

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
May 16, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, May 16, 2013, at 12 noon, at The Cottage Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mr. Kiel.

PRESENT

Russell Kiel
Tim Whited
Toni Renee Anderson
Sam Valenty
David L. Belz
Ronald Rovansek
Joseph McAneny

ABSENT

Robert E. Fisher, Jr.
Nicholas Persio

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff
Christopher D. Allison
Shanna M. Murphy
Colleen A. Bukowski

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Belz, seconded by Mr. Valenty, the minutes of the April meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. There being no questions on the report, Mr. Rovansek made a motion that the May Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Valenty and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that there was no significant correspondence to be read at this meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff stated that the development of the CCPC website has been completed, utilizing input and the expertise of the Commission's Executive Director and Community Development Planner. He noted that a link to this website has been posted on the Cambria County website as well. In response to a question by Mr. Belz, Mr. Imhoff explained that the Commission is utilizing a free hosting service and the annual cost to register the domain name is \$18.00.

Mr. Imhoff reported that the first meeting of the Route 219 Growth Plan municipal advisory committee was well attended. He noted that public meetings will be scheduled in Carrolltown, Northern Cambria, and Cambria Township in an effort to garner public input for plan development.

Mr. Imhoff noted that, in addition to regular office administration and subdivision/planning module reviews, he has been assisting Geistown Borough in the drafting of a new sign ordinance. He explained that this ordinance will provide guidance in regulating lighted signs and digital billboards within the borough.

Transportation

Mr. Allison provided a report on transportation planning activities undertaken during April. He briefed those present on various workshops and meetings he had attended during the past month. Of particular note was a meeting of local officials, PennDOT, the Cambria County-Johnstown Chamber of Commerce Transportation committee, and Secretary of Transportation Barry Schoch to discuss regional transportation project priorities and transportation funding initiatives.

Mr. Allison stated that work has been initiated on the local bridge inventory. He indicated that Commission staff was recently trained on data collection procedures and the use of hand-held computer devices to enter the data.

Mr. Allison reported that information from the East Hills Transportation Study, specifically regarding intersections along Elton Road in Richland Township, had been forwarded to PennDOT. He explained that these intersections will be considered for congested corridor improvements funding.

With regard to the County's interchange lighting system, Mr. Allison stated that, as per CCPC request, Barclay Electric has repaired lights at the US 22/PA 271 and US 219/Carrolltown interchanges. Staff reviewed several interchange lighting maintenance invoices and forwarded such to the County Commissioners for payment.

Mr. Allison updated those present on the County bridge coordination activities undertaken by the staff during the past month. He stated that, in response to an advertisement for the design and construction of the Wildwood Bridge Replacement project, sixteen statements of interests had been received. He stated that based on in-

house staff review with regard to qualifications, experience, and cost, the top four proposals will be submitted to the selection committee for consideration. Mr. Allison indicated that the selection committee, comprised of himself, Ethan Imhoff, and Commissioner Mark Wissinger, anticipates selecting a contractor for the project by the end of May.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy stated that she had spent considerable time during the past month developing the CCPC website. She explained that the website is very user-friendly and provides access to not only CCPC publications and information, but also provides municipal contact and municipal zoning and subdivision information. Ms. Murphy explained that electronic copies of many municipal zoning and subdivision ordinances are available through the website. She noted that floodplain management and LTAP information is also posted on the website. Mr. Imhoff urged the board members to visit the site at www.cambriaplanning.org.

Ms. Murphy reported that subsequent to staff training, work has been initiated on local bridge data collection for the Local Transportation Asset Inventory. She explained that, utilizing the County's GIS mapping, she has been able to identify structures in PennDOT's local bridge database that are not bridges, thereby eliminating an unnecessary field visit to the site.

Ms. Murphy reported that staff continues to coordinate and participate in workshops funded by the Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP). She expressed her desire to promote the workshops because they are an excellent source of education and information to municipal officials on many relevant topics and there is no fee for attending the workshops.

Ms. Murphy briefly apprised the board of the following project reviews completed during the past month: Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped building addition to its Johnstown facility; City of Johnstown application for PennVest funding for the Franklin Street interceptor project; and Loretto Borough DCNR application for funding for the Loretto Borough McGuire Park project.

Committee Reports

Mr. Imhoff stated that, as per the suggestion made at the April CCPC meeting, he and Mr. Kiel had discussed a reduction in the fee for non-building land merger reviews, as requested by several municipal officials and local developers at a workshop held in March. As a result of this discussion, Mr. Imhoff presented the following recommendation to the board: Review fee for 1-2 Lot Residential Subdivisions (No Construction) be reduced by \$35; Review fee for 3-5 Lot Residential Subdivisions (No Construction) be reduced by \$25. Mr. Rovansek made a motion that, effective May 16, 2013, the CCPC Act 147 Fee Schedule be revised to reflect a fee of \$65 for review of 1-2 Lot Residential Subdivisions (No Construction) and a fee of \$100 for review of 3-5 Lot Residential Subdivisions (No Construction). The motion was seconded by Mr. Belz and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kiel noted that there was no "Old Business" to discuss at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Allison distributed an informational hand-out regarding the Major Highway Action Plan for Cambria County. He explained that the purpose of the plan is to unify the County's efforts in promoting major priority transportation projects, namely, Route 219 North utilizing SR 4013 (Sunset Road) and PA Route 36 North and PA 56 East and West. Mr. Allison indicated that the Cambria County Commissioners have expressed renewed interest in the development/improvement of Route 219 North with the recent apportionment of federal funding for a four-lane extension of this corridor from Somerset to Meyersdale. Mr. Belz questioned the designation of the SR 4013 realignment as the County's top priority, stating that the MPO had officially approved PA 56 East and West as the County's top priority, with the Route 219 project as the second priority. Mr. Allison stated that he was not aware that the MPO had taken official action on the priority listing and would investigate the issue further.

Mr. Imhoff stated that he had recently been apprised of the availability of funding through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program. He explained that the program will provide funding in the form of grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks, and beautification projects. He noted that Commission staff will be available to assist communities/organizations interested in applying for this funding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. McAneny, seconded by Mr. Belz. Motion passed unanimously.