

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
October 16, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, October 16, 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
Lonnie Batdorf
Toni Renee Anderson
Russell Kiel
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

Robert E. Fisher, Jr.
Joseph McAneny
Ronald Rovanseck

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff
Christopher D. Allison
Colleen A. Bukowski

PUBLIC COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Whited, seconded by Mr. Kiel, the September 18, 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. Batdorf made a motion that the October 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 stated that, after considerable discussion with the County Commissioners and representative of other counties in the Southern Alleghenies Region, staff has decided that a regional approach to the update of the 2015 Long Range Transportation Plan update is not feasible. Therefore, Cambria County's update will be prepared by CCPC staff, with the assistance of a planning consultant. Mr. Imhoff noted that new requirements mandated by the MAP 21 transportation legislation will be considered when preparing the update.

Updating the board on the Route 219 Corridor Growth Area Plan, Mr. Imhoff indicated that he is in the process of finalizing the plan narrative, which will be supplemented by photographs taken in both Carrolltown and Northern Cambria Boroughs. He noted that discussions with the Northern Cambria Area Business Alliance will also be held to ascertain the group's goals and priorities for the Northern Cambria region.

Mr. Imhoff reported that a new Dell Precision workstation had recently been purchased from Link Computer Corporation at a cost of \$2,549. He explained that the new system will replace a slow and cumbersome computer and will be used primarily for GIS activities.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison reiterated that after careful consideration, the CCPC staff determined that the services of a consultant to assist in the 2015 update of the Long Range Transportation Plan would be beneficial to the Commission and would provide a more viable document for the County's future transportation planning initiatives. He noted that funding to hire a consultant is available through the current Unified Planning Work Program or possibly through additional supplemental funding. Indicating that a Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified planning/engineering consultants will be advertised in the near future, Mr. Allison requested that interested board members consider serving on a committee to review the RFPs and select the most qualified consultant for the upcoming LRTP update.

Mr. Allison stated that by resolution of the County Commissioners, Keller Engineers has been approved as the County's Engineer of Record, with regard to county-owned bridges. He indicated that staff is continuing to coordinate with Keller Engineers and the County Solicitor to develop a formal agreement between the County and the engineering firm. Mr. Belz noted that an agreement may not be necessary since a formal resolution in this regard was adopted by the County Commissioners.

Updating those present on the County's Interchange Lighting Service and Maintenance Contract, Mr. Allison stated that in response to the re-advertising of a Request for Bids, three bids were received. He explained that the lowest bidder, Barclay Electric, was awarded the contract. A contract agreement between the County Commissioners and Barclay Electric was prepared by Planning Commission staff and executed by the appropriate parties.

Community Development Planning

Mr. Imhoff noted that Ms. Murphy was attending a GIS Conference at Clarion University. He stated that she and Steve Kocsis, Director of the County GIS department, are showcasing a signage inventory application that they have developed which may be utilized in the continuation of data collection for the Local Transportation Asset Inventory.

In Ms. Murphy's absence, Mr. Imhoff briefly reported on the following activities undertaken by the community development planning staff during the past month: Attendance at LTAP courses and HPMS training; map preparation for the Route 219 Growth Area Plan; and completion of reviews for various funding applications.

Mr. Imhoff reported that Ms. Murphy had recently met with the Cresson Township Supervisors to discuss the feasibility of developing park-and-ride lots in the township. Ms. Murphy shared the results of the commuter survey conducted by the Planning Commission and explained that a park and ride lot would be appreciated and well utilized by individuals commuting between Cambria and Centre Counties. Mr. Imhoff stated that although the township was somewhat receptive to the idea, they were concerned about potential lighting and winter maintenance burdens that would be placed on the township. He stated that staff obtained cost figures from two Blair County municipalities that maintain similar park-and-ride lots. Commission staff will continue to promote the development of a park-and-ride lot and will investigate the possibility maintenance cost-sharing among several municipalities in the Cresson/Gallitzin area.

OLD BUSINESS

Having previously discussed the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan, Mr. Imhoff stated that the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission is coordinating a meeting with its six-county planning partners and potential funding partners to discuss grant possibilities for development of a Regional Comprehensive Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that the Commission had received a request from the City of Johnstown to review and provide comments on a Petition for Map Change and Zoning Reclassification in the Coopersdale neighborhood of the City. He noted that although City officials are responsible for the final decision regarding the zoning petitions, the Planning Commission was invited to provide comments on the issue. He explained that the applicant is requesting the zoning reclassification of a vacant R-1 Single Family Residential lot (138 Cooper Avenue) to C-1 Neighborhood Business as well as petition that landscaping and gardener's sales be added to the list of permitted uses in the C-1 zoning district. Mr. Imhoff indicated that the petitioner proposes to use the property for the sale of bark mulch, topsoil, firewood and other landscaping materials to households and small businesses. Those present reviewed a location map as well as current and proposed zoning maps to gain a better understanding of the proposed petition. After considerable discussion regarding the economic impact of the proposed business to the area, as well as possible effects on surrounding residential dwellings, Mr. Imhoff was directed to prepare correspondence to the City of Johnstown outlining the following considerations: Approval of the zoning reclassification petition may foster positive economic revitalization and generate new tax revenues; however, consideration should also be afforded to the neighboring properties, i.e. enforcement of the guidelines for similar permitted uses in a C-1 zoning district, specifically that equipment and supplies be kept within an enclosed structure. Mr. Imhoff noted that he would submit a draft of the Commission's response to the Board via e-mail for their review and comment prior to submission to the City.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that terms of office for Mr. Belz, Mr. Fisher, and Mr. McAneny are set to expire on December 31, 2014. He noted that Mr. Fisher has indicated that, due to health issues, he does not wish to be reappointed. Mr. Imhoff stated that he will contact Mr.

McAney to determine his willingness to continue to serve on the Commission. Mr. Imhoff requested the Commission members to suggest individuals who may be willing to serve on the Commission so that possible candidates can be submitted to the County Commissioners for appointment consideration.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. Batdorf. The motion passed unanimously.