

**Mt. Penn Preserve Partnership (MP3)
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 24, 2018
Lower Alsace Township Building**

Members: K. Barnhardt (County Commissioner), L. Olsen (County Planning Commission), T. Styer (Lower Alsace Twp.), D. Barth (Alsace Twp), J. Oswald (Lower Alsace Twp), K. Mallatratt (Alsace Twp.), M. Goodman-Hinnershitz (Reading City Council), L. Kelleher (Reading City Council)

Members missing: Mt. Penn Borough representatives

Others attending: Beth Burkovich, Phil Kline, Mike Reinert, Rick Heckman, Eric Wesner, Tom Orth, Justin Blatt, Rich Rock, Corrie Crupi, Mike Frankhouser, Scott Kauffman and Ann Sellers, Ralph John

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Ms. Styer suggested an amendment to the minutes as follows: Ms. 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. Hearing that proposed amendment to the minutes, a motion was made by Mr. Oswald, seconded by Ms. Styer and all voted yes to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2018 organizational meeting of the MP3 COG.

TREASURER’S REPORT –Mrs. Mallatratt, serving as the MP3COG Treasurer presented the October 24, 2018 Treasurer’s report which showed a fund balance of \$12, 863.93. A motion was made by Ms. Styer, seconded by Mr. Barth and all vote yes to accept the October 24, 2018 Treasurer’s report.

REPORTS AND ACTIONS

Mr. Barnhardt requested that a future COG Agenda item be added to include a decision for an annual financial audit of the MP3 COG funds.

Mr. Barnhardt then offered the suggestion of joining the PA COG organization for a membership fee of \$100. A motion was made by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, seconded by Ms. Oswald and all voted yes to approve the payment and to join the PA COG organization. Mr. Barnhardt suggested a future agenda item should include the appointment of the MP3COG member to serve as the PA COG representative as well as appointing an alternate.

Ms. Kelleher was asked to research the organizational requirements for the individual COG member and alternate which will be discussed at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Finance & Capital** - Mr. Barnhardt reported that the mission of the Finance Committee is to prepare a 1 to 5 year capital and development plan that will keep focus on projects that could build momentum for the COG and be achieved in 1 to 3 years. Mr. Barnhardt reported that the working committees ranked the projects suggested in the Mt. Penn Preserve Master Plan as follows:
 - Skyline Wall Repair
 - Reuse of former Mineral Spring Hotel
 - Create Friends of the Preserve for Fundraising Purposed
 - Create a Trailhead at Rotary Park
 - Unified Signage
 - Improve Trail Management – reduce illegally installed trails

The financial committee report noted that the COG could seek annual capital contributions of \$15,000 from the City and \$10,000 from the County based on the amount of property the two entities owned in the Preserve area. They also recommended the development of a bike share program.

- 2. Promotions and Marketing** – Ms. Burkovich reviewed some of the questions she is receiving from the public on the Mt. Penn Preserve Web site including a question of the COG’s position on the DEP order to the City of Reading to drain the dam at Egelman Park. Ms. Burkovich was advised by the COG Executive Board to refer the questions to the City and for these individuals to attend future COG meetings. She indicated there were additional questions regarding the rules of the use of City and County park lands. It was suggested that for now the response to these types of request is that it is illegal to create any new trails on either the County or City property. All users of the Parks should respectfully stay on the existing trails.

Mr. Barnhardt stated that BAMBA was asked to make a presentation about the trail system at the January MP3 COG meeting.

Mr. Oswald requested information for maps showing the location of Fire Trails that would be useful to emergency response personnel.

Ms. Burkovich then presented a draft mock-up of a logo for the MP3 COG and a price to digitize if for the COG use in Marketing and Branding. After much discussion it was determined that the vendor – Little German Sign Maker would be provided with a \$250 down payment to come up with several designs that would present a new beginning for this COG rather than copying what is already in use for the area

organizations. Mr. Olsen made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Goodman-Hinnershitz and all agreed to submit the down payment.

Mr. Johnson, City of Reading Public Works Director, provided information on the DEP order to drain City owned the dams. He indicated that he would be happy to make a presentation to the COG on this topic at the January meeting.

- 3. Public Safety Committee** – Mr. Kline reported that the camera systems available for the police officers of the City of Reading and Central Berks and discussed this Committee’s desire to see the COG develop more solutions to the unwanted elements that will keep this area from becoming an inviting setting.

Mr. Oswald spoke to the concern that giving Central Berks Police Department more access and enforcement abilities on City owned properties should not lead to the officers replacing the patrol and enforcement efforts from the City Police for the City owned properties. After a discussion on the ability of other police agencies to enforce the City Park Code Ordinance regulations or other laws within another municipality, Ms. Styer volunteered to pull together the legal counsel from each municipality and police leadership to discuss Ordinance and enforcement issues.

- 4. Environmental Committee** – Mr. Frankhouser described the infestation of Lanternflies on the Mountain and the number of trails that exist. He reported on several successful trash collection efforts with volunteer help but that more volunteers are needed. Mr. Oswald suggested additional trash disposal containers should be located along trails to avoid the habit some have for littering in the park.

Following some public comments and ideas from Lower Alsace Resident Ann Sellers, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM . The next regular meeting of the MP3 COG will be on January 23, 2018 in the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Office Building

Respectfully submitted by Terry Styer and Linda A. Kelleher, Secretary