

MINUTES
WHITEMARSH PLANNING COMMISSION/CONSHOHOCKEN PLANNING COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING
RIVERFRONT PLAN
MAY 10, 2016

Attendees:

Whitemarsh Township: Sherri Glantz Patchen – Chair, James Hoban – Vice Chair, Dave Shula, Terry Lefco, Charles L. Guttenplan, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning, Amy Grossman (BOS Chair & BOS Liaison to the PC), Jim Sullivan, Township Engineer, T&M Associates

Conshohocken Borough: Brian Tobin – Vice-Chair, Judy Smith-Kressley, Elizabeth Schreiner

Also in attendance: Jim Totten & Laura Boyle Nester (BOS Members), Stan Finegold, Manager, Whitemarsh TV Station, Amy Mayer and Paul Vernon – KSK, Conshohocken Planners, Kent Baird & Carter van Dyke, Lead Consultant - Carter van Dyke Associates, Bob Thomas & Doug Maisey - Campbell Thomas & Co.

1. Call to order: 7:00 PM by Chair Patchen and Vice-Chair Tobin
2. Announcements & Correspondence: None
3. Approval of Minutes: None
4. Zoning Hearing Board Appeals: None
5. Subdivision & Land Development Applications: None
6. Conditional Use Applications: None
7. Old Business: None
8. New Business:
 - Public Meeting for review of *Riverfront Plan* as an amendment to the Township's 2003 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Guttenplan briefly stated this is a joint meeting with the Conshohocken Borough Planning Commission to review the joint ***Riverfront Plan*** and obtain input. A PowerPoint will be presented by Kent Baird, Lead Consultant, with Carter van Dyke Associates. The purpose of the plan is to evaluate and improve the riverfront access, evaluate land use, and look at development opportunities within the study area which is roughly between the Conshohocken and Spring Mill Rail Stations. Mr. Baird presented the plan in PowerPoint, providing background/reasons for the Plan, existing conditions, and the Plan's recommendations. Comments and Questions: Mark Vaughn, Riverbend Cycles, stated that signage is very important for business owners and that there should be more concessions along the trail and that the process for food truck approval in Whitemarsh Township is difficult and should be evaluated. Corinne Dieterle, Whitemarsh Art Center, concerned that it is a serious floodplain area and it needs to be considered, the access should not be restricted to rowers and that people should have equal rights to the river but be fully oriented to use the river safely. Kevin Tierney, Spring Mill Farmers Market and Beer Garden and 'Morethanthecurve', stated that the little things could be done now, there is no bathroom access for different locations. Steve Kaufman, Whitemarsh Open Space

Committee, emphasized on the open space aspect of the plan and access to boating. Rosemary Northcut, Conshohocken resident, stated she understands the Cherry Street boat ramp is used by the fire department for emergency access; are they open to development of boat ramps to residents? In response, they are creating a broader range of access. Steve Nelson, Schuylkill River Town Program, commented on how to increase public access, is it Conshohocken's plan to adopt the Riverfront Plan, and will the Plan be phased. Lois Trench Hines, Hines Rowing Center, stated there should be rules of the river, everyone should be taught to respect the river and one another, the plan is ambitious and wonderful, and that it will be difficult acquiring property that is slated for other purposes. Sydele Zove, Miquon Area, stated there should be consideration to include the Miquon Station and area in the study area, and concerned about the scrap metal yard recommended for a trailhead and will there be environmental testing done. Gus Camp, 411 E. 9th Avenue, disappointed on how poor pedestrian improvements have been, the street crossings, thinks the improvements should extend into the community. Lou Metzger, Policy Chief for American Canoe Association, stated it is a wonderful plan and urges that they continue to incorporate access to the river. Whitemarsh Township Planning Commission concluded that they are not prepared to make a recommendation on the Plan and recommended discussion to be continued on a future agenda.

Mr. Guttenplan thanked all for attending.

9. Public Comment: None

10. Adjournment:

- There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles L. Guttenplan, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning

The Planning Commission is appointed as an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors and the Zoning Hearing Board with respect to comprehensive land use planning, existing land use, and various land use and zoning applications in Whitemarsh Township. No formal decisions are rendered by the Planning Commission. Formal decisions are rendered by the Board of Supervisors or Zoning Hearing Board, as prescribed by law, based on the type of application.