



ORPC Oxford Region Planning Committee

Chair: Albert Jezyk Jr. Vice-Chair: Charles Fleischmann Treasurer: Robert Ketcham

July 2023 Meeting Report

Thank you David for hosting the July 2023 Zoom meeting and providing information for this meeting report

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 - 7:00 pm **Venue:** Zoom Video Conference

Voting Representatives: Noel Roy, Rachel Greer – East Nottingham Township; Albert Jezyk, Jr. – Elk Township; Joel Brown – Lower Oxford Township; Bob Ketcham – Oxford Borough; Charles Fleischmann, Scott Rugen – Upper Oxford; Bill Winand, David Ross – West Nottingham Township.

Mark also announced that the ORPC roster is full and that we have a governing body and planning commission representative for each of the six municipalities going into the Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan (MMCP) work program.

Chair's Report *Albert Jezyk, Jr.*

None at this time.

Treasurer's Report *Bob Ketcham*

Balance: \$1,375.40. The ORPC will table next at the October First Friday which will require a \$20.00 payment. Reminder: The ORPC membership voted to allow the Regional EAC to spend up to \$100.00 to participate in First Friday events in 2023.

Municipal Updates *Planning Committee*

West Nottingham as a follow-up to our discussion in June, Bill reminded the group that they have been looking into expanding broadband infrastructure with an Armstrong-estimated cost of \$91,000.00 to provide service to 21 residences and three businesses. After looking into the State Infrastructure Grant, Bill found that there is a minimum required threshold of \$500,000.00 for each municipality. This is part of the 1.2 billion grant that the state of Pennsylvania received from the Federal government for infrastructure improvements. Mark wondered if the ORPC could apply for a grant on behalf of the participating municipalities to address broadband deserts in the Region. What is the next step in that process? Bill said he would contact Comcast and Armstrong and share the results of those conversations at the August ORPC meeting.

As Joel shared at the June meeting, Comcast had visited Lower Oxford, East Nottingham, and Oxford Borough requesting a franchise for that area and that they

would try to cover more of the unserved and underserved parts of the community by applying for available grant money. David wondered why Comcast had not yet approached West Nottingham with a similar strategy.

Oxford Borough Pauline asked Mark to share the following: Oxford Borough, the Oxford Arts Alliance, and Oxford Mainstreet have partnered with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) to create new safety features on Broad Street between 3rd Street and Niblock Alley/Railroad Avenue. Come celebrate the opening of the project, engage, and provide feedback at Oxford Mainstreet's "Sounds of Summer" First Friday on August 4th, 2023!

□ **Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan Update** *Mark*

Mark reviewed the draft Scope of Work for the MMCP update which had been circulated before the meeting. Mark has been working with Bill Deguffroy (Community Planning Division Director and VPP Grant Administrator) on development of the scope of work and Vision Partnership Program (VPP) Grant Agreement.

While we initially discussed a 24-month schedule, the VPP requires a 36-month timeline for any regional project. With that said, the scope of work will be based on an optimistic 30-month timeline with six months of wiggle room, if needed. In any case, our original estimate of \$70,000 to \$80,000 for the total cost of the project still applies. The payments would be stretched out to ten quarterly payments rather than eight. The Participating municipalities will be responsible for 40% of the total cost (the municipal match).

The Tasks to complete as part of the Comp Plan update are as follows:

Task 1: Review of current planning policy

Task 2: Define regional context, existing conditions, and demographics

To expedite the development of an Existing Land Use Map (a keystone of the Comp Plan update), Mark is working with his graphic's division to develop an interactive map that can be forwarded to the Region's municipal planning commissions to begin their review of existing land use. Hard copies of the maps can also be made available as requested. It is hoped this mapping will be available by mid-August.

Task 3: Conduct community visioning and prioritization of issues

Tasks 4 thru 13 are directly related to the development of the community profile, plan chapters, and implementation plan.

Task 14: Conduct municipal outreach/community workshop to review and refine plan elements.



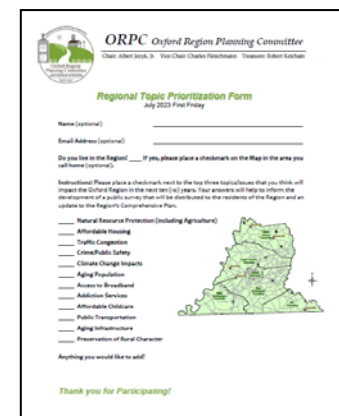
Task 15: Compile Comp Plan and seek further public comment.

