

**BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES**  
***Thursday, February 2, 2023***

**Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:25 a.m. at Warwick Township, on February 2, 2023, and called to order by Consortium President Barry Lubber.

**President's Opening Remarks:**

Barry Lubber shared the following two goals that he has during his tenure as Consortium President:

- Increase participation in meetings and trainings.
- Increase membership responses to membership questions being posed.

**Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:**

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Megan Abbott, Bristol Township  
Jessica Ireland, Bristol Township  
Shawn Curran, Chalfont Borough  
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough  
Stacy Crandell, Doylestown Township  
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township  
Dave Kratzer, Lower Makefield Township  
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township  
Ashley Casey, Middletown Township  
Nick Valla, Middletown Township  
Devan Ambron, Milford Township  
Michael Walsh, New Britain Township  
Matt West, New Britain Township  
Micah Lewis, Newtown Township  
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township  
Bill Wert, Northampton Township  
Linda Reid, Perkasie Borough  
Eileen Bradley, Sellersville Borough  
Brenda Detweiler, Sellersville Borough  
Don Williams, Upper Southampton Township  
Mark Sarson, Upper Southampton Township  
John Ramey, Warminster Township  
Lisa Howdyshell, Warminster Township  
Timothy Hagey, Warminster Township Municipal Authority  
Daulton George, Warminster Township Municipal Authority  
Barry Lubber, Warrington Township  
Christian Jones, Warrington Township  
Becki Wilhelm, Warwick Township  
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township  
Skye Sorresso, Warwick Township

Mike Sullivan, Warwick Township Water & Sewer Authority  
Laurie Halderson, Warwick Township Water & Sewer Authority

**Sponsors:**

Bob Solarz, Delaware Valley Insurance Trust  
Beth Kaufman, Equitable Advisors  
Brian Lake, Equitable Advisors  
Tom Hough, Hough Associates  
Christopher Tomlinson, InR  
Steve Noll, TMA

**Sponsors Spotlight:**

Beth Kaufman, Equitable Advisors  
Tom Hough, Hough Associates  
Christopher Tomlinson, InR

**Presentation:**

**Steve Noll, Executive Director of TMA Bucks**

Mr. Noll provided a background of TMA Bucks which is a private, 501 (c) 4 non-profit organization, leadership and advocacy for transportation management services and solutions that impact Bucks County.

Mr. Noll announced that TMA Bucks has partnered with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission through the Travel Options Program to implement short term bike infrastructure demonstrations in communities throughout Bucks County. This program is called Pop-Up Bike Lane Demonstration Project. He added that this opportunity allows Bucks County residents to ride bicycles safely without disrupting motor vehicles and reduces use of single occupancy vehicles.

- Short-term bicycle infrastructure encourages and permits people to bike to where they live, work, and play and generates community support for permanent infrastructure changes.
- Bike lanes can decrease traffic congestion, increase public safety, and improve air quality, which leads to better public health and increased community activity and mobility.

Mr. Noll reviewed the programs process in details, such as the program's goals and how to participate.

Contact information: Steve Noll -- [steve@bctma.com](mailto:steve@bctma.com)

## **Shannon Walsh, Shared Housing and Resource Exchange (SHARE)**

Ms. Walsh shared that the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) has launched the Shared Housing and Resource Exchange (SHARE) is an affordable housing choice that brings together homeowners who want to share their home with home seekers who are looking for housing in exchange for rent, help around the house, or a combination of both. The home seeker receives their own bedroom and agreed upon use of the common areas. Every arrangement is unique depending on the needs, preferences, and abilities of the participants involved.

Ms. Walsh explained that Homesharing offers the homeowner income to help with expenses and a responsible tenant. She also notes that homesharing offers the home seeker a private bedroom with agreed upon, shared common spaces and affordable rent.

Ms. Walsh added that Homesharing may offer participants help with household tasks or other agreed upon services. It may also offer the home seeker reduced rent in exchange for services. The SHARE Housing Counselor will: Conduct reference and background checks, identify potential home share matches, introduce the homeowners, and home seekers, coordinate the written homesharing agreement, oversee trial living periods, provide ongoing support during the term of the agreement, and connect the participants to other community resources.

Ms. Walsh explained that older adults, persons with disabilities, veterans, working professionals, college students, individuals at-risk of homelessness, single-parents, or people simply wishing to share their lives and homes with others. SHARE participants must be at least 18 years of age and one of the individuals in the match must be over 60.

Contact information:

Shannon Walsh, SHARE Housing Counselor of Bucks County -- [c-swalsh@buckscounty.org](mailto:c-swalsh@buckscounty.org)

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

Upon motion by Eileen Bradley, seconded by Bob Pellegrino, the Treasurer's Report for December 2022 & January 2023, was unanimously approved.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Upon motion by Eileen Bradley, seconded by Stephanie Mason the November 3, 2022, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Discussion of forming Consortium to monitor the sale of municipal utilities:**

Mr. Luber provided an update for the members of the discussion of creating a consortium of municipalities for purposes related to public utilities, mainly to organize to oppose future sale

attempts of public utilities to private entities. Mr. Luber reviewed in detail the key goals of the proposed consortium. He added that as updates are available it will be shared with this membership.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Luber announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, March 2, 2023, at Doylestown Borough (10 Doyle Street, Doylestown, PA 18901) and there will be a presentation by Visit Bucks County.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Casey  
Consortium Coordinator