

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
March 19, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

David L. Belz
Toni Renee Anderson
Tim Whited
Russell Kiel
Eric Wolf
Lonnie Batdorf
James White
Ronald Rovanseck
William Trevorrow

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff
Christopher D. Allison
Shanna M. Murphy

GUESTS

Jim Bonini, Chief Clerk
Barb Franz, Laurel Municipal
Inspection Agency

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. Wolf, the minutes of the February CCPC meeting were approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

In order to accommodate the guests attending the meeting, Mr. Belz suggested that the agenda item listed under "New Business" be presented at this stage of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff introduced Barb Franz, Director of Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency. He noted that this agency oversees code enforcement in forty municipalities within the County. Ms. Frantz presented information about land banks in Pennsylvania. Members asked questions and discussed the usefulness of this tool to combat blight. Jim White stated that the City of Johnstown is already in the early stages of developing a land bank, as presented at the State of the City address. Members discussed steps to implementation at both the county and municipal level.

Jim Bonini stated that the Commissioners are also interested in the idea if grant funding can be secured to fund the administrative component of a countywide land bank. Mr. Bonini noted that John Dubnansky, the county grant writer, is seeking suitable grant programs for this initiative.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. Mr. White made a motion that the March 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 there was no significant correspondence to be read at this meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan, Mr. Imhoff reported that a project kickoff meeting was held with consultants Gannett Fleming and Fourth Economy. At this meeting, Commission staff briefed the consulting team on the previous plan and current transportation issues within the county. Also discussed were expectations for the 2015 LRTP update.

Mr. Imhoff stated that Lower Yoder Township, Ferndale Borough, and Brownstown Borough had been extended invitations to participate in the West Hill Regional Comprehensive Plan initiative. Noting that all three municipalities are interested, he indicated that the Planning Commission will facilitate an initial planning meeting in April with representatives from all six municipalities to discuss the financial structure of the plan and how much funding each individual municipality will be expected to contribute to the effort. Mr. Imhoff indicated that a target date of June has been set for final commitment from the participating municipalities.

The Executive Director briefly commented on staff review of a lot consolidation plan for two lots along Main Street in the City of Johnstown. He noted that after approval of the lot consolidation, plans call for the construction of a new Dollar General store at the site. Mr. Imhoff also noted that staff reviewed a subdivision and land development plan for a new Holiday Inn hotel along Scalp Avenue in Richland Township.

Mr. Imhoff noted that he will be serving on the steering committee for the 2015 Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison presented a detailed update of the Long Range Transportation Plan. A discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the plan and prior efforts to enact goals contained in the plan. Members discussed the 219/Sunset Road project and the Route 56/Peggy Westover Curve. Mr. Belz and Mr. Rovansek felt that a high priority for the plan should be the 56/403 connection through the use of Route 711 to keep truck traffic away from the West End of Johnstown. Mr. Allison offered information on the planning process and how the planning priorities must align with available state and federal financial resources. He also noted that project priorities that exceed fiscal constraints, such as those discussed, can be placed on an illustrative list within the plan. Mr. Imhoff offered to brief the Commission on these projects and the current plan priorities at a future meeting.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy noted the upcoming LTAP courses and mentioned that the course scheduled on March 18 was canceled due to a low registration count. She stated that CCPC and SAPDC staff members have been discussing strategies to increase enrollment in the LTAP classes. Mr. Batdorf noted that spring is a busy time for municipal workers, which most likely contributes to the poor participation in these classes at this time of year.

Ms. Murphy reported that she has been working with the Cambria County GIS Center to collect municipal zoning data which will be scanned and digitized to create an overlay in the county GIS viewer. Staff contacted municipal offices to obtain the most current zoning maps and to obtain permission to utilize municipal digital zoning maps for this project.

Application and project reviews completed during February were reviewed by those present.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no "Old Business" discussed at this meeting.

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