



ORPC Oxford Region Planning Committee

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

2023 Annual Report

January 2024

To: ORPC Members

From: Mark Gallant, Chester County Planning Commission

The Oxford Region Planning Committee (ORPC) is an advisory group consisting of representatives from Oxford Borough and East Nottingham, Elk, Lower Oxford, Upper Oxford, and West Nottingham Townships. They meet at 7:00 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month, when warranted. Until the start of the pandemic, meetings were held in the Lower Oxford Township Building at 220 Township Road, in Oxford, Pennsylvania. For the last few years, meetings have been held via Zoom and are open to the public. The ORPC met almost every month in 2023. Because of the holidays, the December 7, 2023 meeting was held in lieu of the November 22, 2023 and December 27, 2023 ORPC meetings.

Al Jezyk, Jr. of Elk Township served as Chair. Charles Fleischmann of Upper Oxford served as Vice-Chair. Robert Ketcham of Oxford Borough served as treasurer. Mark Gallant continued to serve as Secretary/Planner.

Part 1: Summary of Proposals and Proposed Zoning Amendments

None in 2023.

Part 2: Speakers and Topics of Discussion

Speakers

A priority of the ORPC is providing information on meaningful and timely topics and inviting guest speakers to share their expertise and experience. In 2023 this included:

Speaker/Organization	Topic
Brian Styche, CCPC	Transportation Improvement Inventory
Patty Quinn, CCPC	
Phil Harris, OB Mayor	School Safety – Radio Coverage in OASD Schools
Bob Hotchkiss, OASD	
Ann Lane, ADC	Promotion of Ag-Friendly Municipal Zoning
Wes Bruckno, CCPC	
Stephanie Armpriester, BC	Various

Topics of Discussion

In addition to the topics above, the ORPC membership discussed:

- Multimunicipal Comp Plan update: Distribution of Mini survey (Regional Prioritization Form), Existing Land Use Exercise, Development of scope of work and VPP contract.
- Status of Jennersville Hospital
- Funding for Broadband
- MS4

Part 3: Sub-Committee Activities and Accomplishments in 2023

The Regional Volunteer Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

The Volunteer EAC continued to be very active in 2023. Activities and accomplishments included:

- ✓ Produced the *Oxford Region Annual 2022/23 MS4 Activities* report for the annual MS4 status reports PaDEP requires permitted municipalities (currently East Nottingham and Upper Oxford) to submit by September 30.
- ✓ Continued the tradition of sponsoring annual information exchanges of water quality stakeholders in the Region as Oxford Borough hosted 16 partner presentations on March 30, 2023.
- ✓ Facilitated efforts in the Region to share information about and evaluate the effectiveness of the RES/PennDoT MS4: Big Elk Watershed Restoration Project including:
 - Discussion during monthly Oxford Region EAC planning meetings and Elk Creeks Watershed Association board meetings;
 - Document review and analysis by Dennis Newbold (ECWA board member and Stroud Water Research Center Research Scientist Emeritus)
 - January 31, 2023 site visit coordinated through Chester County Conservation District
 - June 20, 2023 site visit coordinated through Chester County Conservation District
- ✓ Assisted municipalities in meeting the May 31, 2023 deadline for adoption of the *revised* municipal stormwater management ordinance mandated by PaDEP
- ✓ Disseminated information and facilitated conversations with local landowners about lawn to meadow conversion opportunities.
- ✓ Monitored opportunities for the Region to take advantage of the County's Sustainability Initiative
- ✓ Heard reports on concept planning for Big Elk Creek State Park
- ✓ *Stormwater Action Initiative Public Tabling Events*

- May 5, 2023 -- Oxford First Friday tabling; hosted by Oxford Mainstreet; Elk Creek Watersheds Association and Octoraro Watershed Association partners
 - June 24, 2023 -- Oxford Public Library Fishing Tournament tabling; hosted by Glenroy Preserve; Brandywine Conservancy, Stroud Water Research Center and Elk Creek Watersheds Association partners
 - July 7, 2023 – Oxford First Friday tabling; hosted by Oxford Mainstreet, Brandywine Conservancy and Chester County Planning Commission
 - October 6, 2023 – Oxford First Friday tabling; hosted by Oxford Mainstreet and PECO
- ✓ Facilitated Opportunities for direct participation in improving water quality
- April 15, 2023 – Octoraro Reservoir Clean Up, Octoraro Watershed Association
 - April 16, 2023 – Live stake streambank repair workshop, Penn State Master Watershed Stewards, Elk Township
 - May 26, 2023 -- Native Plant Demonstration Pocket Garden planting, Oxford Mainstreet Office, Third St., Oxford Borough
 - September 30, 2023 – Distribution of seeds from EAC-sponsored native plantings, via Oxford Borough’s table at the Apple Festival

The Regional Historic Preservation Sub-committee (H-Sub)

In 2023, Jay Eaton (Lower Oxford) continued to serve as chair and Angie Thompson-Lobb (West Nottingham) continued to serve as Vice chair. The H-Sub met several times in 2023 with a few visits to OAHA’s new headquarters in Oxford Borough. They continued to work with the Oxford Area Foundation in the pursuit of Glenroy Preserve as a site of historic significance. Other interests and topics of discussion include status of the Mason Dixon Task Force, the Lincoln University Historic District and Heritage Center, and future review of municipal historic preservation regulations and the relationship to completed historic atlases.

Part 4: Upcoming Activities for 2024

Lead Work Program: Oxford Region Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan update

The ORPC will continue their speaker series as topics are identified by the membership or by partner organizations such as the Brandywine Conservancy, Chester County Planning Commission, Chester County Conservation District, etc. and continue to support activities of the Regional Volunteer EAC and Historic Preservation Sub-Committee.

There are also opportunities for the establishment of new sub-committees to continue the work started by the regional EAC and H-Sub.

2023 ORPC Membership

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Supervisors/Council Members</i>	<i>Planning Commissioners</i>
Oxford	Amanda Birdwell Pauline Garcia-Allen Alternate	Robert Ketcham
East Nottingham	Joe Herlihy Rachel Greer, Alternate	Joe Marra
Elk Township	Albert Jezyk, Jr.	Melanie Ryan
Lower Oxford	Noël Roy	Joel Brown
Upper Oxford	Charles Fleischmann Scot Rugen Alternate	Karl Herr
West Nottingham	Bill Winand	David Ross