

## **BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM**

Thursday, February 5, 2015

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:00 a.m. at Warwick Township, on February 5, 2015, and called to order by Consortium President Eileen M. Bradley.

#### **Roll Call and Instructions:**

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Eileen M. Bradley, New Britain Township  
Angela P. Benner, New Britian Township  
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township  
John McMenamain, Lower Southampton Township  
John Boyle, Yardley Borough  
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township  
Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Municipal Authority  
Jamie Gwynn, Northampton Township  
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township  
Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough  
Robin Trymbiski, New Britain Borough  
Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township  
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough  
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township  
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township  
Sam Bryant, Doylestown Township  
Tim Tieperman, Warrington Township  
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township  
Bob Bender, NWWA  
Andrea Coaxum, Perkasie Borough  
Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township  
Ranee Elton, Warminster Township  
Steve Wiesner, Warminster Township  
Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township  
Terry Fedorchak, Lower Makefield  
Scott Sadowsky, Northampton Township / Middletown Township  
Tim Hennessey, Northampton Township / Middletown Township  
Ashley Thompson, Warwick Township

#### **Sponsors:**

Brian Jeter, Comcast

#### **Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2014:**

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Sandra Zadell, the Minutes of November 6, 2014 were approved as presented.

### **Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:**

Eileen Bradley reviewed the details of the Treasurer's Reports. Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Bob Pellegrino, the Treasurer's Report for November 2014, December 2014, and January 2015 were approved as presented.

### **Presentation: County Update**

Ms. Bradley introduced Bucks County Planning Commission Executive Director, Lynn Bush.

Lynn Bush stated that the Bucks County Planning Commission (BCPC) continues to have a strong representation from the municipal governments. Ms. Bush then provided the Consortium Members with a Bucks County Commission Report that covered 2014 Trends in development, Municipal Open Space Program, Farmland Preservation, Municipal Economic Development Initiative, Electronic Recording of Plans, Recycling of Electronics, Housing Advisory Board, and Transportation.

**2014 Trends in Development:** Ms. Bush reported that the BCPC is seeing more development activity, based on plans never seen by the BCPC 780 new residential units are proposed, 1.2 million square feet in non-residential proposals with 45% of the total being commercial.

**Municipal Open Space Program:** Ms. Bush reminded everyone that the deadline for use of funds is December 31, 2016 and there are 16 municipalities that have not used their grant money.

**Farmland Preservation:** Lynn reported that to date 150 farms have been preserved, there are currently 40 farms on the waiting list to be preserved, and the County has allocated \$2.5 million for 2015 to match state funds from cigarette tax.

**Municipal Economic Development Initiative:** Ms. Bush stated that this is the third year of the program that was fostered by Commissioner Robert G. Loughery and there are currently 30+ participants. One of projects is the Cross Keys Area. Through the program, a traffic engineer was hired to analyze the Cross Keys Area. The County has also created a "Taste and Tour" program to provide low interest loans to agricultural activities such as Farmers Markets and agritourism.

**Electronic Recording of Plans:** Ms. Bush reported that the Recorder of Deeds office issued new guidelines for electronic recording of Record Plans. Plans will go through the normal process, however, they will now be submitted electronically to the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds, who will then obtain the BCPC's signature.

**Recycling Electronics:** Ms. Bush stated that in prior years, the County worked with vendors who would take away collected electronics at no cost to the County. Due to the large amount of electronics that are being collected, there might be a charge from vendors this year at an estimated amount of \$100,000.00. The County has not yet determined what will be done since this additional cost has not been budgeted for 2015.

**Housing Advisory Board:** Ms. Bush reported that a Housing Advisory Board has been appointed for 2015 with the purpose to recommend "system changes" to the county's role in housing and housing services. The BCPC plans to have recommendations by the end of the year from the Housing Advisory Board on how to use \$40 million of annual investments more effectively.

**Transportation:** Ms. Bush announced that the new Secretary of Transportation is former Montgomery County Commissioner Leslie Richard, who has worked with Bucks County on projects in the past. The PennDOT funding program for the next four years (the TIP) was adopted in the fall. Bucks County has the largest piece of the regional total with the largest projects being the I 95/Turnpike Connection, Route 1 improvements, and the Levittown SEPTA Station rebuilding. Ms. Bush added that what has happened with the TIP is that projects like the Bristol Road Extension that had been dropped off the TIP program are being placed back on.

