

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
January 16, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 12 noon, at The Cottage Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

ABSENT

Russell Kiel
Tim Whited
David L. Belz
Ronald Rovansek
Robert E. Fisher, Jr.
Toni Renee Anderson
Joseph McAneny
Eric Wolf
Lonnie Batdorf

STAFF

GUESTS

Ethan C. Imhoff
Shanna M. Murphy
Colleen A. Bukowski

Kyle Beidler, Chatham University
Vince Pollino, Chatham University
Dustin Felix, Chatham University
Poojitha Ramalingachar, Chatham Univ.

Mr. Imhoff introduced Dr. Kyle Beidler, director of Chatham University's landscape architecture program. Also introduced were three graduate students who will be working with the Commission on visual renderings for the Route 219 Corridor Plan. Dr. Beidler explained that the framework for Chatham's master planning studio will involve a comprehensive understanding of Carrolltown Borough and preliminary concepts and designs for streetscape improvements that will complement the borough and create an appealing and pedestrian-friendly street for borough residents. At the request of Dr. Beidler, those present provided the students with general demographic and employer information for both Carrolltown Borough and Cambria County. Positive attributes of the county (tourism, education, low cost-of-living) and development constraints (population loss, lack of dedicated funding for improved transportation, municipal fragmentation) were also discussed. It was noted that similar attributes and constraints are mirrored at the municipal level as well.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Imhoff noted that all officers must be re-elected because the current officers have each served three consecutive years and according to the CCPC By-Laws they cannot serve in their current capacity for the upcoming year.

On a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Mr. Fisher, David Belz was nominated as Commission Chair. Ronald Rovansek was nominated as Vice-Chair on a motion by Mr. Belz, seconded by Mr. Fisher. Eric Wolf was nominated for the position of Commission Secretary on a motion

by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Mr. Fisher. On a motion by Mr. Belz, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, Lonnie Batdorf was nominated to serve as Treasurer of the Commission. Nominations were closed and the following slate of officers for 2014 was unanimously approved:

Chair - David L. Belz
Vice-Chair - Ronald M. Rovansek
Secretary - Eric Wolf
Treasurer - Lonnie Batdorf

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the minutes of the December 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. Fisher made a motion that the January Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whited and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that he had received notification from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that applications requesting grant funds to develop recreation, park, and trail facilities and to conserve open space under the C2P2 program will be accepted until April 16, 2014. He urged those present to be mindful of candidate projects and to encourage municipal officials/ organizations to consider applying for DCNR funding to promote recreation and conservation of natural resources in their communities.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff reported that both he and Mr. Allison are continuing to learn more about the MAP 21 federal transportation bill and how it will affect transportation planning in Cambria County. He explained that a performance based planning approach is being emphasized at both the state and federal level. Mr. Imhoff noted that staff provided review comments for the Comparative Analysis of FHWA Draft Primary Freight Network and PA Transearch Freight Data. He explained that a component of the MAP 21 legislation directed that the US Department of Transportation establish a national freight network to assist states in strategically directing resources toward improved system performance for efficient movement of freight on the highway portion of the nation's freight transportation system.

Mr. Imhoff stated that development of the Route 219 Growth Area Plan is continuing. He indicated that in an effort to gain additional input for the study, he will be meeting with officials and

board members from the Northern Cambria School District and the public and private elementary/middle schools located in Carrolltown Borough.

Transportation

In the absence of Mr. Allison, Mr. Imhoff noted that transportation staff continued to coordinate finalization of the Major Highways Action Plan for Cambria County. In addition to attendance at several training sessions, staff also reviewed project prioritization and municipal surveys for the 2015 Twelve Year Program update. Mr. Imhoff noted that staff provided the US Department of Transportation with GIS data indicating walking trail linkages to state and national parks within Cambria County.

0 Mr. Imhoff noted that staff provided assistance to the County Commissioners in their consideration of the adoption of an ordinance enabling the County to assess a \$5.00 fee on each vehicle registered in the county. He explained that this fee could potentially provide an additional \$750,000 which can be used for projects similar to those funded by liquid fuels revenue.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy reported that work has been continuing on the local roads data inventory. She explained that this inventory is being funded by PennDOT to update the department's database of local roadways and bridges that are not on the liquid fuels inventory. Ms. Murphy indicated that data has been collected for the northern portion of the county.

Ms. Murphy stated that work was continuing on the 2013-2014 Public Participation Plan (PPP). She explained that disabled population data for both the county and for individual municipalities will be presented and analyzed narratively in the PPP update. Ms. Murphy noted that mapping for the document has also been initiated.

With regard to activities associated with the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) line item of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Ms. Murphy stated that staff field-checked eight rural highway segments in the northeast section of the County. She explained that inaccuracies to existing data and current roadway conditions were then submitted to PennDOT.

Ms. Murphy reported that staff designed fliers to advertise two upcoming LTAP courses (Posting and Bonding of Local Roads and Engineering and Traffic Studies) which are being offered in Cambria County in the spring. She noted that the fliers will be mailed to all of the municipalities in the county and the information will be posted on the Commission's website as well.

Those present briefly reviewed a listing of project reviews completed by Commission staff during the past month.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff noted that there was no "Old Business" to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kiel noted that since the Chatham University students had been introduced previously, there was no additional "New Business" to discuss at the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff noted that although the Commission currently has seven sub-committees comprised of various board members, several have been inactive for a number of years. After a brief discussion, there was a general consensus among those present that the following committees be continued and/or established: Finance; Business; and Transportation. It was noted that should the need arise, other committees can be established and/or reactivated. Following is a listing of members who have agreed to serve on each respective committee:

Finance: Russell Kiel; Robert Fisher; Lonnie Batdorf;
David Belz (Ex-Officio)

Business: Russell Kiel; Timothy Whited; Robert Fisher;
David Belz (Ex-Officio)

Transportation: Ronald Rovanseck; Eric Wolf;
David Belz (Ex-Officio)

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