

**MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 25, 2023
(Approved December 7, 2023)**

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC) held a meeting via teleconference and in-person at Pottstown Borough Hall on October 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Douglass Township- Not represented
East Coventry Township- Lance Parson
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township –Jim Marks, Bill Soumis
New Hanover Township – Keith Youse, Kurt Zebrowski
Pottstown Borough – Ryan Procsal
Upper Pottsgrove Township – David Waldt
West Pottsgrove Township – Not represented
Montgomery County Planning Commission – Marley Bice

Recording Secretary – Bonnie L. Frisco

Visitor(s): Evan Brandt

- 1. Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Marks called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.
- 2. Roll Call:** Mr. Marks did a roll call and all municipalities were represented, except for Douglass Township and West Pottsgrove Township.
- 3. Review of the September 2023 Meeting Minutes**
Mr. Soumis moved to approve the September 27, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimously. Amendment being remove Mr. Marks’ comments under Municipal Updates and note that Mr. Marks did not have any additional information to report for North Coventry Township.
- 4. Treasurer’s Reports**
Mr. Waldt moved to approve the October 2023 Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Zebrowski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
- 6. Presentation: East Coventry Township “Growing Greener” Ordinance**
Guest: Richard Tralies, PLA, ASLA, Senior Director of Landscape Planning, Natural Lands

Mr. Tralies reviewed the “Growing Greener” Ordinance adopted by East Coventry Township. The general purpose of the ordinance was to set requirements for developments to provide more open space, by which, one of doing so is to require smaller lots to leave open space, where possible. The steps to be taken are 1) delineate open space 2) determine where the dwelling will go 3) where road and trails will go and 4) draw in lot lines. The practice would provide more open space for community and other uses.

Mr. Tralies provided examples of Growing Greener developments.

7. Update: Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA)

Guests: Scott France, AICP, MCPC Executive Director & SRPRA Board Member
Thomas Frawley, SRPRA Executive Director

Mr. France and Mr. Frawley provided updates regarding the SRPRA. Mr. France noted there are nine board members, three from each county (Berks, Montgomery and Chester) as well as a marketing consultant and legal consultant. Also noted was grant information may be released as early as a few weeks.

Mr. Frawley provided a project update. A three-step program is proposed. First step is scoping, second step is a service development plan and the third step is preliminary engineer design. It was noted that Amtrak has a statutory right to request use of rails and negotiate with rail owners. The DVRPC recommended project that was proposed at the last PMRPC meeting was for a study for the SRPR. No action was taken at that time. Mr. France and Mr. Frawley requested reconsideration of submitting the SRPR study as the recommended project for the grant. Mr. Marks noted that the SRPR study is premature, as the matter was brought up over ten years ago and nothing came of the passenger rails. Mr. Soumis noted that parking lots for passengers need to be considered as well. Mr. Marks felt that the Keim Street bridge replacement is more useful to the community.

8. Continued Discussion: DVRPC FY 2025 Work Program Project

Mr. Procsal moved to send the proposed project request to DVRPC for the 2025 Work Program Project. The proposed project is the SRPR study. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-2 with Upper Pottsgrove Township and North Coventry Township voting no.

9. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

No representatives present.

East Coventry Township

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

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman requested a list of items discussed in 2023 and an update of where they all stand.

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

Mr. Procsal noted discussions regarding the homeless.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Waldt noted negotiations that are taking place with developers.

West Pottsgrove Township

No representatives present.

10. School District Updates: No representatives present

11. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice noted the Montco EMS Plan Kick Off Meeting. An e-mail with the Details has been sent. The November/December combined PMRPC meeting will be held December 7, 2023.

Public Comment

Evan Brandt asked Mr. Soumis what his vote was for the DVRCP Project recommendation and asked if Mr. Soumis was in favor of the motion and, if so, why did Mr. Marks' no vote stand for North Coventry Township. Mr. Soumis noted he is on the fence regarding the vote but since Mr. Marks is the voting member, he votes for North Coventry Township.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Procsal moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie L. Frisco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bonnie" being more prominent.

Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary