

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
November 21, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, November 21, 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
David L. Belz
Ronald Rovansek
Sam Valenty

ABSENT

Robert E. Fisher, Jr.
Nicholas Persio
Joseph McAneny

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Commissioner Douglas Lengenfelder
Commissioner Mark Wissinger
Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

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 October meeting were approved with the following correction: Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Belz. 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. Whited made a motion that the November Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anderson 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 he had recently attended the Pennsylvania Planning Association and the PennDOT Planning Partners conferences. He stated that discussions at the PA Planning Association conference focused on the transportation bill, particularly the funding allocation for transit-related projects. He explained that rural legislators are hesitant to vote for a bill that significantly increases spending on transit, while urban legislators argue that money should be spent in areas with a higher population base. Providing an overview of information garnered at the PennDOT Planning Partners conference, Mr. Imhoff indicated that updated funding allocations for the National Highway System (NHS) roadways will result in increased funding for the Johnstown MPO. He explained that NHS roadways are typically limited access, high volume highways such as US Route 22, US Route 219, SR 53 and SR 56 in Cambria County.

Mr. Imhoff reported that Brownstown Borough was awarded \$25,000 through the Southern Alleghenies Greenway Mini Grant program. He explained that the borough intends to utilize the funds to make improvements to a baseball field, restroom facilities, and a hiking trail at the borough park.

Mr. Imhoff reported that he continued to develop the U.S. Route 219 Corridor Growth Area Plan. He stated that this coming spring, graduate students from Chatham University will meet with CCPC staff and representatives of those communities located along the corridor to gather input and roadway data. Based on the information received, the students will create visual renderings of select corridor locations with an emphasis on possible aesthetic and pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements.

Mr. Imhoff stated that various transportation-related activities continue on an on-going basis, Review of Highway Safety Reports and the FHWA Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria, and Procedures Manual was completed during the past month.

Transportation

Reporting on planning activities funded through the 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program, Mr. Allison stated that he had met with PennDOT regarding new guidelines for the distribution of Highway Safety Improvement Program funds. He explained that the new guidelines allow for the funding of smaller scale projects.

Mr. Allison reported that the Highway Action Plan was discussed at the Johnstown Area Transportation Study meeting held on November 7, 2013. He noted that the plan was updated to include air and transit projects in the MPO area. Mr. Allison indicated that he would e-mail the Highway Action Plan to all board members for their information.

Mr. Allison stated that all HPMS traffic counts scheduled to be completed under the current Unified Planning Work Program have been completed by Peggy Malone and Associates. He noted that the data has been submitted and accepted by PennDOT.

With regard to the County's interchange lighting system, Mr. Allison stated that Barclay Electric completed necessary repairs at the US 22/Gallitzin and US 22/SR 9406 interchanges.

Commissioner Lengenfelder inquired as to the status of the Carney's Crossing Bridge. Mr. Allison stated that the project will be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in February or March of 2014. It was noted that Act 13 (Marcellus Shale) funds will be used to fund the replacement of this structure. A brief discussion concerning the County's "bailey bridge" ensued, with the Commissioners' questioning the bridge's structural integrity and the possibility of scraping the structure. It was explained that the "bailey bridge" is designed to be used as a temporary structure during repair/construction activities. Mr. Belz suggested that the County Engineer inspect the "bailey bridge" to determine the structure's integrity and feasibility for future use should the need arise.

Community Development Planning

Providing an update on the status of the Local Transportation Asset Inventory, Ms. Murphy reported that in-field data collection and data entry using the web application and maps has been continuing. She noted that the local roads data collection has been completed for the northern portion of the County.

Ms. Murphy stated that her attendance at a two-day LTAP Advisory Board meeting proved very informative. She indicated that attendees were encouraged to provide input as to how to improve LTAP courses and encourage municipal officials to take advantage of the courses, which are offered free of charge. Mr. Murphy noted that the possibility of on-line tutorials was also discussed as a means to promote more municipal participation in the program.

Ms. Murphy reported that she has begun development of an application on the Commission's website which would afford users easy access to municipal demographic data such as population characteristics, race statistics, and housing information. She stated that staff has also initiated work on the Public Participation Plan. Ms. Murphy noted that data collection will focus on disabled population statistics.

Those present briefly reviewed a listing of project reviews completed by Commission staff during the past month. Ms. Murphy noted that several reviews were for permits and funding applications related to municipal sewer and water system improvement projects.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff noted that copies of the 2012-2013 CCPC Audit, Financial and Compliance Report, and Report to the Board of Directors had been provided to every board member in November for their review and comment. There were no comments or questions on report and it was the general consensus of those present that the audit be accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that a draft of the 2014 CCPC budget had been submitted to each board member for their review and comment. He further explained that the proposed budget includes a 3% cost-of-living

salary increase for all Commission employees. Regarding anticipated revenues, Mr. Imhoff stated that LTAP funding under the upcoming two-year Unified Planning Work Program has been reduced by \$5,000; however, the County appropriation for 2014 is projected to remain the same as allocated in 2013 and review fee revenues are expected to remain steady or increase during 2014.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff indicated that the Sheetz Corporation has submitted a land development plan for construction of a new convenience store in Cresson Township. The store is to be located on the same property as the current facility, the intersection of Admiral Peary High and Route 53. He noted that negotiations between Sheetz, Cresson Township, and Mt. Aloysius College are underway to consider incorporating a safe pedestrian walkway for Mt. Aloysius students to access Sheetz and other businesses located along Admiral Peary Highway and possibly link the college to the Cresson downtown area. Mr. Valenty suggested that bicycle access also be considered.

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