

**Mt. Penn Preserve Partnership (MP3)  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, July 25, 2018  
Lower Alsace Township Building**

**Members:** K. Barnhardt (County), L. Olsen (County Planning), T. Styer (Lower Alsace), D. Barth (Alsace Twp), T. Weikel (Lower Alsace Twp), K. Mallatratt (Alsace), C. Houck (Mt. Penn), M. Goodman-Hinnershitz (Reading), L. Kelleher (Reading)

**Others Attending:** None

**1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. The appointed officials from the participating government members introduced themselves to those attending this first formal meeting of the MP3 Board.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Barnhardt suggested deferring the public comment period to the end of the meeting.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – deferred, as this is the MP3’s first meeting

**5. TREASURER’S REPORT** – deferred

Mr. Olsen stated that the MP3 received a donation from a Berks Products trust that was recently closed in the amount of \$3,000-5,000. That funding is being held by the Pagoda Foundation until the MP3 opens its bank accounts. He stated that he will have the Pagoda Foundation Treasurer write a check and transfer the funds to the MP3.

**6. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS** –The MP3 COG Articles of Agreement require the annual election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

**Nominations were opened for Chair.**

**Mr. Olsen moved, seconded by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, to nominate Mr. Barnhardt as Chair. No other nominations were made.**

**Mr. Olsen moved, seconded by Mr. Weikel to close nominations.**

The motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Barnhardt as Chair was approved unanimously.

**Nominations were opened for Vice Chair.**

**Mr. Barnhardt moved, seconded by Ms. Styer, to nominate Mr. Olsen as Vice Chair. No other nominations were made.**

**Ms. Kelleher moved, seconded by Ms. Houck, to close nominations.**

The motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Olsen as Vice Chair was approved unanimously.

**Nominations were opened for Secretary.**

**Mr. Barnhardt moved, seconded by Ms. Styer, to nominate Ms. Kelleher as Secretary. No other nominations were made.**

**Ms. Mallatratt moved, seconded by Mr. Weikel, to close nominations.**

The motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Kelleher as Secretary was approved unanimously.

**Nominations were opened for Treasurer.**

**Mr. Barnhardt moved, seconded by Ms. Styer, to nominate Ms. Mallatratt as Treasurer. No other nominations were made.**

**Mr. Olsen moved, seconded by Ms. Houck, to close nominations.**

The motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Mallatratt as Treasurer was approved unanimously.

## **7. REPORTS AND ACTIONS**

### **a. Selection of Annual Meeting Schedule and Location(s)**

After consulting the MP3 agreement and having a brief discussion, the MP3 members decided to meet four (4) times per year as follows:

- October 24, 2018 at 7 pm at the Lower Alsace Township Building
- January 23, 2019 at 7 pm at the Mt. Penn Borough Council Building
- April 24, 2019 at 7 pm at the Alsace Township Building
- July 24, 2019 at 7 pm at the Pagoda
- October 23, 2019 at 7 pm at the Lower Alsace Township Building

Mr. Barnhardt noted that this meeting schedule will permit the working committees to meet at 6 before the MP3 meetings or at their convenience. He noted that Special Meetings can be called if necessary.

**Ms. Mallatratt moved, seconded by Mr. Weikel, to approve the meeting schedule for 2018-19. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **b. Selection of Standing Committees & Committee Chairs**

Mr. Barnhardt stated that the agreement provides for the following committees:

- Finance & Capital
- Promotions & Marketing
- Public Safety & Public Services
- Environmental & Land Use Committees

Mr. Barnhardt stated that currently Mr. Waltman serves as Finance Chair, Mr. Kline serves as Public Safety Chair, Ms. Burkovich serves as Marketing Chair and Mr. Frankhouser serves as Environmental Chair.

**After consulting the agreement and having a brief discussion Mr. Olsen moved, seconded by Ms. Styer, to retain those currently serving as committee chairs. The motion was approved unanimously.**

It was noted that the Governance Committee used under the former organizational structure, prior to the creation of the MP3, is replaced by the Executive Committee, composed of the MP3 Officers.

