

MINUTES

MERCER COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday – March 28, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. – MCRPC Offices

MUNICIPALITY	PRESENT	ABSENT
FARRELL CITY	Kimberly Doss	Stephen Bennefield
HERMITAGE CITY	Jeremy Coxe	James Holl
SHARON CITY		Frank Connelly Stephen Theiss
CLARK BOROUGH		James Carucci, Sr.
FREDONIA BOROUGH	Patricia McAdams	Bob Reagle
GREENVILLE BOROUGH	Janet Earle	Benjamin Beck
GROVE CITY BOROUGH		Shawn P. Myers
JACKSON CENTER BOROUGH		Robert Egger
JAMESTOWN BOROUGH		
MERCER BOROUGH	Jerry Johnson	
NEW LEBANON BOROUGH		
SANDY LAKE BOROUGH	Shelby Clark	Andrew Morris
SHARPSVILLE BOROUGH		Alex Kovach Guy Moderelli
STONEBORO BOROUGH	John Sweet	
WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH		Maleia James Robert Lark
WHEATLAND BOROUGH	Dave Jones	George Ashby
COOLSPRING TOWNSHIP		Don Blakesley Robert L. McGhee
DELAWARE TOWNSHIP	William E. Anthony	
E. LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP		
FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP		Jane Clark Mont Clark
FINDLEY TOWNSHIP	John B. Courtney	Steve Paxton
HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP	Lisa Holm	Todd Hittle
JACKSON TOWNSHIP		Richard Marks Robert W. Pizor
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP		William Dunn Garth Falkner
LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP		Richard Schuller Jody Scopack
LAKE TOWNSHIP		
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP	Dave Beatty Ron Faull	
NEW VERNON TOWNSHIP		Daniel L. Patterson
OTTER CREEK TOWNSHIP	Carl Swartz	Paulette Young

<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
PERRY TOWNSHIP		
PINE TOWNSHIP	Fred Brenner George Hagstrom	
PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP	Gary R. Lowers	Ed Robinson
SANDY LAKE TOWNSHIP	Helen Winger	Raymond Scofield
SHENANGO TOWNSHIP	Matthew Stefanak	Dennis DeSilvey
S. PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP	Don Morrow	Rose Lyons
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP	Rick Dillaman	
WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP	Diana Caiazza	Chad Taylor
WOLF CREEK TOWNSHIP		Gregory Chiappini Jim Morton
MERCER COUNTY	Jeff Fiedler Jeff Hoy Larry McAdams	James L. Hogan James Hughes Sheryl Kelly Patty McCluskey
<u>BOROUGH ASSOCIATION</u>		
<u>SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION</u>		
COUNTY COMMISSIONER	Matt McConnell	

STAFF

Dan Gracenin, Executive Director
Carmen Reichard, Assistant Director
Chris Conti, Senior Planner
Brian Barnhizer, Senior Planner
Matt Stewart, Senior Planner
Lisa Holm, Senior Planner

OTHERS PRESENT

James Nevant II, Solicitor
Lonnie McFall – Union Rep.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Jeremy Coxe, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jeremy Coxe, Vice-Chairman, led the Commission in the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE SIGN IN

An attendance sign-in sheet was passed around and representatives present were asked to mark their attendance. **A quorum was present.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

There were no public comments.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2017 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Hagstrom and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting with no additions, corrections or deletions. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Carl Swartz, Treasurer, presented the February 2017 Financial Statement. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Faull to approve the January and February 2017 Financial Statements. The motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Chris Conti, Senior Planner mentioned that he and Ms. Reichard attended the PA CD&H Practitioners Annual Conference last week and there was a lot of discussion regarding President Trump's Skinny Budget, which could be cutting funds drastically for the CDBG and HOME programs. Mr. Gracenin stated that there were a lot of other programs that were proposed for elimination such as the weatherization program.

Mr. Gracenin, Executive Director, explained that you should start receiving information from the Census Bureau regarding address updates to municipalities. Classes will be held to assist the municipalities with filling out these forms. Commissioner McConnell noted that the courthouse is checking into the data bases and comparing them to the prior ones. Mr. Coxe asked if we have heard of any need for part-time census workers. Mr. Gracenin stated that he has not formally heard of anything.

ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Larry McAdams, Committee Chairman, noted that the Committee met last week, a quorum was present, and reviewed the following item:

1. Sandy Lake Borough Zoning Ordinance – Map Amendment – Mr. McAdams explained that the Borough is requesting that an existing R-2 parcel be rezoned to Commercial. The property is located east of the existing Commercial zone and east of Route 173 in the Borough of Sandy Lake. This could increase the area of the Commercial District including any of the permitted uses consistent with similar uses in an area that currently contains some commercial uses. Properties to the east are Residential, so limiting access through that area should be considered. A motion was made by Mr. McAdams that the Planning Commission approve the zoning map amendment to include the proposed properties in the Commercial district, based upon our established rezoning criteria. Mr. Faull seconded. The motion passed.

PROGRAM – MPO 101

Mr. Matt Stewart, Senior Planner, explained that an MPO is a federally mandated and federally funded transportation policy-making organization that Congress authorized back in 1962; and all Federal funding for transportation projects and programs is channeled through this planning process. An MPO is triggered by any metropolitan area that is over 50,000 people, which currently we are a part of the Youngstown Metropolitan area, and even before that we were a very small MPO which has existed since the early 1980s. We are responsible for 740 linear miles of state roadways, 2 transit operations, 2 airports, and 2 class 1 railroads. Within Pennsylvania, there are 23 planning partners; of which 12 are MPOs. He noted that there are 6 counties within District 1, and 11 PennDOT districts within the Commonwealth. He noted that we have 2 committees

under our MPO; the Coordinating Committee is our decision making body that is made of 25 voting members which also provide input on discussion items. This Committee meets quarterly, meetings are open to the public and various agencies; and the next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2017. The Technical Committee talks about types of projects in depth and makes recommendations/initiates studies to the Coordinating Committee. This Committee meets on an as needed basis, maybe 1 or 2 times a year. Mr. Stewart noted that if anyone is interested in serving on any of these committees, to get in touch with him.

Mr. Stewart next highlighted what we do. He noted that most of his time is spent on coordination efforts with PennDOT 1-0 and Program Center, FHWA, local municipalities, various stakeholders, general public, MCRCOG, other MPOs and RPOs (in particular Eastgate in Ohio). He works with folks to plan for transportation projects or solve issues and how we can pursue funding. He noted that there are a few documents that help guide our process. The first is the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which was just updated. The LRTP is updated every 5 years and looks ahead 20 years in the future. The other document is our TIP, which is updated every 2 years, which is a short term look. He noted that we have a very active role in working on Special Studies such as the State Street Study and Route 19 Corridor Study in Mercer Borough, to name a few. He noted that we do a lot of Data Collection, most notably traffic counts and HPMS segments, local asset data, GIS, CMP segments, etc. Mr. Brian Barnhizer does the traffic counting for Mercer County.

Mr. Stewart briefly discussed the transportation projects (LRTP, TIP, and Planning Studies) and how often these documents are updated. Conversations occur with PennDOT throughout the process (community meetings, scoping field views, phone conversations, etc.) Most funding we deal with is Federal funding and Mercer County receives \$67 million, over 4 years. We are currently in our 2nd year of funding. The MPO has various types of funding, which the NHPP can only be used for a few roads in the County and Interstates. Mr. Stewart noted that Mercer County is the 3rd largest with the number of bridges in the State; most are County owned and most are not allowed to use Federal funds. Mr. Brad Elder was hired as the new Mercer County Bridge Engineer, since Mark Miller retired.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rick Dillaman mentioned that Springfield Township hired Mr. Trant, as a part-time manager from Allegheny County. Also, he wanted to thank Lisa Holm for assisting the Township in a 911 address. Mr. Gracenin wanted to thank his staff also for all of the work that they do.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business or discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Matt McConnell to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted and Certified By:

Dennis DeSilvey, Secretary – MCRPC

Date: _____