

## MINUTES

### MERCER COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday – February 25, 2020 - 7:30 p.m. – MCRPC Offices

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
FARRELL CITY		Stephen Bennefield Kimberly Doss
HERMITAGE CITY	Jeremy Coxe	James Holl
SHARON CITY	Stephen Theiss	Frank Connelly
CLARK BOROUGH	Maryjo Harakal	
FREDONIA BOROUGH	Patricia McAdams	Bob Reagle
GREENVILLE TOWN	Janet Earle Paul Hamill	
GROVE CITY BOROUGH		Shawn P. Myers
JACKSON CENTER BOROUGH		Robert Egger
JAMESTOWN BOROUGH		
MERCER BOROUGH		Caroline DaCosta
NEW LEBANON BOROUGH		
SANDY LAKE BOROUGH	Glenn Leech Mark Jaskowak	
SHARPSVILLE BOROUGH		Alex Kovach Guy Moderelli
STONEBORO BOROUGH	John Sweet	
WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH		Maleia James Robert Lark
WHEATLAND BOROUGH	Ron Viglio	Patricia Lewis
COOLSPRING TOWNSHIP	Don Blakesley	
DELAWARE TOWNSHIP	William E. Anthony	
E. LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP		William Hackwelder
FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP		Mont Clark
FINDLEY TOWNSHIP		John B. Courtney Steve Paxton
GREENE TOWNSHIP		Donna Kean Stephen Kennedy
HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP	Lisa Holm	Todd Hittle
JACKSON TOWNSHIP		Robert W. Pizor
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP	Richard McCullough	
LAKE TOWNSHIP		
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP	Dave Beatty Joseph Matthews	
NEW VERNON TOWNSHIP		Daniel L. Patterson
OTTER CREEK TOWNSHIP	Carl Swartz Paulette Young	
<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>

PERRY TOWNSHIP

PINE TOWNSHIP Richard Stachel Fred Brenner

PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP Gary R. Lowers  
Jim Rowe

SANDY LAKE TOWNSHIP Raymond Scofield

SHENANGO TOWNSHIP Dennis DeSilvey Matthew Stefanak

S. PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP Stone Helsel  
Tim Stiffy

WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP Ray Campbell  
Bryan Cummings

WOLF CREEK TOWNSHIP Charles Weber Gregory Chiappini

MERCER COUNTY Ron Faull Jeff Fiedler  
Jared Grandy Jeff Hoy  
Michael Foster Sheryl Kelly  
James Hughes  
Larry McAdams  
Jay Russell

BOROUGH ASSOCIATION

SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

COUNTY COMMISSIONER Matt McConnell

STAFF

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

OTHERS PRESENT

James Nevant II, Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Carl Swartz, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Gary Lowers, 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 not present.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

There were no public comments.

#### PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO 2019 CHAIRMAN DENNIS DeSILVEY

The presentation of gavel to our former Chairman was postponed until next month so that Dennis DeSilvey, 2019 Chairman can present to Mr. Coxe.

#### MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2018 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Falkner and seconded by Mr. Hamill to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2018 meeting with no additions, corrections or deletions. The motion passed.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Robert Lark, Treasurer, presented the December 2018 Financial Statement. A motion was made by Mr. Falkner and seconded by Mr. Klumph to approve the December 2018 Financial Statement as presented. The motion passed.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, mentioned a few transportation studies that are either going on or are about to start. The first is the Pedestrian Circulation Study in the Greenville area, which he has been working with consultants over the last 7 to 8 months and is getting near completion; with a final public meeting being held at the Greenville Public Library. Also, the MPO will be starting a Traffic Signal Improvement Study which will look at suggested improvements for signal corridors and coming up with more refined cost estimates. Next, he stated that PennDOT, District 1, will be working on 2 safety corridor studies: Route 58, between Greenville and Mercer; and Route 62, between the Shenango Valley and Mercer. Mr. Lark mentioned about 2 years ago, West Middlesex Borough received a grant for Green Light Go. The Borough Engineers and PennDOT have advertised the bid and the bids will be open at their Council meeting in February. He noted that the grant was for \$42,000; which the Borough put in a \$10,000 match.

Mr. Gracenin, Executive Director, mentioned that at our last couple month's meeting, he spoke about the Neighborhood Assistance Program and the Neighborhood Partnership Program. A number of communities were interested and he forwarded additional information to them. Since then, he did learn that if a community has an enterprise zone, there is an Enterprise Zone Assistance Program which offers its own benefits; such as an additional liquor license would be available within that enterprise zone; and they could receive a 25% tax credit.

