

UPPER PERKIOMEN VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
February 26, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.

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

Municipal representatives present:

East Greenville – Josiah Pierson, Bob Gery
Green Lane – Brian Carpenter
Marlborough – Bill Ritting
Pennsburg – Michael Mensch, Fred Schutte
Red Hill – Chuck McCleary
Upper Hanover – Steve Rothenberger
Hereford – John Membrino

Also present this evening: Eric Jarrell from the Montgomery County Planning Commission; Luanne Stauffer and Michele Fillippo from the Upper Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce and Margie Gelhaus from the Upper Perkiomen School District.

Reorganization

Eric Jarrell discussed the By-Laws as they relate to electing officers, noting that the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson must be held by different municipalities and cannot be held by the same municipality for more than two consecutive years.

Upon request for nomination of a Chairperson, Josiah Pierson nominated Bill Ritting (Marlborough). No further nominations were made.

Upon request for nomination of a Vice-Chairperson, Josiah Pierson nominated Chuck McCleary (Red Hill). No further nominations were made.

Upon request for nomination of a Treasurer, Bill Ritting nominated Brian Carpenter (Green Lane). No further nominations were made.

No nominations for Secretary were made. Eric Jarrell will continue acting as Secretary until the position is filled.

Following the close of nominations, a motion to approve the nominated slate for Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and Treasurer was made by Steve Rothenberger, seconded by Josiah Pierson, and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2013 was made by Chuck McCleary, seconded by Josiah Pierson, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Brian Carpenter reported a balance of \$2,774.15. Invoices for 2014 will go out soon and the next County payment will be due in April. With a change in Chairmanship, we will need to update the signature cards with Univest Bank.

Review of 2013 Activities and 2014 Planning Goals

Eric reviewed the project activities of 2013, primarily consisting of the Wayfinding and Identity Program. He also distributed a summary of the region's goals and objectives from the Comprehensive Plan. These goals should help guide the regional planning commission's existing work and serve as a guide when developing new work programs.

Upper Perkiomen Valley Wayfinding and Identity Prototype Development

Luanne Stauffer and Michele Fillippo presented a map and table depicting a draft of proposed wayfinding sign locations throughout the region. The identified locations were selected based upon staff review with the sign consultant, Craig Berger. The final locations need to ultimately be approved by each municipality since they will primarily be responsible for implementation. The location and content of each sign was reviewed for input by the Regional Planning Commission based upon the knowledge they have of their own communities. Each representative was also encouraged to take the information back to their communities so that the sign locations could be finalized for possible grant submissions.

Potential Greenway Study and Stewardship Plan

Mr. Jarrell updated the region on the progress of the Greenway and Stewardship Study. Meetings are currently taking place with the Natural Lands Trust to complete the grant application prior to the April 16, 2014 deadline. The State is very excited by the prospect of a multi-regional grant application and the concept of 26 municipalities cooperatively completing a greenway plan.

Regional Updates

East Greenville – A 12-unit condo project has been re-activated. The Borough is also focusing upon road and pothole restoration.

Green Lane – Potential projects involving the Church at 5th and Walnut and the old greenhouse are being discussed for residential uses.

Marlborough – Marlborough will be having a community Open House in April to develop a future vision for both Sumneytown and Perkiomenville.

Pennsburg – Work on the new dorms at the Perkiomen School has begun. The Borough is also working to improve roads that have deteriorated due to the harsh winter.

Red Hill – A number of projects, involving the Ambulance Building (Doctor's Office), the old gas station (Dollar General) and the Kerschner Property (townhomes) are in various stages of discussion with the Borough.

Upper Hanover – Work has progressed on the Northgate development and the new Northgate Boulevard. It is unclear what will be happening with the commercial piece fronting on Rt. 663.

Hereford – The Nielson Group is proposing some work in the trailer park involving a new cell tower, its sales center and a storage facility. The recycling center is currently shut down due to roof problems.

School District – No report

PerkUp Update – Luanne Stauffer informed everyone that PerkUp has received its 501(c)3 status. This will help with general fundraising and will allow PerkUp to be a direct recipient of grant funds. She also reported that 100 students participated in a job readiness program involving local industry and business.

County Planning Updates – No Report.

Inter-regional Planning Cooperative – Next meeting TBD

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Jarrell, Acting Secretary