

## **MINUTES**

### **DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:**

Carlisle Borough, Matt Candland  
Conewago Township, Gary Painter  
Dillsburg Borough, Mark Ryder  
East Pennsboro Township, John  
Kuntzelman  
Hampden Township, Nate Silcox  
Harrisburg City, Wayne Martin  
Highspire Borough, Terry Watts  
Lemoyne Borough, Sue Yenchko; Gail  
Gallo  
Londonderry Township, Anna Dale

Lower Paxton Township, Gary  
Crissman  
Middle Paxton Township, Jim Fisher  
Monaghan Township, Vicki Aycock  
Monroe Township, Carl Kuhl  
North Middleton Township, James  
Hare  
Paxtang Borough, Chris Spackman  
Royalton Borough, Terry Watts

South Hanover Township, Stephen  
Cordaro; Nora Blair  
Susquehanna Township, Tom Pyne  
Swatara Township, Christine  
Zubeck  
Upper Allen Township, Ken Martin  
Wormleysburg Borough, Margie  
Stuski

### **NON-VOTING IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jim Hertzler, Cumberland County Commissioner  
Dick Norford, Bicycle South Central PA  
Art Florio, Fair Districts

### **CapCOG STAFF**

Gary Myers, Executive Director, CapCOG  
Rhonda Campbell, Administrative Assistant,  
CapCOG

### **MUNICIPALITIES NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Annville Township  
Camp Hill Borough  
Carroll Township  
Dauphin Borough  
Derry Township  
East Hanover Township  
Fairview Township  
Goldsboro Borough  
Hummelstown Borough  
Lower Allen Township  
Lower Swatara Township  
Mechanicsburg Borough  
Middletown Borough  
New Cumberland Borough

Penbrook Borough  
Shiremanstown Borough  
Silver Spring Township  
South Middleton Township  
Steelton Borough  
West Hanover Township

The meeting was called to order by Margie Stuski at 7:02 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Fisher followed by roundtable Introductions.

### **Consent Agenda**

The February Minutes and March Treasurer's Report were reviewed. Motion to approve by Sue Yenchko; seconded by Jim Hare. Unanimously approved.

## Presentations

### **Bicycle Friendly Communities - Dick Norford, Bicycle South Central PA.**

- The goal of Bicycle South Central PA is to make our communities more inviting for bicyclists and pedestrians. When an area is more inviting, it's a better place to live work and play.
- The top four causes of death are heart disease, cancer, strokes, lung disease (in that order). Cycling helps reduce and prevent all four of those.
- Bicycle South Central PA was formed to unite areas of PennDOT District 8.
  - Population of 2.1 million; 5000 square miles.
  - A united group gives a stronger voice in talking with organizations and advocating.
- There are a number of cycling clubs in the Harrisburg Area.
  - Harrisburg Bicycle Club – 1100 members.
  - Susquehanna Area Mountain Biking Organization – Working on developing mountain biking trails off the Greenbelt.
  - Capital Area Greenbelt is a trail organization; bicycling and walking are the main uses of the Greenbelt. Their largest fundraiser is a bicycle event held the 1st Sunday in June.
  - Bike Harrisburg puts on a series of events during May (bicycle month). Spoke and Gear Expo at Capitol; Ride of Silence, tours around the City of Harrisburg.
- It is a challenge having so many organizations doing so many different things.
- Many millennials prefer to live close to work and entertainment.
- Growing trend across country: in 1996 86% of high school seniors had drivers license; 2015 that number dropped to 71%.
- One of the most important initiatives they are working on is connectivity of bicycle routes. TCRPC has helped layout routes to connect municipalities; however, not all municipalities have been supportive.
  - Stuski polled attendees to see how municipalities have bicycle planning as part of their transportation initiatives. Most present did.
  - She asked Norford if there is there a challenge with PennDOT.
  - Norford answered that within the various cycling organizations there are two schools of thought: 1) Are we better off to go to PennDOT central office and hope they'll push efforts in their Districts or 2) Are we better off to go to boroughs and townships and have municipalities take it up the pipeline.
  - Myers shared that his experience was that it is best to work with local municipalities first. Local government officials are very accessible; most county officials were local officials at one time.
- Bicycle South Central PA would like to see the rail bridge from New Cumberland to Harrisburg opened up to cyclists and pedestrians to allow for commuting to Harrisburg.
  - A consultant from Chicago studied York, Lancaster, and Harrisburg areas Findings were that bicycle commuters could increase by 1000-1500 a day if that bridge was open.
- PennDOT took walking and bicycle riding off 22/322. Also, can't walk or ride bicycle on 81 either. For communities in upper Dauphin County, they are cut off from cycling to Harrisburg unless they take an eight-mile detour.
  - PennDOT had a consultant look at ways to allow for cycling on these major routes.
  - Consultant identified four ways to do it but there is no funding to make it possible.
- 35% of people in Harrisburg have a bicycle as primary means of transportation.
- When you make communities more bicycle friendly, more bicyclists will come into the community. That impacts the business climate, environment, etc.

