

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
April 16, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, April 16, 2015, 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  
Russell Kiel  
Eric Wolf  
Ronald Rovansek  
William Trevorrow

ABSENT

Toni Renee Anderson  
James White  
Lonnie Batdorf

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Imhoff read the Treasurer's Report and noted that he had requested Mr. Jim Bonini, Chief Clerk, to investigate the status of an outstanding balance of \$5,800 on the Commission's 2014 allocation from the County. After review of the report, Mr. Kiel made a motion that the April Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whited and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff read a letter from Sharon Squillario, Secretary-Treasurer of the Portage Area Joint Recreation Commission, notifying the CCPC of the Recreation Commission's intent to submit an application to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for funds to establish a bathroom facility at the Crichton McCormick Park. Mr. Kiel made a motion that the Commission endorse the Portage Area Joint Recreation Commission's grant application to PA DCNR for proposed improvements to Crichton McCormick Park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovansek and passed unanimously.

Mr. Imhoff read a letter addressed to the Johnstown MPO from the Advanced Transit Association (ATRA), a non-profit organization aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of innovative transit concepts. He further explained that the association promotes light rail transit facilities such as personal rapid transit (PRT) and group rapid transit systems. Mr. Imhoff noted that the nearest PRT is located in Morgantown, WV.

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

Updating the members on the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Executive Director stated that a series of public meetings have been arranged to gather input for the plan. Mr. Imhoff explained that the meetings will target the general public, municipal officials, transportation providers, economic development organizations and the business community, and emergency service providers. He noted that a website has also been developed to promote and collect public input for the plan. Members were provided with the website URL and encouraged to respond to the online questions.

Mr. Imhoff briefed those present on two land development plans reviewed by Commission staff. He explained that the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is proposing to construct a new management center, which includes meeting facilities and a trailhead for snowmobiles, in Jackson Township. The other land development was for a proposed urgent care facility along U.S. Route 22 in Cambria Township.

Mr. Imhoff reported that efforts to encourage municipal participation in the development of a comprehensive plan for the West Hills area are continuing. He noted that a meeting with municipal representatives to discuss the financial framework for the plan has been scheduled for early May. Explaining that fifty percent of the plan cost could conceivably be covered through a PA DCED grant, Mr. Imhoff indicated that the remaining fifty percent cost can be met through cash, staff time, or materials provided by the municipalities involved in the plan.

Mr. Imhoff mentioned that a Water Symposium focused on municipal compliance with MS4 requirements, stormwater management, and current floodplain insurance programs, has been planned for May 6, 2015. Noting that Matt Royer, Director of Penn State's Agriculture and Environment Center, will be the featured speaker, Mr. Imhoff stated that the symposium is open to the public.

Mr. Imhoff noted that staff from the PA DOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity visited the Planning Commission to review compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He stated that it was determined that the Johnstown MPO meets the laws, regulations, and requirements of Title VI for planning organizations and that recommendations made by Bureau of Equal Opportunity personnel to improve reporting procedures will be implemented.

### Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison stated that his efforts during the past month have been focused on scheduling and promoting five outreach sessions to gather public input for the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. He reiterated that the project website is designed to be an interactive tool to gather

public input and priorities and will be continually updated throughout the plan development process.

Mr. Allison reported that through consultation with PennDOT staff, it was determined that additional Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds are available for Safe Routes to School projects. He noted that the funds must be specifically requested from the PennDOT central office through the Johnstown MPO. In response to a question from Mr. Belz concerning proposed improvements to the Johnstown Train Station, Mr. Allison stated that multi-modal funds will be used for the project.

Mr. Allison provided a brief update on the County Bridge and Interchange Lighting Programs. He stated that staff coordinated with Keller Engineers in the preparation of an engineering and construction agreement for replacement of the Carney's Crossing Bridge in Washington Township. With regard to the coordination of interchange lighting repairs, Mr. Allison stated that Barclay Electric continues to respond to repair requests in a timely manner.

#### Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy stated that a Facebook page has been created which will supplement the CCPC website and the Long Range Transportation outreach site. She explained that a new logo has been designed for the Facebook page and current and upcoming CCPC projects will be posted on the page.

Ms. Murphy reported that in response to a request from the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission, CCPC staff designed a newspaper ad promoting upcoming LTAP courses. She noted that the ad was published in the April 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Mainline Newspapers.

Ms. Murphy briefed the members on several other activities undertaken during the past month. She stated that collaborative efforts with the County GIS Center in creating a data layer depicting municipal zoning districts throughout the County are continuing. Staff has also been coordinating with the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute to organize a course on Subdivision and Land Development Review, which is scheduled to be held in May. Ms. Murphy explained that the three-session course, to be held at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, will provide participants with information that will enable them to effectively manage the review process in relation to comprehensive plans.

Members present reviewed the project reviews completed by staff during the past month. In response to a request for further information on a review completed for Wilmore Borough, Ms. Murphy explained that the flood protection project involves the construction of a "levee" extending from Route 53 to the Norfolk-Southern Railroad on the north branch of the Little Conemaugh River.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Belz noted that there was no "Old Business" to discuss at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

With regard to the West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan, Mr. Imhoff suggested that the Planning Commission consider making a contribution of \$5,000 toward this initiative. After a discussion centering on the number of municipalities expected to participate in the planning efforts and the ability of each municipality to pay a share in the local match, there was a general consensus that this agenda item be tabled until the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Rovanseck. Motion passed unanimously.