



POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

140 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464 | PARRCoordinator@gmail.com | 484-945-0200

PARRC Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2017

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

@PAHWF

In attendance:

Jay Erb, North Coventry Township

Pete Hiryak, Douglass Township

Dave Kraybill, PAHWF

Michael Lane, Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator

Michael Lenhart, Pottstown Borough

Herb Miller, Upper Pottsgrove Township

Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township

Rich Wood, Lower Pottsgrove Township

Meeting notes:

1. December 1st 2016 meeting minutes were approved with revisions. 5 voted in favor, 1 not. Revisions included: under 14. g. Upper Pottsgrove, the grass has failed at Chestnut Grove Park and some of the suggestions the Committee made for the possible use of two open space parcels were negatively viewed by Herb Miller.
2. The Committee reviewed the tasks that have been completed and it was suggested that M. Lane remind Committee members to sign up to be a member of “PottstownFamilies.org” so they can take advantage of the Community Calendar and Resource/Service Guide.
3. M. Lane reported on the Tri-County Trail Study. DVRPC sent the draft to Mr. Lane on January 19th, 2017. A draft study was sent to all the municipalities via “dropbox” and one printed copy was given to each Township on January 25th. Included with the PARRC meeting agenda was a schedule to complete the study as required by the DCNR grant. The schedule gave the Committee members a month to review the draft study and have comments by the next PARRC meeting on February 22, 2017. DVRPC highlighted 4 trail segments as priority projects to complete. The 4 priority segments include: on Coventry Trail plan, segment CT-A-1 and part of segment CT-A-2; on Pottsgrove Trail plan, segment PT-8; on Lower West and Manatawny Trails plan, segment MT-3 and part of MT-4 to Rt. 100 in Memorial Park; and on the Upper West Trail plan, segment UW-A-1. \$60,000.00 from the grant has been set aside to do the priority projects. The Committee preliminarily approved of the 4 priority projects. If there are no other comments concerning the priority projects at the February 22 PARRC meeting, Mr. Lane will meet with 3 engineers. He will present the priority projects and obtain a proposal from each one to perform an existing conditions survey and develop Design Development plans within the budget. The proposals will be presented to PARRC for review and approval.
4. H. Miller reported that he is setting up an appointment with the new Pottsgrove School Superintendent, Dr. Shirk, to introduce the Tri-County Trail Study. R. Wood indicated he would like to be at the meeting.

5. R. Wood discussed that when a meeting is called to discuss the bridge and mid-block crossing at Glendale Avenue and Charlotte Street with PADOT, he would also like to discuss with them from the Pottsgrove Trail plan, the trail segments PT-6 and PT-7 on Buchert Road. He also had a concern with the alignment of trail segment PT-10 behind the North End Shopping Center because of safety reasons.
6. D. Kraybill reported on the status of the offer by the Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board (VFTCB) to include the Pottstown region, (with western Chester County), in its promotions. A social function and presentation by VFTCB has been arranged at Sly Fox Brewery on Tuesday, March 14th from 5 – 7 PM. A formal invitation will be sent out by PAHWF soon.
7. Spotted Lanternfly: It was reported that the quarantine has expanded to include more townships. An updated map from November 2016 showed new municipalities included. The Department of Agriculture is trying to limit the spread. Some Townships have walked their parks to determine the extent of infestation. Upper Pottsgrove is sending out informational pamphlets to residents with their tax information. Sending out reminders to residents is a way to help the Township with the problem.
8. “Free” Milkweed plants for Monarch Butterfly habitat was discussed. M. Lenhart reordered the same amount of plants as last year for PARRC members this year. A variety of milkweed species were included for different ecosystems. The amount of plants for each member would cover approximately 2 acres.
9. Updates from the PARRC members:
 - a. PAHWF: D. Kraybill reported that there is \$30,000 left in the mini-grant fund and the Foundation is accepting applications for 3, \$10,000 projects. Details are on the PMRPC website. Application deadline is 3/31/17. They are also hoping for \$100,000 from the state to which the Foundation will match with another \$100,000 for the fund. DCNR/PRPS are looking to award public parks that demonstrate the integration of green and sustainable park practices. Deadline to apply is January 27th and sent to eschnellbaugh@prps.org. The Foundation is also looking at more sustainable revenue projects and have been in contact with the Dragon Boat club in Philadelphia to possibly train on the flywheel rowing machines in the old Armory Building in Pottstown.
 - b. Douglass Township: Bids for the new Highway Department building are being accepted. They plan to demolish the existing building and construct a new one in the same foot print. They are finalizing the engineering plans for the new green infrastructure for the parking lot that is shared by the municipal building and Douglass Park. Traffic is getting bad on local roads from new large residential developments and will get even worse when recently approved residential developments are built. The PMRPC is looking into a regional traffic study with a consultant and the County.
 - c. West Pottsgrove Township: C. Valentine reported that they meet with a pool management company to see if they would be interested in running the Township pool for this summer season. The management company is reviewing the pool financials and will report back to the Township with their decision. The bridge projects in Murgia Park are progressing and a cost estimate with plans were submitted to the Commissioners for review and approval.
 - d. Pottstown Borough: M. Lenhart reported that SRHA is applying for grant funding to stabilize the bridge abutment in Riverfront Park. They are also going to continue the In Focus Short Film Festival this year and are looking for sponsorships before it opens in November. The Carousel is up and running and open for families and other events. The PARRC should explore other venues for their meetings. TREC is doing a pamphlet of their facilities and programs to be included in event kiosks in regional/local hotels.
 - e. Upper Pottsgrove: H. Miller reported that they are contacting Waste Management for a meeting to discuss a different zoning density on their property. He handed out an

article from the Philadelphia Inquirer about grants for biking infrastructure in the Philadelphia region. The Althouse Arboretum has had many accomplishments in 2016 (see attached flyer). He reminded the members of the *Watershed Conference along the Schuylkill River* that is on March 11, 2017 at MCCC in Pottstown.

- f. **North Coventry:** M. Lane reported that Kenilworth Park may be included as a Storm water & Stewardship Study in the upcoming work plan for possible targeted funding related to the Delaware River Watershed Initiative and the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape administered by Natural Lands Trust in the planning phase for determining the upcoming few years work plan.
10. The meeting concluded with a discussion concerning the Committee’s policy for the Recreation Coordinator’s interaction with the press. When a Township mentions the Recreation Coordinator being involved with a project to the press, the Township will notify the Recreation Coordinator of a possible call from the press. If the press contacts the Recreation Coordinator about recreation issues in a Township, the Recreation Coordinator will contact the Township for more information before replying to the press.

Adjournment: 7:00 PM

Recorder: M.Lane

2017 Meeting Schedule (All meetings to be held at 5:00 PM in the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Offices, 152 East High Street, 5th floor, Pottstown, PA 19464):

January 25	February 22	March 22	April 26
May 24	June 28	July 26	August 23
September 27	October 26	December 7	

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 5:00 pm @PAHWF