- Gail Gallo of Lemoyne asked if Norford has spoken with TCRPC. Norford met with Steve Deck last week. Harrisburg Area Transportation study has a bike task force and Bicycle South Central PA participates on that task force. There are some long-range plans and they are inventorying sidewalks. TCRPC has been very helpful. But without municipalities taking action, it is just planning.
- Norford shared about their recycled bicycle program as well. Stuski invited Norford to attend our annual auction in July as we typically have a good supply of bikes for sale.

### **Fair Districts**

Fair Districts - Art Florio (Jean Handley was unable to attend)

- Fair Districts is a non-partisan citizens group started two years ago. Its purpose is to change the way redistricting is done in Pennsylvania; take it out of Legislature's hands and move it to the hands of citizens.
- PA League of Women Voters, Common Cause and PA Council on Churches are supporting members.
- Fair Districts has several thousand volunteers across Pennsylvania.
- Once every 10 years (year after federal census), the voting districts are reviewed/redrawn. Majority and minority leader in House or Senate appoint a member to the Redistricting Committee.
  - Those four people are to select a fifth member to the Redistricting Committee. Typically they are unable to do so because the committee is split two democrats and two republicans.
  - The fifth member is often selected by PA Supreme Court.
  - In 2011 redistricting, the Court leaned republican and fifth member was republican. Republicans controlled redistricting. PA Supreme Court now leans Democrat. In all likelihood, in 2021 the Democrats will be in charge of redistricting.
  - Maps are drawn without public comment nor do rank and file Legislators get to see them.
- The PA Constitution stipulates that when maps are drawn, the voting districts should be compact and contiguous, equal in population as possible, and limit divided municipalities.
- In 2011, the Committee used computer data to review party registration in precincts and voting patterns. This impacted how they redrew the 2011 map.
  - Those maps were declared unconstitutional and the Legislature was asked to redraw.
- Fair Districts is trying to change process and take it out of Legislature and create an independent citizens redistricting commission.
- Almost any citizen could apply to be on commission. You cannot apply if:
  - If you or your spouse holds elected office.
  - If you work for someone in House or Senate
  - If recently changed party registration.
- If you serve on the commission, you cannot run for elected office while serving.
- Interested names are filed with Department of State and drawn at random.
- Legislature could veto individuals if they don't meet criteria.
- Commission would include four democrats and four republicans.
- Commission would have to do all work in public meetings.
- Commission would have a publicly- accessible website and all work/decisions/ information would have to be published.
- Once a map is drawn, the commission would hold a minimum of four hearings across the state before adopting the map.

- Commission could not have access to or use data related to party affiliation or voting habits.
- HB 722 and SB 22 are bills that would create the commission.
- Legislation has to pass by June 30, 2018 in order to establish the commission before the next redistricting in 2021.
  - The change has to pass in this session, in next year's session and in the third year, will be voted on in a public ballot across the state before it can be adopted.
- Bills have been stalled. Senate will consider several bills on redistricting including SB 22.
- House – 108 members cosponsor HB 722. Majority of house is sponsoring but two or three members of leadership are refusing to allow it to come out of committee.
- Municipal resolutions are helpful to Fair Districts as they share them with Legislators
  - Late last year 160 resolutions had been adopted by municipalities.
  - In the last three weeks 40 more have been adopted bringing the total to over 200 municipalities supporting resolutions.
- Fair District is holding a statewide conference on April 16, 2018 at the William Penn Museum. Part of the conference will include meetings with legislators. At 2:30 PM, there will be a rally in Capitol Rotunda.
- Jim Hertzler shared that Cumberland County was the first in PA to adopt a resolution in support of the redistricting reform. He thanked Florio for their work stating that it is the grass roots, non-partisan effort has brought this to the forefront.
- About a dozen counties have adopted resolutions in PA.
- It is time to fix it the right way and get it out of political hands. Both parties have abused the process.
- CapCOG did a resolution in support of redistricting reform last year. A copy is included with these minutes.

