

**MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024
(Approved October 23, 2024)**

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC) held a meeting via teleconference and in-person at Pottstown Borough Hall on September 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Douglass Township- Andrew Duncan, Joe Richardson
East Coventry Township- Larry Tietjen
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township –Jim Marks
New Hanover Township – Not represented
Pottstown Borough – Ryan Procsal, Dan Weand
Upper Pottsgrove Township –Wayne Weaver
West Pottsgrove Township – Howard Shawell
Montgomery County Planning Commission – Marley Bice

Recording Secretary – Bonnie L. Frisco

Visitor(s): Mitchell Miller, Evan Brandt, Mike Hays, Chris Patriarca

- 1. Meeting Called to Order:** Mr. Marks called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Marks led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Roll Call:** Mr. Marks did a roll call and all municipalities were represented except for New Hanover Township.
- 4. Review of the June 2024 Meeting Minutes**
Mr. Weand moved to approve the June 26, 2024 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Shawell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Amendment being add Wayne Weaver representing Upper Pottsgrove to the attendees.
- 5. Treasurer’s Reports**
Mr. Procsal moved to approve the July, August and September 2024 Treasurer’s Reports. Mr. Weand seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 6. Public Comment**
Mike Hayes noted the Montco Project and the Comprehensive Plan updates stating that there is need for more housing and municipalities need to be more ambitious with fair share housing as there is a dire need for affordable housing.

7. Comprehensive Plan Review Items:

- a. Draft Parks & Open Space Chapter & Discussion

*Guests Bill Hartman, PLA, MCPC Trails & Open Space Planning Manager
David T. Stauffer, RLA, ASLA, Chester County Parks & Preservation Director
Tricia McCloskey, AICP, PARRC, Regional Recreation Planner*

Mr. Hartman noted that Montgomery County usually uses \$1.5-2M annually for county acquisitions and grants. Montgomery County has an open space fund of \$3.5M annually. Monies for which could be used to fill the Schuylkill River Trail gap to have the trail go directly from Philadelphia to Berks County. There is over \$40M in Federal funding the Schuylkill River Trail.

Mr. Stauffer noted that the Chester County has grant monies for land preservation also noting that 31% of County land area is being preserved. The County has a 35-year commitment for land preservation. The County is looking to make additional trail connections and is looking to municipalities, residents, and business to do that with funding assistance through the County Program.

Ms. McCloskey noted that there is \$6.9M in grants that are funding local recreation projects.

- Pickleball/tennis courts (Douglass Township)
- Riverside Park, kayak launch (North Coventry Township)
- Boat launch, connect the Heyser Tract to Towpath Park (East Coventry Township)
- Development of Chestnut Park and South Street Park (Pottstown Borough)

Updates to be implemented into the Parks & Open Space Chapter per comments received.

b. Community Survey Status & Outreach

Ms. Bice provide an update of the Community Survey. Ms. Bice noted that 607 responses have been received a survey end date will be set to September 30.

8. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Duncan noted that a walking path along with a pickleball court is planned. A 17-lot proposed subdivision along Moyer Road has been submitted, the project borders another proposed community behind Twin Ponds Golf Course.

East Coventry Township

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

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted the Wawa and Royal Farms are under construction.

New Hanover Township

There are no representatives present for New Hanover Township.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted that North Coventry Township is close to obtaining 55 acres of conservation easements. Starbucks has opened at Suburbia Shopping Center.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Weand noted there is nothing additional to report for Pottstown Borough.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Shawell noted there is nothing additional to report for West Pottsgrove Township.

9. School District Updates: No representatives present

10. MCPC Update

Ms. Bice noted the below information.

- a. Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority: <https://gosrpra.com/meetings/>
Upcoming meetings: September 23 (virtual); October 28 (in-person in Reading)
- b. DVRPC Projects:
 - Regional Safe Routes to School study is wrapping-up
 - Pottstown Station Area Planning study kicking-off soon
- c. PECO Green Region 2024 & Bonus Grant Rounds Deadline: October 24
<https://natlands.org/what-wedo/growing-greener-communities/peco-green-region/>
- d. New Reports Released:
 - 2023 Housing Units Built:
<https://montgomerycountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/43999/2023-Housing-Units-Built->
 - 2023 Non-Residential Construction:
<https://montgomerycountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/44000/2023-NonresidentialConstruction-Report->
 - 2023 Median Prices for Housing:
<https://montgomerycountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38206/2023-Median-Prices-forHousing>
- e. Chester County Fall 2024 Planners' Forum: Wednesday, October 2nd, 8-10 am
Register to attend in-person Register to attend virtually

11. Adjournment

Mr. Weant moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Shawell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary