



Mt. Penn Preserve Partnership (MP3)

Board of Director's Meeting

Wednesday, June 22, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Members: K. Barnhardt (County), K. Mallatratt (Alsace Twp.), L. Kelleher (Reading), D. Pottiger (Lower Alsace Twp.), M. Goodman-Hinnershitz (Reading), L. Olsen (County)

Members absent: B. Petrov (Mt. Penn), C. Hurwitz (Mt. Penn), D. Barth (Alsace Twp), J. Oswald (Lower Alsace)

Others attending: Committee representatives

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and stated that a quorum is present. Due to the COVID-19 Declaration of Emergency, the MP3 is meeting virtually with public comment invited in writing via email or through registration via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Barnhardt inquired if Ms. Kelleher received any written public comment or requests from those attending the virtual meeting. Ms. Kelleher replied in the negative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Barnhardt asked the members to consider the minutes from the May meeting and the agenda for this meeting.

The May minutes and the agenda were approved by acclimation with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Mallatratt, MP3COG Treasurer, called attention to the reports attached to the agenda showing no expenses or income; however, she noted that there is a typo in the beginning balance figure; the beginning balance should be listed as \$19,280.83 which matches the end balance. A corrected copy will be forwarded. Attached.

A motion was made by Ms. Kelleher, seconded by Mr. Olsen, to approve the Treasurer's Report for July and file it for audit. The motion was approved unanimously.

MP3 COG ACTION ITEMS

1. BAMBAs Upgrade to Silver Rating

BAMBA is working to add the additional signage requested for the upgrade to Silver.

2. Payment of Bills

Ms. Mallatratt stated that there are no additional bills requiring Board approval.

3. Update on the Withdrawal of Mt Penn

Mr. Barnhardt reported that Mt. Penn has submitted their resignation letter. Due to the pandemic, he and Mr. Olsen were unable to schedule a meeting to speak with the Mt. Penn officials about the need to reconsider their resignation. He noted that when signing the MP3 agreement, all municipalities committed to participating for a 10 year period and he also noted the difficulties in getting Mt. Penn to agree to participate in the COG in general. He stated that he will call the Mt. Penn solicitor next week to schedule a meeting or conference call with the elected officials.

4. Update on the DCNR Grant

Ms. Showers stated that the County Planning Commission will be working on a grant application for a study of the Mt. Penn Trail system, similar to the study of the Antietam Trail system. She stated that a steering committee needs to be assembled to assist with answering some questions on the application. She also noted the need to get some additional feedback from Mr. Barnhardt about the purpose of the grant and who will monitor the use of the funding. She stated that Ms. Kelleher assisted in identifying some potential grant partners such as BAMBA, Mr. Kissinger, City Arborist who manages the trails, and Ms. Murphy from Berks Nature and the Greater Reading Trail System. She stated that the grant requires a 50% match and some in-kind contribution.

Mr. Barnhardt stated that he and Ms. Showers will speak with Ms. Murphy next week about signing on as a partner, without making a financial contribution. The 50% match will be funded by the Capital contributions made by the City and County. Mr. Barnhardt also stated that he will follow up with Ms. Showers next week about the grant info she needs.

In response to a question, Ms. Showers stated that the in-kind contribution is staff time and salaries, equipment, etc. Ms. Kelleher suggested coordinating so the time and equipment Mr. Kissinger and BAMBA spend on trail maintenance and management can be counted toward the in-kind contribution.

5. Update on Pagoda Partying

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that there has been no change in the disruptions at the Pagoda since the security company started. While the security has helped it is not a solution. Those misbehaving have altered their time of arrival based on when the guards go off duty. She stated that a plan is being coordinated by the Reading Police Chief.

Mr. Pottiger noted that similar problems also exist at the Fire tower, Egelman's and the Antietam Lake Dam Breast. He stated that the Fire Tower is partially gated and there are active security cameras installed.

6. Update on Mt. Penn Trail Management

Mr. Kissinger reported that regular meetings with BAMBA about coordinated trail management occur. He stated that BAMBA also reports regularly on their trail related projects. He noted that while adding signage BAMBA is also working to provide signage on the fire trail gates which is being coordinated with the County DES to improve the coordination of emergency services for those requiring assistance on the trail system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: reports from the committees are included with the agenda.

1. Finance & Capital

No report; currently working with Public Safety & Environmental on signage and a trail assessment study. County Planning will submit a DCNR grant application to assist with the funding for the trail assessment.

2. Marketing & Promotions

Ms. Burkovich stated that the report is attached to the agenda. She noted that the Committee is seeking reimbursement for the printing costs of the brochure. An estimate will be prepared at the September meeting. She stated that the group is considering starting Yoga at the Pagoda on the lawn area. She stated that due to the pandemic a 2021 wall calendar will not be prepared but the Committee is considering a smaller magnet calendar for the refrigerator that would be complimentary and feature the MP3 logo and social media addresses.

Mr. Pottiger suggested considering additional fundraising initiatives.

Ms. Burkovich asked for assistance in getting in contact with Mr. Stefanik to finalize the transfer of the domain name.

3. Public Safety Committee

The Public Safety Committee report is attached to the agenda

4. Environmental Committee

Mr. Brophy stated that a new plan with cost estimates is provided with the agenda for the Pagoda Trail which is a 4 mile walk round trip beginning at the DoubleTree Hotel, using the existing trails (see the attached map). He stated that maps could be provided at the Pagoda and Double Tree Hotel. He estimated the cost of the trail signage at \$3000. He inquired if the MP3 would support the project.

Ms. Showers, who assisted with the preparation of the attached report, stated that this could go into effect prior to the completion of the trail study since it will use existing trails. The signage will be consistent with that currently used by BAMBA and Berks Nature.

All present agreed with the proposal as the MP3's first project. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she will seek the City's approval through the Managing Director and Mr. Kissinger. Ms. Kelleher was asked to schedule a meeting.

Mr. Olsen volunteered to speak with Mr. Poole at the Hotel about assisting in promoting the trail.

Ms. Mallatratt moved, seconded by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, to provide funding not to exceed \$3000 for this project, after approval is obtained from the City. The motion was approved unanimously.

OTHER MATTERS

None.

Ms. Kelleher moved, seconded by Ms. Mallatratt, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:10 pm.

The next regular meeting of the MP3 COG will be on September 23, 2020 via Zoom at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher, Secretary

Action Items:

1. Kevin & Lee to arrange meeting with Mt. Penn Elected Officials through Solicitor
2. Kevin to provide Ashley with response to DCNR Grant questions
3. Ashley to convene DCNR Grant Steering Committee
4. Linda to schedule meeting with City Man Dr for Marcia & Lester re Pagoda Trail
5. Lee to speak with Craig Poole re promoting the Pagoda Trail

MT. PENN PRESERVE PARTNERSHIP
TREASURER'S REPORT – JULY 22, 2020

<u>Opening Balance</u>	\$	19,280.83
<u>Checks</u>		
	\$	00.00
	\$	00.00 – CHECK TOTAL
<u>Deposits</u>		
	\$	00.00
	\$	00.00 – DEPOSIT TOTAL
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$	19,280.83
