

March Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday | March 26, 2020 | 10AM

Via Zoom



Municipal Attendees: Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Tim McLaughlin, Aspinwall; Patricia DeMarco, Forest Hills; Steve Beuter, Carnegie; Bill Stout, Millvale; Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Marita Garrett, Wilkinsburg; George Zboyovsky, Brentwood; John Frombach, Brentwood; Lindsay Powell, Pittsburgh; Ben Estell, Dormont; Rob Zahorchak, Edgewood; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon; Mindy Ranney, Mt. Lebanon; Magda Gangwar, Pittsburgh; Greg Butler, Ingram; Dan Styche, Collier; Kyle Thauvette, Collier; Rebecca Vargo, Wilkins; JR Henry, West View; David Montz, Green Tree; Tom Hartswick, Castle Shannon; Tom Rengers, Etna; Phyllis Anderson, Oakmont; Nickole Nesby, Duquesne; Deborah Gross, Pittsburgh; Tim Rogers, Shaler

Other Attendees: Prince Matthews, GSPIA; Emily Woodward, Steel Rivers COG; Jessica Walls-Lavelle, Office of Governor Tom Wolf; Kaleigh Dryden, GSPIA; Tosan Adoki, GSPIA; Sarah SanGiovanni, GSPIA; Patrick Dowd, Allies for Children; David Capezzuto, GSPIA

CONNECT/GSPIA Staff: Lydia Morin, CONNECT; Tess De Jong, CONNECT; Dave Miller, CONNECT; JoEllen Marsh, CONNECT; Ally Walker, CONNECT

Tour of Zoom & tools needed for today

- Some municipalities are interested in a more in-depth Zoom training
- A skillshare was scheduled and completed March 31

Introduction of new CONNECT faces

- New staff, interns, and elected/appointed officials
- Welcome to our newest member Ingram, welcome Pittsburgh Councilwoman Gross and her office, and hello to Oakmont borough learning more about CONNECT!

Governor's Office Remarks

- A home order means you can operate you see fit for your municipality
- Your police should have received guidance for social distancing enforcement
- Q&A: [see answers as of Thursday, March 26](#)

See: PA District Attorney's Association [statement about the Sunshine Act](#)

County Remarks

- Receive the daily update for municipal managers by emailing amie.downs@alleghenycounty.us
- Every municipality has an Emergency Management Area (EMA) Coordinator
- Declaring a state of emergency helps as it relates to purchasing rules
- 211 is the best COVID-19 hotline to point people to
- [ACHD Coronavirus page](#)

COVID-19 Roundtable Discussion

- Thank you for filling out the survey. Overview of results and themes to discuss
- CONNECT's role will be to be as flexible and responsive to needs as possible
- Concerns or discussion about evictions and utility shut offs, business owners staying on their property, loss of government tax revenue, salaries of municipal staff, joint services, house bill 1564, connectivity to residents, swell in unemployment, staying intentional about equitable development, municipal relationships with the state, how to get people to vote and/or mail in their ballot (primary now delayed until June 2), public parks
- It's important we keep in touch with each other and feel like we have colleagues who are in this together with us. It's easy to feel isolated and alone with disaster around us
- Discussion around using some money from the CONNECT Community Paramedic Program and using it as an emergency fund to help get first responders the protective equipment they need.
- Motion to vote on EMS funding - Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg
So moved - Tim Rogers, Shaler
Second – Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills
Majority in favor
- The last day to publicly comment on changes to the Community Reinvestment Act is April 8th
- Here is a [letter](#) to municipalities that we are borrowing from the TriCOG Land Bank concerning Act 152. CONNECT sits on the policy committee for Lead Safe Allegheny and we are watching this closely, as the Act does not require lead-safe demolition but could be amended in the future.
- Partners and members are asking to come to our next virtual happy hour, so we will try making this every other Friday. Next one April 3rd!