**c. PACOG Membership – 1<sup>st</sup> year dues \$200 for annual budget below \$10K - Deferred.**

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**a. Finance Committee** – There was no report from the Finance Committee; however, the MP3 requested that this Committee work to prepare a five (5) year capital plan and work to identify grants that can be used to restore the stone wall on Skyline Drive.

**b. Public Safety Committee** - Mr. Kline reported that at the last meeting the committee met with representatives from BAMBA about the trail system and the need for coordinated signage to identify the legal trails and identify the rules for those who use the trail system.

The repeated partying problem at the Pagoda was discussed and the need for coordinated police enforcement by both the City and Central Berks was stressed, along with coordinated Park Codes and regulations. The closed times for the County and City parks are dusk to dawn. The need for a map identifying the City and County park areas along with installed signage was identified so police can easily identify where the parks are.

Ms. Styer stated that the Lower Alsace Solicitor opined that Central Berks police already have the ability to cite for criminal trespass when the parks are closed under the State Crimes Code, and that additional agreements between departments are unnecessary.

In response to a question about the County Park Rangers becoming Act 120 certified (training mandated for municipal police officers), Mr. Barnhardt noted that this is a financial matter that would need to be considered by the County Commissioners. He noted that all but one (1) park ranger serves in a part-time capacity.

The need to change the flow of traffic at the Pagoda to the east side of the island was identified, as this will allow the parking area to be closed to traffic when the Pagoda area is closed. Also noted was the need for City Council to repeal the ordinance allowing parking at the Pagoda until 11 pm, as the park area actually closes at dusk.

Ms. Styer reported that a traffic study done after the paving project showed that the speed limit for Skyline Drive should be 35 mph. She noted the need for additional signage in the City of Reading's section of Skyline Drive alerting people about the speed limit.

The need for a Mt. Penn Preserve event permit, apart from the municipal event permits was discussed. The fee for events in the Preserve area can be used to support the Preserve and MP3.

### **c. Environmental Committee**

Mr. Frankhouser described the infestation of Lanternflies on Skyline and noted the need for broad action steps to address this infestation. He stated that the number of Lanternflies is beyond the recommended "spraying, taping and stomping" suggested for residential properties. He explained the quarantine and that people traveling in and out of quarantined areas are supposed to check their vehicle, bags, etc. to make sure they are not transporting Lanternflies into new and unaffected locations. It was noted that a successful large scale cure such as a spray for park areas or the use of a new imported insect to control the Lanternflies has not been identified.

Mr. Frankhouser noted the need to trim the trees at the lookouts across Skyline Drive. He noted that the lookout in Alsace Twp. has not been cleared in 20+ years.

### **d. Promotions and Marketing Committee**

Ms. Burkovich stated that the committee is working to create a magnet calendar that can be distributed to promote the Preserve and its facilities. The committee is also working with the Little German Sign Maker to create a logo using the image created for the entrance to Duryea Drive as a baseline and working to identify a sponsor to cover the cost of the calendar.

Ms. Burkovich announced that the committee is planning a quarterly newsletter highlighting the preserve and its features. Each government member will be asked to contribute an article of around 300 words for the newsletter. A message will be sent out to the government members with article suggestions.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

In response to a question from Mr. Reinert regarding the need for the former Steering Committee, Ms. Kelleher and Mr. Barnhardt stated that the Steering Committee and former Executive Committee was put in place to plan the implementation of the Mt. Preserve Master Plan, which culminated in the creation of the MP3 COG. The group hopes that those

that had been active on the Steering Committee will continue participating by volunteering on one of the existing or new committees that can be formed to address issues.

Mr. Barnhardt noted the good work performed to date by the committees and the need for those efforts to continue.

Mr. Barnhardt noted the magnitude of joining the five (5) government members to form this COG organization to work on the preservation and improvement of the Mt. Penn asset for future generations.

The government members executed the final MP3 COG agreement.

**10. ADJOURN**

Ms. Mallatratt moved, seconded by Mr. Olsen, to adjourn the MP3 COG meeting at approximately 7:40 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher, Secretary*