

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission

April 21, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, April 21, 2016, 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
Ronald M. Rovansek
Lonnie Batdorf
Russell Kiel

ABSENT

Eric Wolf
James White
William Trevorrow

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

The minutes of the March 18, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Whited, seconded by Mr. Kiel. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Imhoff read the April Financial Statement, noting the regular receipts and expenditures as well as the bills posted for payment approval. On a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the April Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff presented a note sent by the family of Sam Valenty, former CCPC board member, expressing their appreciation for the condolence flowers sent by the Commission.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff stated that as part of the planning process for the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Study, he has been compiling a list of individuals who will be invited to serve on a steering committee for the

project. He explained that the committee will be comprised of local officials, community members, and representatives of the CCPC. Noting that Eric Wolf has volunteered to serve on the committee, Mr. Imhoff invited other Commission members to participate as well.

Noting that in February PennDOT presented preliminary conceptual plans for improvements to U.S. Route 219 through Carrolltown Borough, Mr. Imhoff stated that both CCPC staff and borough officials are hopeful that suggestions contained in the Route 219 Corridor Study will also be incorporated into the proposed improvements. He explained that Commission staff worked with landscape architects to develop site renderings of the PennDOT proposed improvements as well as alternative proposals to demonstrate what the project might look like with additional project components designed to reduce traffic speed and improve pedestrian safety and aesthetics along the corridor. These alternate proposals will be discussed with Carrolltown Borough and PennDOT officials in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Imhoff stated that development of the West Hills Comprehensive Plan has been postponed indefinitely. He explained that Westmont Borough is facing a rather extensive sewer infrastructure improvement project and due to both time and fiscal constraints will be unable to participate in the cooperative comprehensive plan initiative.

Apprising those present of the Carney's Bridge repair project, Mr. Imhoff stated that because of the increased width of the new bridge, a small parcel of land on both sides of the bridge must be acquired by the County. He noted that affected property owners have been contacted about the County purchasing a small portion of their property so that the project can continue to move forward.

Mr. Imhoff reported that discussions with members of Senator Wozniak's staff, PennDOT District 9-0 staff, City of Johnstown and County stakeholders, and Johnstown Area Heritage Association staff resulted in the recommendation that the CCPC apply for supplemental work program funding to conduct a feasibility study of the Johnstown Train Station. He explained that the study will focus on what type of improvements and retail establishments could be developed within facility and sustained by the local community and passengers utilizing the station.

Mr. Imhoff noted that at the quarterly meeting of the Cambria County Alliance for Business and Industry, it was decided that the Alliance will work with JARI on the development of a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) for Cambria County. Mr. Kiel explained that both JARI and the Alliance will be instrumental in forming the CDFI, which will facilitate the provision of loans to small and large businesses utilizing funds from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison updated the members on several activities undertaken through the current Unified Planning Work Program. He stated that the narrative portion and supporting documentation for the 2016-2018 UPWP was submitted to PennDOT for final processing and approval. Noting that work was continuing on the Long Range Transportation Plan, Mr. Allison indicated that projects listed on the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as well as those on the Long Range Transportation Plan have been forwarded to PennDOT for air quality conformity analysis. In response to several questions concerning the air quality analysis, Mr. Allison explained that

PennDOT, through a consultant, provides this analysis for the smaller MPOs such as Cambria County.

Mr. Allison reported that the current committee structure for the JATS Technical and Coordinating Committees is currently being reviewed in an effort to improve representation and attendance at the meeting. He explained that municipal representation (one borough and one township representative to each committee) and representation from the non-motorized transportation-related sector (bicycle/pedestrian trails) is being considered.

Community Development

Noting that staff continues field data collection activities for the Carrolltown Borough sign inventory, Ms. Murphy stated that thus far information on 192 signs has been collected and will be input into the database. Mr. Batdorf complimented Ms. Murphy on her efforts in completing this worthwhile project for the borough.

Ms. Murphy reported that the Safe Driver LTAP course held in March was very well attended and a Traffic Signs course is scheduled for June. She urged the members to apprise interested individuals and municipal personnel of the upcoming course.

Application and project reviews completed by the staff during the past month were reviewed by those present.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff reminded the members that the Statements of Financial Interest are due in May and asked those still needing to complete the forms to do so and return to the Commission as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that the Commission had received a request to review a lot merger for Bishop McCort High School in the City of Johnstown. He explained that the school is proposing the merger of three lots along Osborne Street, all of which are zoned Commercial. Mr. Imhoff noted that although the high school is considering construction of a sports-related building on the property, a land development plan must be submitted and reviewed by the CCPC before construction activities are initiated. On a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. Batdorf, the lot merger was approved based on the fact that the plan is consistent with the land use goals contained within the Cambria County Comprehensive Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

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