#### **Executive Director Report**

- We have a meeting with Virtual Towns and Schools on March 27 to begin work on the website redesign. The new site will be up in early summer.

#### **New Business**

- Ratify the joint bids – Myers shared the bids were opened on February 15 and tabulated. The bids are in order. He called for a motion to approve the bids. Ken Martin motioned; Jim Fisher seconded. 2018-19 joint bids were unanimously approved.
- Comcast Franchise Renewal Agreements – Dan Cohen sent email to managers who have franchise agreement renewals coming up. It benefits municipalities to work together with Cohen Law because when he does it en masse there is a huge cost savings to individual municipalities.

#### **Cumberland County Report**

Commissioner Hertzler reported.

- Primary election is May 15. Petitions to run for Congress due 3/20/18.
- Cumberland Valley School District is trying to use eminent domain to take a preserved farm that predates Cumberland County's farmland preservation program; the farm dates back to 1745.
- The farm is held in trust by a group out of Delaware county and is supposed to be preserved in perpetuity.
- Cumberland County Commissioners sent a letter to CVSD asking the Board to reconsider.
- Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan designates this property as prime agriculture.
- County Commissioners think school board should consider other options; shouldn't have one public purpose in direct conflict with another public purpose.

- The Commissioners have received many calls and emails from constituents against CVSD's planned actions.
- County Planning Commission is also sending letter to CVSD asking them to reconsider.
- Farmland Preservation Board is also sending letter asking for reconsideration.

Dauphin County Report – Anna Dale shared information. The report is included with these minutes.

York Report – Mark Ryder

- 911 center – Short 35-40 Dispatchers. They are in desperate need of individuals to fill these positions.

### **Committee Reports**

Legislative Report – Nate Silcox reported.

- Radar – Senate bill 251 passed. This is the second consecutive session it received a vote in senate: 46-3.
- It has been in House for some time. Recently Representative Rothman introduced HB 2148 to establish a pilot program. HB 2148 is supposedly to stave off abuse by police departments/ municipalities. 49 other states use radar successfully so the need for a pilot program is questionable.
- House Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on April 4 at 10 AM in room 140. This will be a general discussion, not related to the bill.
- National motorists association came out in opposition.
- If you believe the legislation is important, contact state rep and ask them to support SB 251 and ask House Transportation Committee Chair, Representative John Taylor, to support the legislation. Rep. John Taylor.
- Stuski asked if there are any surveys that show what secondary offenses might be found when stopped for speeding. Silcox did not know of any.

PACOG – No report for March

UCC Board of Appeals/Act 45 - Terry Watts

- Two appeals heard in February 27. A copy of the decisions are included with these minutes.
  - Grindle v. N. Middleton – Head clearances for basement remodel. The CapCOG UCC Board of Appeals granted the requested variance to applicant with conditions.
  - GRC General Contractor v. Silver Spring Township – construction of mercantile/retail space in an existing building to be occupied by Jake's Fireworks. The CapCOG UCC Board of Appeals found in favor of the applicant (Matter of Interpretation of existing law).

Both decisions have a 30 day appeal period.

Public Safety Committee – No meeting in March.

### **Good of the Order**

- Jim Fisher asked if it would be easier for CapCOG to use PennBid for our joint bidding process.
  - Myers said he didn't believe so for the types of items we bid. However, we will look at it when we debrief this year's process to identify ways to improve.
- HB 1531 puts more limitations on townships regarding public meetings. This bill seems to be making it unnecessarily difficult on municipalities.

- Silcox said the bill is in the House State Government committee. It is very restrictive on local governments and would place additional mandates making it more difficult for municipalities to operate.
- Sue Yenchko said that the Cumberland Valley railroad bridge lands in Lemoyne. Norfolk Southern tracks cut off exit from the bridge. The issue is the right of way. Lemoyne officials spoke with Secretary Richards who said that it hasn't dropped out of our range of projects to work on. PennDOT Connects is involved.
  - Hertzler shared that thousands of dollars if not more have been spent studying it, but never address the problem which is Norfolk Southern and the right of way.
  - Stuski added that Norfolk Southern doesn't want the liability if someone crosses over onto their property.

A motion to adjourn was made by Watts. Seconded by Ryder. Unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.