

# PHOENIXVILLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Charlestown • East Pikeland • Phoenixville • Schuylkill • West Pikeland • West Vincent

Minutes of Meeting 136

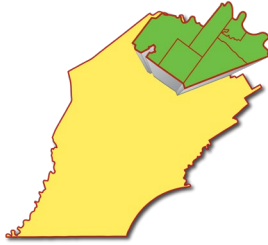
April 28, 2021

Members of the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee:<sup>1</sup>

| <u>Municipality / Organization</u> | <u>Committee Member</u>    | <u>Planning Commission/Alt. Representative</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Charlestown Township               | Hugh Willig                | Bill Westhafer/Wendy Leland                    |
| East Pikeland Township             | <b>Rusty Strauss</b>       | <b>Ron Hoinowski</b>                           |
| Phoenixville Borough               | <b>Richard Kirkner</b>     | <b>Debra Johnston</b>                          |
| Schuylkill Township                | <b>Mark Donovan</b>        | <b>Curt English</b>                            |
| West Pikeland Township             | <b>Charlie Humphreys</b>   | Jim Wendelgass                                 |
| West Vincent Township              | <b>Sara Shick</b>          | Mike Schneider/ <b>Art Miller</b>              |
| Chester County                     | <b>Susan Elks</b>          | <b>Mason Gilbert/Carol Stauffer</b>            |
| <b><u>Consultants</u></b>          |                            |  |
| Theurkauf Design & Planning, LLC   | <b>Edward A. Theurkauf</b> | Tracy Lee Tackett                              |
| Smith and Porter, P.C.             | Catherine Anne Porter      |  |

In the interest of protecting public health in the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

<sup>1</sup> **Bold names** indicate attendees at this meeting



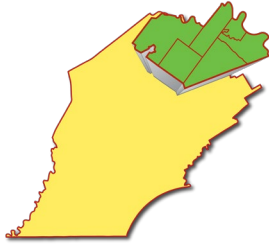
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| 1   | <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>   |
| 1.1 | Meeting 136 of the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee (PRPC) was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Rusty Strauss.   |
| 2   | <b>ROLL CALL</b>   |
| 2.1 | Member representatives were present as indicated on page 1.  |
| 3   | <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>   |
| 3.1 | A motion to approve meeting 135 minutes as drafted was made by Sara Shick, seconded by Charlie Humphreys, and approved unanimously.  |
| 4   | <b>INVOICE APPROVALS</b>   |
| 4.1 | The following invoices were considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theurkauf Design &amp; Planning, LLC, #0321-07 - \$ 531.52.</li> <li>• Theurkauf Design &amp; Planning, LLC, #0321-08 for VPP/Comprehensive Plan - \$ 1,875.00.</li> </ul> A motion to approve the invoices was made by Rich Kirkner, seconded by Sara Shick, and approved unanimously.   |
| 5   | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>  |
| 5.1 | There was no correspondence.   |
| 6   | <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>  |
| 6.1 | <u>Phoenixville Area Clean Energy Alliance Update</u><br>John Matthews of West Pikeland provided an update on PACEA activity status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The VPP grant application for \$45,000.00 has been awarded for the four member municipalities, East Pikeland, Schuylkill, West Pikeland, and West Vincent</li> <li>• PACEA has been interviewing potential consultants to be considered for an RFP to assist with the energy planning work</li> <li>• The RFP should be ready for review and approval by the member governing Boards by May 15.</li> </ul>   |
| 6.2 | <u>Devault Trail Action Plan</u><br>Ed Theurkauf described committee work to implement an action plan for the proposed Devault Line rail trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee has been meeting monthly since March 4.</li> <li>• Members include TMAAC, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia/The Circuit, and representatives of affected municipalities including PRPC members Phoenixville, Schuylkill, and Charlestown.</li> <li>• The work builds on a feasibility study carried out by Bob Thomas, who estimates cost of completion of the trail to \$3 million.</li> <li>• Key questions to be answered are what entity will own and operate the trail.</li> <li>• A virtual open house will be scheduled in May to involve the public.</li> </ul> |



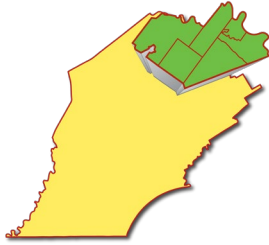
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| 6.3 | <p><u>PRPC Trail Planning Committee</u><br/> Rusty Strauss suggested that members select representatives from their municipalities for a PRPC Trail Committee. The Trail Committee will meet after the PRPC business meeting and will work to coordinate municipal trail plans and efforts on a Regional basis, identifying any areas that require a concentrated multi-municipal approach. PRPC members also suggested outside individuals and groups that could be contacted for expertise, including Pam Brown/French and Pickering Conservation Trust, Schuylkill River Heritage Center, Phoenixville Green Team, Rachel Griffith of Chester county Planning, and TMAAC.</p> |
| 6.4 | <p><u>VPP Letter of Support</u><br/> Members discussed a draft letter to Chester County Commissioners requesting continued support for the Vision Partnership Program that funds plans, studies, ordinances, and other work by County municipalities, including the PRPC. In addition, member representatives considered a draft template of the letter that could be customized and sent by member municipalities.</p> <p>A motion was made by Rich Kirkner to send the letter from Rusty on behalf of PRPC, which was seconded by Sara Shick, and approved unanimously.</p>  |
| 7   | <p><b>OLD BUSINESS</b></p>   |
| 7.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no old business for discussion.</li> </ul>  |
| 8   | <p><b>MUNICIPAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p>   |
| 8.1 | <p><u>Charlestown Township</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report.</li> </ul>  |
| 8.2 | <p><u>East Pikeland Township</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rusty Strauss stated that the Township was seeking a new police chief.</li> </ul>  |
| 8.3 | <p><u>Phoenixville Borough</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich Kirkner reported on construction of a new fire station and recreation center. The recreation center is anticipated to open by year end.</li> <li>• An apartment project was approved for the Masonic Lodge at Main and Church Streets. Neighbors have filed a zoning appeal.</li> <li>• The Borough wants to improve Mowere Road and add sidewalks.</li> <li>• Phoenixville is also developing a new sewage system that can remove solids for reuse as biofuels and compost. They are currently working through permits for the new facility.</li> </ul>  |
| 8.4 | <p><u>Schuylkill Township</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Donovan announced an approved police accreditation payment, and also that the Township is seeking a new police chief.</li> </ul>   |



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| 8.5  | <u>West Pikeland Township</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Charlie Humphreys reported on implementation of their 2017 on lot septic system maintenance ordinance.</li></ul>   |
| 8.6  | <u>West Vincent Township</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sara Shick reported on persistent developers seeking rezoning for the area around Ludwigs Corner.</li><li>She also said the Township Manager is out on medical leave, and his role is being filled by the police chief.</li><li>They are expecting a smaller format country music festival in August 2021.</li></ul>  |
| 8.7  | <u>Chester County Planning Commission</u> <p>Susan Elks announced that she is leaving her position as County Planning Services Director for a new job with the Conservation Fund. Until her replacement is named, Carol Stauffer will handle all VPP related responsibilities, and Brian O’Leary will assume her other duties. Members and attendees thanked Susan for her exemplary service and wished her well in her next endeavors.</p> <p>In addition, Karen Marshall has recently left her post as County Heritage Preservation Coordinator.</p> |
| 9    | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT / Non- Agenda Items</b>  |
| 9.1  | There was no public comment.   |
| 10   | <b>ADJOURNMENT</b>   |
| 10.1 | Sara Shick made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mark Donovan. Rusty Strauss adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.   |

Respectfully submitted,

Edward A. Theurkauf, RLA, ASLA, APA  
Theurkauf Design & Planning, LLC