#### ZONING & 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. Findley Township – Zoning Ordinance – Map Amendments – Mr. McAdams stated that the proposed amendments include: adding additional business zoning and permitted uses to the north side of Route 58 (Mercer-Grove City Road) and some to the south of this. The Committee discussed some of the existing uses and potential that these are not permitted uses in the existing or proposed districts. There was also a question about the availability of utilities for some of the potential uses. Adopting an updated zoning map with parcels was also suggested. **A motion was made by Mr. McAdams that the Committee recommends that these amendments not be approved until further consideration and clarification is presented. Mr. Hughes**

**seconded.** In discussion, Ms. Holm stated that this request came from property owners along this same corridor and they consolidated this request to be the entire corridor. Mr. Gracenin discussed updating the official Findley Township zoning map to the GIS (parcel base) that was not readily available when their zoning ordinance was originally adopted. This would make this and the overlay district easier to identify since it would cover entire parcels rather than a distance from the road. Mr. Courtney stated that Findley Township Planning Commission was not in favor of adding additional business zoning and permitted uses. Mr. Gracenin reminded members that MCRPC would only make a recommendation to the Township. After discussion, the motion passed.

#### ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM FOR 2019

Mr. Gracenin, Executive Director, mentioned that MCRPC is required by its Bylaws to approve projects and work activities to be undertaken in 2019. (A copy is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.) Mr. Gracenin briefly summarized the work program noting that we changed the format a few years ago to make it much simpler. A more detailed report of the work performed over the year will be given in the fall with the annual progress report. There being no questions, a motion was made by Mr. Falkner; seconded by Mr. Sweet to approve the Annual Work Program for 2019. The motion passed.

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT CONTRACT

Mr. Matt Stewart, Senior Planner, explained that an annual resolution is needed authorizing the chairman (or vice-chairman or secretary respectively if chairman is not available) to sign the annual grant agreement with PennDOT for transportation planning. A motion was made by Mr. Falkner and seconded by Mr. Beatty to sign the annual grant with PennDOT for transportation planning. The motion passed.

#### APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A motion was made by Mr. Hoy and seconded by Mr. Sweet to reappoint Daniel Gracenin as Executive Director of the Commission for 2019. This action is required annually by the Commission's Bylaws. The motion passed.

#### APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR

A motion was made by Mr. Falkner and seconded by Mr. Beatty to reappoint James Nevant as Solicitor of the Commission for 2019. This action is required annually by the Commission's Bylaws. The motion passed.

#### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Gracenin mentioned that the Committee list was mailed to all Commission members in their meeting packet. He asked that if any representative wanted to be added to a committee, to please let him know as soon as possible.

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF APPROVAL OF MINOR SUBDIVISIONS

Mr. Gracenin explained that this action is to be taken annually, which authorizes the approval by MCRPC staff on behalf of the full Commission to approve minor subdivisions under the Mercer County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. A motion was made by Mr. Falkner and seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the authorization for staff to approve minor subdivisions. The motion passed.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gracenin, Executive Director, noted that after months of negotiations and litigation in the Tri-County Industries case, an agreement was resolved. Since then, Tri-County has made application to reopen the landfill. Starting the end of this month, meetings will be held between Pine, Liberty, Tri-County as well as MCRPC, which is being required by DEP. It was noted that changes are being made to what can be recycled since China is not taking as many recyclables. Commissioner McConnell noted that some of the recycling bins in Mercer County are being removed due to China not accepting glass and more restrictions on how we should recycle certain items. Commissioner McConnell noted that numerous binders filled with landfill information was taken to the Grove City Library for everyone to view. Also, he noted that the County never charged a tipping fee, which the County could negotiate, a possible tipping fee.

Mr. Lark from West Middlesex Borough mentioned that the bridge in the Borough was replaced and is no longer considered a viaduct. He stated that the Borough had good experience working with PennDOT and Mekis Construction. The bridge cost totaled \$6.5 million which started April 2, 2018 and was completed on November 20, 2018. Official dedication will be held on July 12, 2019. Mr. Lark noted that there are 26-28 lights from Erie Street to Bedford Road and the Borough is responsible for the electric bill. PennDOT stated that they will put an epoxy on the bridge after the 1<sup>st</sup> winter.

Commissioner McConnell mentioned that the County has been working with PennDOT regarding the license fee and \$5.00 match. He mentioned that the County is working on a 2019 sales agreement with a major firm to try to sell our area.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business or discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Falkner to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Submitted and Certified By:

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Gary Lowers, Secretary – MCRPC

Date: \_\_\_\_\_