

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
June 19, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, June 19, 2014, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

David L. Belz
Tim Whited
Toni Renee Anderson
Russell Kiel
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

Robert E. Fisher, Jr.
Joseph McAneny
Lonnie Batdorf
Ronald Rovanseck

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Ms. Anderson, the April May 15, 2014 meeting minutes 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. Whited made a motion that the June Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kiel 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 commented on the success of the PA Safety Symposium held in Harrisburg on June 10th. He stated that over 200 people attended the event, noting that Senator Wozniak participated in a panel discussion focused on teen driving and seat belt usage. Mr. Imhoff stated that Pennsylvania is only one of seven states where seat belt usage is not a primary offense.

Noting that staff attended the Census Bureau's American Community Survey User's Conference in May, Mr. Imhoff provided a brief overview of the event. He explained that the purpose of the conference was to learn about updates to existing demographic research techniques and tools and to discuss best practices and issues with current data collection efforts.

Mr. Imhoff reported that prospective plans for the development of a park-and-ride site in Cresson Township for commuters carpooling from Cambria/Blair Counties to Huntingdon/Centre Counties are progressing. He noted that representatives from Cresson Township, PennDOT, and the National Park Service are supportive of the project, with PennDOT indicating that funding may be available through a multi-modal grant program sponsored by the Department and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Mr. Imhoff noted that he will continue to apprise the members of ongoing efforts regarding this initiative.

Stating that he had recently met with the Northern Cambria Borough Council, Mr. Imhoff apprised the board that Borough Council members intend to continue with the Route 219 Corridor planning process during the upcoming year. He noted that the Planning Commission's previous efforts involving the Route 219 Corridor Plan led to the repair and replacement of over 70 handicap curb ramps along the Route 219 corridor in Northern Cambria Borough.

Transportation Planning

In the absence of Mr. Allison, Mr. Imhoff provided an abbreviated report on the transportation planning activities undertaken during the past month. He briefly apprised those present of the five Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications which were received by the Commission. Mr. Imhoff stated that after field views and evaluations of the TAP applications, by staff and interest board members, the following project rankings had been determined and submitted to PA DOT for final state-wide funding determinations: (1) Ghost Town Trail Extension; (2) Ebensburg Sidewalks; (3) Johnstown Passenger Rail Station Rehabilitation; (3) Creslo Safe Routes to School; and (5) Howells Run Tributary Stream Channel Stabilization. He reiterated that final determinations as to which projects receive funding will be made by a state-wide selection committee.

Mr. Imhoff commented that the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including the air quality conformity analysis, was approved by the MPO on June 18, 2014. He noted that pertinent TIP documents were available for review and comment at various locations throughout the county as well as on the Commission's website prior to final JATS approval.

Mr. Imhoff informed the board that based on the evaluation of eleven Statements of Interest received for bridge engineering services and the recommendation of CCPC staff and Commissioner Wissinger, the County Commissioners officially approved Keller Engineers as the County Engineer of Record for projects commencing over the next five years.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy reported that in addition to continuation of field data collection for the local roads data inventory, she has conducted land use consistency reviews on several proposed funding applications. She noted that these applications pertained to water system and sanitary sewer improvements projects, a culvert replacement project in the City of Johnstown, and construction activities associated with the military equipment parking expansion for AASF at the Johnstown Airport.

Ms. Murphy noted that she too had attended the Census Bureau's American Community Survey User's Conference in Washington, DC and found the Bureau's interfacing of Geographic Information System (GIS) data with its collection efforts to be very interesting. Ms. Murphy also stated that she had attended a meeting with Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission staff to discuss the current and future municipal outreach duties of the various planning partners with regard to the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP).

Those present briefly reviewed the application and project reviews completed by CCPC staff during the past month.

There being no old or new business to discuss, Mr. Imhoff reminded those present that no CCPC meeting will be held in July.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Belz stated that an Executive Session had been held prior to this meeting to discuss salary adjustments and CCPC staff assistance to the County Redevelopment Authority contingent upon the upcoming retirement of long-term Executive Director, Larry Custer. Mr. Wolf made a motion that, based on national, state, and local comparisons with other 4th class counties, increased workload, and the availability of transportation planning funds, staff salaries be adjusted as discussed in CCPC Executive Session, retroactive to January 1, 2014. The motion was seconded by Kiel and passed unanimously. Mr. Belz also noted that discussion during the Executive Session resulted in a general consensus that the Planning Commission will support the Redevelopment Authority's transition plan; however, major commitment of staff time to the administration of the Community Development Block Grant Program may not be feasible. Mr. Whited suggested that the County's current grant writer, John Dubnansky, may be able to provide assistance to the Authority during this anticipated transition.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Whited, seconded by Mr. Kiel. The motion passed unanimously.