove Township – Bill Hewitt
West Pottsgrove Township – Not represented
Montgomery County Planning Commission – Marley Bice, Danielle Baer

Recording Secretary – Bonnie L. Frisco

Visitor(s): Evan Brandt

1. Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Soumis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited led by Mr. Zebrowski.

3. Roll Call

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

3. Reorganization

Ms. Bice proceeded with the reorganization and asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

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

Mr. Troutman then proceeded with the meeting.

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

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

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

Mr. Soumis recognized Mr. Churach for his service on the PMRPC.

4. Review of the December 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Marks moved to approve the December 2, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Tietjen seconded the motion. The motion carried with abstention by Mr. Zebrowski as he was not present at the December 2, 2021 meeting.

5. Treasurer’s Reports

Mr. Zebrowski moved to approve the December and January Treasurer’s Reports. Mr. Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Development of Regional Impact

New Hanover Town Center – New Hanover Township – proposed development of a mixed-use town center on a 196-acre tract located at the southwest intersection of Swamp Pike (a Montgomery County road) and PA Route 663/North Charlotte Street. A total of 638 dwelling units (187 village houses, 96 twins, 78 atrium houses, 263 townhouses, 13 multifamily, and 1 existing single-family detached home to remain) and 315,700 square feet of commercial space is proposed. Additional improvements include 63.6 acres of open space, internal sidewalks and walking trails, community gardens, and stormwater basins. The plan will come before the New Hanover Township Planning Commission in February and the New Hanover Township Board of Supervisors in March.

Traffic concerns were noted and it was confirmed that the School District was notified of the development and Ms. Baer noted that a Traffic Study will be done. Comments from the County need to be addressed as well. Parts of the trail system are located in the floodplain. Mr. Hiryak suggested that phasing of the project be implemented. Ms. Bice will draft a letter on behalf of the PMRPC to include concerns discussed, including but not limited to traffic impact, trail in the floodplain, stormwater management, long term care, phasing, school impacts. The letter will be authorized at the February meeting.

7. Update: DVRPC PART Bus Stop Enhancement Study

Ms. Bice provided an update of the DVRPC PART Bus Stop Enhancement Study and noted that the DVRPC is working on the edits they received.

8. Discussion: PMRPC Website Updates

Ms. Bice noted four DCNR grant awards relating to the Pottstown Region: \$130,000 to the Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust for the rehabilitation of Colebrookdale Station in Pottstown Borough, \$397,800 to Montgomery County for the development of the Schuylkill River Trail in Lower Pottsgrove Township and Pottstown Borough, \$500,000 to Natural Lands Trust for a conservation easement for Camp Laughing Waters in New Hanover Township, and \$150,000 to Pottstown Borough for rehabilitation of Memorial Park.

9. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Hiryak noted the EMS building exterior is almost complete and the EMS should be moving in February or March and the Police Department in June or July.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Tietjen noted there is nothing additional to report for East Coventry Township.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted there are a few lots remaining at the Spring Valley development and Sanatoga Green is under construction.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted the Planning Commission is updating the Zoning Ordinance and also welcomed Keith Youse.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks congratulated Mr. Soumis on his appointment to the North Coventry Township Board of Supervisors.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted there has been opposition to the Friendly's being made into a Chipotle. Also, \$45,000 was received for a roundabout on Robinson Street.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

West Pottsgrove Township

Not represented.

10. School District Updates: No representatives present

11. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice noted four DCNR grant awards relating to Pottstown: \$130,000 to the Colbrookdale Railroad, \$400,000 to Natural Lands Trust for projects in Pottsgrove and Pottstown, \$500,00 for a conservation easement for Camp Living Waters in New Hanover Township and \$150,000 to Pottstown for damage rehabilitation of the Memorial Park pedestrian bridge.

12. Public Comment: There was no public comment

13. Adjournment

Mr. Troutman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Procsal seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary