

## MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, October 19, 2017  
Hosted by Lykens Township

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Christopher Blöse. The following persons were in attendance:

Christopher Blöse	Halifax Township
Chris Dietz	Millersburg Borough
Donna Sitlinger	Washington Township
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Carole Wertz	Lykens Borough
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robin Snyder	Berrysburg Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Jean Deppen	Lykens Township
Ray Deppen	Lykens Township
David Strohecker	Lykens Township
Ronald Kolva	Mifflin Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Matt Stoneroad	Rep. Mike Tobash
Jerry Duke	Tri-County Regional Planning
Alexa Korber	Tri-County Regional Planning

There were nine municipalities represented, seven are needed for a quorum.

### **MINUTES**

Chris Dietz made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2017 meeting. Seconded by Ron Kolva All in favor.

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Checking Account	September 2017	\$2115.00
September Bills		<u>-597.00</u>
Balance October 2017		\$1518.00

Bills to be paid at the October meeting  
Robyn Loesch –October 199.00

### **CORRESPONDENCE – NONE**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Gerry Duke**, TCRP, gave a presentation about the Dauphin County Planning Commission's Outreach program. The Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan was adopted on July 18, 2017. This was developed as an "implementable plan" and the County has implementation partners/subcommittees which assist with the implementation efforts and review the progress of the Plan. One of these sub-committees is working on the Economic Development Study, and another is assessing blighted housing. TCRP also has a Regional Growth Management Plan that was adopted in September of 2017 which is examining the impact of the area's development through 2040. The Growth Plan will have outreach "Lunch and Learn Seminars" every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at the TCRP office. TCRP also sponsors an area-wide Premier Project Award to recognize local projects that meet the County Comprehensive Plan's goals.

Recently, TCRP sent the municipalities a letter about the reporting requirements for certain local decisions that must be reported to TCRP. Some of these reportable activities are widening or narrowing streets, new public buildings or abandoning public structures, and new zoning ordinances. TCRP also is involved with Transportation planning and participates in the PennDOT Connects meetings. TCRP is now accepting new area representatives to the commission.

**Alexa Korber**, TCRP, gave a short update on their environmental projects. TCRP has received DEP funding for source-water protection planning that looks to protect current and potential drinking water sources. The County is also working toward identifying impaired streams and encourage the improvement of water quality. TCRP is also inventorying locally important natural spaces such as parks, habitats, and trails.

Chris Blose asked Jerry Duke if he had any new information about the proposed improvements to Rt 147 in Halifax Borough as we have not gotten any updates. COG has asked our local State Representatives to make this project a priority. Jerry said that the only answer he had gotten was that it was now all in PennDOT's hands. Matt Stoneroad provided maps of the current PennDOT projects. Robin Snyder would like TCRP to hold a land development workshop.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Chris Dietz talked about the Homestead exemption question that will be on the upcoming ballot. Which would allow legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction.

**PROJECTS** – Ron Hepner reported that contributions have been coming in to offset Upper Paxton Township's cost to repair the recycling forklift. UPT could use some more volunteers to help out on collection days. COG will send a letter to the school districts to see if this program could be added to their school's community service projects. Next year, we will look into a COG Gaming Grant application to help fund the recycling program.

**NEW BUSINESS** – There was a general discussion about suggestions for future guest speakers.

**PROBLEMS OF MUNICIPALITIES** – Halifax Borough is looking at an ordinance to reward local Fire Company Volunteers/emergency responders that is simpler than the PSATS proposal.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting will be on November 16<sup>th</sup> at Millersburg Borough.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Trish Barder made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Dietz. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.