Task 16: Coordinate MMCP adoption process

Here are other highlights that were discussed as part of the draft Scope of Work:

- The Scope is broken out into three meeting types: ORPC monthly meetings (ORPC), Public Participation Workshops (PPW), and Joint Municipal Meetings (MM). There will be 24 ORPC meetings, 3 public meetings, and (at least) 2 joint municipal meetings with all six municipalities in attendance.
- Unlike the 2012 Plan, public participation will be prioritized and include a public survey, two public open houses, one public information meeting, one public hearing, regular website (regional and municipal) updates, social media posts, and grass roots community event participation.
- All mapping will be developed utilizing GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to promote accuracy, efficiency, and consistency. Paper mapping will only be used when necessary.
- While it was assumed in the draft Scope of Work that most meetings will be held via Zoom, there was a request that we do consider in-person meetings for the kick-off meeting, public meetings, and other meetings based on the need for participation by the plain sect community or preference based on meeting activities. The status of the meetings (in-person or Zoom) will be discussed further in the coming months.
- Meeting materials will be forwarded via email.
- We will not be meeting in August during the project! Consider it a month off.
- In preparation for the start of the MMCP update, Mark is going to work with the CCPC webmaster to update the ORPC website to accommodate regular Comp Plan updates, and, to quote David, create “a filing cabinet for ORPC information.” This will include draft Comp Plan materials, meeting agendas, meeting reports, links to Zoom meetings, etc.

David raised a concern about the Regions’ ability to continue to entertain the regular discussion of topics that take place at ORPC meetings and complete the review of draft materials associated with the MMCP update. Mark admitted that he has thought about this issue but did not have any specific ideas.



☐ **Regional Topic Prioritization Form** *Mark*

Unfortunately, we had very little success with the Regional Topic Prioritization Form at July's First Friday based on our location and our proximity to a nearby DJ. The "Form" was designed to be a kick start to the public participation associated with the MMCP update. Mark asked the group to think about other ideas to utilize this form as the public survey would not be distributed to the public until the 2nd quarter of 2024.

Bob Ketcham suggested that he would like to go door to door with the Form in the Borough. He sees the value in meeting with people Face to Face to explain the value of participation and to get their contact information. Mark shared that part of the value of public participation is having a core group of stakeholders to invite to public events either in person or online.

Mark will work with his public relations staff to create an electronic copy of the form for public distribution on websites, newsletters, post cards, etc. **ORPC Homework:** How can your community get this from (and eventually the survey) into the hands of your residents?

☐ **ORPC Sub-Committee Updates** *Mark*

Regional Volunteer EAC – Thanks to Mark and Brandywine Conservancy staff, we did do First Friday tabling for July. There appears to be some energy focused on lawn to meadow conversion opportunities as well as available funding. There is a lot of energy regarding Big Elk Creek State Park around planning and visioning of what the park will look like and a plan for a large tree planting and meadow conversion which represents coordination between the Regional EAC and Elks Creek Watershed Association.

This year both Upper Oxford and East Nottingham will have status reports on their MS4 permits to deliver to DEP by September 30 for activities throughout the calendar year, that ended on June 30th. On behalf of the EAC, David agreed to provide our MS4 municipalities with a template of activities in the area that defines the purpose of the ORPC Stormwater Action Initiative. This report will be delivered to East and Upper in mid-August and will be included on the ORPC August agenda. Why? This type of report will eventually be required for all municipalities and David would like to discuss your questions/comments.



Al shared that some are relieved that the state has taken over plans for the Mason-Dixon Trail. He also shared that the Elk Creek along the Springlawn Trail has been impacted by debris (log jams) and has left its banks in several locations. Al is hoping that the state can step in and complete stream restoration (Riparian buffer plantings) or implement strategies that will slow the erosion. He referred to an ongoing (2 years or more) rehabilitation of Little Elk Creek in Maryland. Mark and David remarked on the destruction that can come with high volume storms.

The Historic Subcommittee met for the first time in several months. The group is still considering a list of goals to define their path moving forward. The H-Sub met with the chair of the America250 Chester County Commission with whom we had an interesting conversation regarding the H-Subs possible role. (This Committee coordinates activities with the America250PA to help build foundation for celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary and prepare specific steps for celebrating the nation's heritage). We are continuing to work with the Oxford Area Foundation to identify the path forward for the possible "interpretive site" at Glenroy Preserve where the Herr's grain separator found a home last year. Our August meeting will take place at OAHA's new building in Oxford Borough with a visit to Old Stone Cider to follow.

Public Input None.

Website Updates: See for yourself:

<https://chescoplanning.org/municorner/projects/oxfordregion>

Next Meeting: August 23rd