Tim Tieperman asked if the Marcellus gas money is part of the transportation funding. Ms. Bush responded that the Legacy Fund created with Act 13 in 2012 for drilling activity stated that there was a fee for each new gas well drilled. The Legacy Fund gives money regardless of drilling and in Bucks County, the money is used in 2 ways; in open space related ways and to fix county bridges.

Bob Pellegrino asked Ms. Bush to update the Consortium on the County's Bike and Trail Plan. She stated that Bucks County primarily had dealt with trails in parks and were supportive of municipal trails. The County now has decided to come up with a trail system that was feasible and would contribute to existing trail systems. Some of the trails being pitched to the Commissioners are a trail from Doylestown Township to New Holland Park and a Saucon Valley Trail.

#### **Presentation: TMA Bucks**

Ms. Bradley introduced TMA Bucks Executive Director Bill Brady.

Mr. Brady stated that TMA Bucks is an advocacy organization for roadwork, transit, and safety. Act 89 helped TMA Bucks with making projects possible. Some of these projects are the Levittown Train Station Rebuilding, studying the expansion of the Lansdale line to Pennridge, and the I-95/Turnpike Connection. Mr. Brady reported that the I-95/Turnpike connection is on schedule and the project received an additional \$65 million from Act 89.

Mr. Brady discussed public transit and how bus service is not really existent in Upper and Central Bucks County. With bus routes seniors won't have to drive everywhere, they can take a bus. Bus Routes also help to reduce congestion on the roads with less people driving. Act 89 changed the rules for bus routes with 85% funding from the state and 15% funding from a local match. This can help to create more bus routes. TMA is looking at municipalities to get bus routes in their towns. By doing this municipalities can help reduce traffic on the roads and help to increase economic development in their municipality.

Mr. Brady also talked about pedestrian safety and how 15% of fatalities nationwide involve pedestrians. This is due to individuals crossing in areas without crosswalks, in dark cloths when it's dark out, and crossing while distracted by cell phones. Bill emphasized the importance in educating pedestrians.

Bill also reported that Septa would be adding new railcars to their system, effective in 2018.

#### **Discussion:**

**BCATO Update:** Jamie Gwynn announced that he was appointed as the new Executive Director of BCATO. He stated that the Annual BCATO Convention will be held on Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> and there will be an interactive session on strategic planning, and District Attorney David Heckler will be a guest speaker at the event. Jamie also discussed that he would like BCATO to hold educational, legislative, and legal round tables and if anyone has any ideas to send them to him. He stated he would like to invite a manager to come and speak at BCATO's Executive Board meetings once a month with Eileen Bradley being the first guest manager in March. Stephanie Teoli Kuhls stated that Eileen should talk about the value of using a professional manager.

**APMM Update:** Stephanie Teoli Kuhls stated that in 1984 in Pennsylvania, only 13% of top administration positions were women and in the 30 years that have passed, the percentage of women remains the same, with the exception of Bucks County. Stephanie stated that APMM has created an exploratory committee that will be led by Sandra Zadell to investigate this issue and come up with possible action items to improve the ratio. Stephanie also announced that APMM's annual conference will be held in New Jersey this year from May 19<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup> and that anyone interested in joining APMM should contact her.

Champ Holman Internship Program: Jamie Gwynn announced that Northampton Township and Middletown Township jointly participated in the Champ Holman Internship Program and currently share two interns that are fully paid for through the program. Jamie stated that it is a great opportunity for municipalities and interns and will send the information on the program to Angela to share with all the members.

Morton Salt: Eileen Bradley stated that New Britain Township's Solicitor is drafting a letter to send to Morton Salt drawing attention to the fact that there is a constant delay in salt orders. Once the letter is drafted, she will forward to Consortium members.

Job Openings: Dave Woglom stated that next month there will be a manager position opening in Upper Providence Township (Oaks, PA).

**Training Opportunities:**

There were no training opportunities at this time.

**Community Updates:**

There were no community updates at this time.

**Other Business:**

There was no other business at this time.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Joe Golden, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on March 5, 2015 at Doylestown Borough.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela P. Benner  
Consortium Coordinator