

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission

June 16, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

David L. Belz  
Ronald M. Rovansek  
Toni Renee Anderson  
Tim Whited  
Lonnie Batdorf  
Russell Kiel  
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

James White

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. Batdorf, seconded by Mr. Kiel, the minutes of the May 19, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The June Financial Statement was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. There being no questions on the report, Mr. Wolf made a motion that the June Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batdorf and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that he had received a request from Brad Clemenson for Planning Commission support of Lift Johnstown's efforts to increase passenger-rail service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. There was a general consensus among those present that correspondence be sent to Governor Wolf urging him to press for more Amtrak service on Amtrak's Pennsylvania line which would provide more rail options for the residents of Cambria County.

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

Updating those present on the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan, Mr. Imhoff stated that approximately 25 individuals attended the first public meeting for the plan. Noting that good input was received at the meeting, Mr. Imhoff indicated that discussion focused on traffic safety concerns, pedestrian accessibility and possible aesthetic improvements along the corridor. He further explained that a three day charrette will be held in July at the Cresson Fire Hall to obtain an in-depth look at challenges and opportunities in the community, conduct focus groups, take site visits, and brainstorm recommendations with the community. Mr. Imhoff noted that crash data for the Admiral Peary Highway corridor obtained from PennDOT will also be used to guide the corridor planning process.

Mr. Imhoff reported that the Long Range Transportation Plan update was presented at an Agency Coordination Meeting in Harrisburg. He noted that representatives from the PA DEP, PA Historical and Museum Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Highway Administration, and the PA Game Commission attended the meeting to review the plan and discuss the County's approach to the plan.

Reporting that he recently attended a State Transportation Commission meeting, Mr. Imhoff stated that the Johnstown Train Station project and the initiative to increase passenger rail service to Johnstown was discussed. He stated that the Johnstown Area Heritage Association has received a \$800,000 grant to weatherize the facility and an additional \$200,000 has also been made available for preparation of a feasibility study to investigate the development and reuse of the historic train station.

Mr. Imhoff stated that the 2015-17 CamTran Transit Financial Capacity Report had been prepared by CCPC staff. He explained that a review of the Authority's finances and certification of financial capacity is required by federal law for local transit authorities to receive and spend federal funding.

Mr. Imhoff informed the members that the County Commissioners have scheduled a meeting with representatives of the PA DEP, Northern Cambria Municipal Authority, Carrolltown Borough Municipal Authority, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the CCPC to discuss the NCMA's proposed water line construction project, which was presented at the May CCPC meeting. He invited Commission members to attend this meeting which will be held in August.

Providing an update on the Carney's Crossing Bridge project, Mr. Imhoff stated that both bids received for the project were significantly over the estimated cost. Noting that the high bids were most likely due to a shortage of precast concrete culverts, Mr. Imhoff stated that the project will be rebid and construction will be scheduled for early summer of 2017.

### Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison reported that the first draft of the Long Range Transportation Plan update has been received from the consultant. He explained that the document will be available for public review for a period of 45 days and will be officially approved at the August 11<sup>th</sup> JATS meeting.

With regard to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update, Mr. Allison stated that the TIP and related documents have been displayed for public review and comment since May 20<sup>th</sup> and a public meeting was held on June 9<sup>th</sup> as well. He noted that the TIP update for highway, bridge

and public transit; the air quality conformity analysis; and the Public Participation Plan will be presented for approval at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> JATS meeting.

Mr. Allison noted that CCPC staff attended a meeting of Geistown Borough officials and PennDOT District 9-0 staff to discuss alternatives to redesign the intersection of Scalp Avenue, Belmont Street, and Bedford Street. He stated that PennDOT is evaluating several alternatives, i.e., installation of a traffic signal or roundabout, and will seek public comments prior to initiating any changes at the intersection.

#### Community Development

Ms. Murphy stated that she continues to attend meetings of Lift Johnstown and Johnstown Vision 2025. She indicated that she has scheduled a meeting with the Vision 2025 consultant to discuss how the CCPC may be of assistance in helping to implement two projects that are being considered. Ms. Murphy explained that the format developed for the Commission's GIS sign inventory could be used to collect data for a historic buildings inventory and downtown buildings survey being considered by Vision 2025.

With regard to the Carrolltown Borough sign inventory, Ms. Murphy reported that field collection is nearing completion, with data for over 400 signs having been collected to date. She explained that mapping points, photos, and specific sign attributes are uploaded into Esri Arc Desktop for the GIS.

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff noted the member vacancy on the Commission and stated that the County Commissioners welcome recommendations for a new appointee.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that the CCPC received correspondence from Barry Gallagher, Chairman of the Johnstown Planning Commission, inviting the Commission to a meeting with various agencies to discuss the possibilities for collaboration and joint efforts in promoting and revitalizing the City of Johnstown. Mr. Wolf made a motion that a representative of the CCPC attend the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batdorf and passed unanimously.

Mr. Imhoff stated that within the next few months he may be seeking the Board's concurrence on hiring additional staff. He explained that since the Commission's UPWP budget has increased over the past two years and is expected to remain at this level, he will be investigating the feasibility of hiring an additional staff person. The Executive Director further explained that additional staff would minimize the hiring of planning and transportation consultants, expedite reviews of municipal land developments and zoning amendments, and allow further collaboration with local municipalities, i.e., the City of Johnstown's Vision 2025 project.

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Whited, seconded by Mr. Kiel. Motion passed unanimously.