



Western Chester County Council of Government

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Held at Parkesburg Borough Hall, 315 West 1st Avenue, Parkesburg, PA 19365

Members in Attendance:

Atglen Borough/Charles Palmer; East Fallowfield Township/John Nielson; Honeybrook Township/John McHugh; Modena Borough/Jennifer Daywalt; Parkesburg Borough/Josh Mellinger; Valley Township/Kathy O'Doherty; West Brandywine Township/Ryan McLaughlin; West Nantmeal Township/Debi Kolpak

Also attending: Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce (WCCCC)/Rachel Cathell; Joy Hurst, COG Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Josh Mellinger at 7:08 PM. Josh immediately turns meeting over to John Nielson (East Fallowfield Township).

New Business

East Fallowfield EAC Presentation

John handed out a packet and showed a PowerPoint slide on Climate Action Planning.

East Fallowfield passed a Ready for 100 type resolution in March 2021 similar to the one that comes from the Sierra Club.

He explained the importance of education and community engagement.

At the end of his presentation, John mentioned a few resources.

Kathy O'Doherty asked, "What can you get grants for?" Answer, refer to packet hand out.

There is help for those with lower incomes. Problem is also with landlords.

Josh Mellinger states, municipalities need EV station ordinances. Residents are requesting charging stations. Infrastructure just not ready for EV charging stations.

Josh also mentioned benches made of recycled plastic bags. He said, there are drop off points with postings of accepted materials. Josh will get more information for anyone interested.

We also heard from Tom Hough (Hough Associates) on environmental topics and municipal grant writing.

Tom talked about recycling grants and how his group is working with about 70 municipalities in multiple counties. They do the leg work for the municipalities, getting the needed data. Tom stated if COG or a subgroup would like to look into the program further, they are willing to come out.

New Business (continued)

Recycling Projects

They can also help if you already have a program in place by getting the missed data. They will not take any money until the grant is awarded. Their fee is 20% of the grant award.

Tom stated, this is a permanent program with grant amounts changing with the amount of recycle collected.

John will forward Tom's information to anyone interested or to set-up a time to join in on a COG meeting.

Internet Connectivity

Rachel asked if the group wanted Chester County Digital Alliance who helps in areas that do not have good internet connectivity to come out. Josh absolutely agrees they should come out to a COG meeting. Rachel stated they don't just work on connectivity.

Josh, Can they also help with legislation issues as well?

Looking at maybe September.

Old Business

Solicitor

Jen Daywalt states, Modena's solicitor Ellen from Gawthorp out of West Chester is interested and sent a price sheet. The price sheet was forwarded to Rachel and Josh.

Kathy O'Doherty reached out to Valley solicitor just before the meeting and is waiting to hear back. May be perfect for one of their younger associates.

Charlie stated Karen said the cost may be slightly prohibitive, a little cheaper than Gawthorp though. She would need more information on what we are looking for them to do.

Josh thinks that we need them specifically for the By-laws.

We need to figure out id best by retainer or as a call.

Other areas would be scholarship program and animal control.

Could just be a paralegal or associate with experience in municipal law.

Anyone who gets information, please forward it to the group.

Old Business (continued)

Website

Rachel sent Core Spector a ton of pictures. She feels we need a Zoom meeting.

We should have a draft by the next COG meeting. Rachel thinks the group should brainstorm then reach out to them since they do charge by the hour.

Better resolution logos are needed.

By-Laws

Rachel is retyping the by-laws and removing the unwanted items.

There is currently no digital copy.

Jennifer Daywalt made a motion to approve the May 2023 Minutes as presented, seconded by Kathy O'Doherty. Motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

- President
 - Patti (CCRCA) wants to talk trash with the COG
 - No objections from COG members; Josh will guide her on what he wants her to speak about.
 - Increasing tipping fees
 - Think about regional trash pick-up
 - July meeting talk trash
- Vice President
 - She was at PSAB the beginning of the month; only 2 boroughs from Chester County. Chester County Borough Association needs to be reestablished. Jen stated all boroughs that are part of the WCCCOG will be a part of the Borough Association. She hopes to have this up and running before the new year.
- Treasurer
 - 100% dues are paid
 - All bills are paid to date
 - \$14,142.54 Balance

ACTION

Next meeting July 26, 2023 – hybrid and in person at Parkesburg Borough, virtually via GoToMeeting.

Joy Hurst, Secretary departed the meeting at 9:00 pm before Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Hurst