

**UPPER PERKIOMEN VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**April 23, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was held in the Upper Hanover Township Building and was called to order by the Chair Bill Ritting at 7:00 PM.

Municipal representatives present:

East Greenville – Josiah Pierson, Bob Gery  
Green Lane – None  
Marlborough – Bill Ritting  
Pennsburg – Michael Mensch  
Red Hill – Charles McCleary  
Upper Hanover – Steve Rothenberger

Also present this evening: Eric Jarrell from the Montgomery County Planning Commission; Luanne Stauffer from the Upper Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce; Margie Gelhaus from the Upper Perkiomen School District; Michael Tannous from the Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA of Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2014 was made by Steve Rothenberger, seconded by Michael Mensch, and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

As previously reported, the current checking account balance is \$2,774.15 and invoices for 2014 should have been sent out.

**Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA of Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA**

Guest speaker Michael Tannous. Executive Director of the Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA of Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA presented to the Regional Planning Commission. He provided a brief history of the YMCA in the Upper Perkiomen Valley and provided an update regarding the construction of the new YMCA facility. Mr. Tannous presented an architectural rendering of the building as well as floor plan, showing the amenities to be offered by the YMCA. He also offered insight into the merger between the Freedom Valley YMCA and the Philadelphia YMCA, highlighting the advantages offered by the combined organization.

**Upper Perkiomen Valley Wayfinding and Identity Program Update**

Luanne Stauffer reminded everyone that a ceremony unveiling the prototype wayfinding signs will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center and every municipality is encouraged to send at least one representative to the unveiling. The 20-minute program will also recognize the assistance and support provided by Horizon and Reed Sign Companies, Knoll and State Senator Bob Mensch. There was also some additional discussion regarding sign installation and the specifications for the sign foundations and PaDOT permitting. Luanne also mentioned a possible grant opportunity (up to \$200,000) through DCED to fund Phase I (\$330,000) of the wayfinding sign system. Municipalities should review the proposed sign system to ensure no signs are missing and establish priorities in case all signs cannot be funded in the first Phase.

**Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study Update**

A grant to fund the Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study was submitted to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) by the County. It is hoped the grant will be awarded by the end of the year, allowing work to start officially next March. However we may be able to start work on the project after July 1<sup>st</sup> if we receive a notice of “retroactivity” from DCNR. Eric will provide more background on the scope of the project at the May meeting.

**Regional Updates**

East Greenville – No report.

Green Lane – No report.

Marlborough – Marlborough’s Village Visioning Open House went well.

Pennsburg – Work is progressing on the new dorms at the Perkiomen School and new fencing is being installed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Park.

Red Hill – The old Ambulance Building has a sale pending and the Zoning Hearing Board will be reviewing an application for a Doctor’s Office. No new news regarding the Gas Station, however, the year deadline for the station to open up is soon approaching. If the station does not open at least once a year they must remove the underground storage tanks. A proposed development off of Hendricks Road for around 200 townhomes has been submitted.

Upper Hanover – Work continues to progress at the Northgate development and work is getting started on the new YMCA.

School District – Interviewing for a new Director of the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center has begun. The School Board has a new member and the Middle School has a new Principal.

PerkUp Update – Luanne Stauffer briefly discussed the Chamber’s Education Initiative, particularly the industry tours and interviewing seminar.

County Planning Updates – Eric Jarrell noted that nominations for the County’s Montgomery Awards are still being accepted.

Inter-regional Planning Cooperative – Next meeting TBD.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Jarrell, Acting Secretary