

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission

August 18, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, August 18, 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
Russell Kiel
James White
Tim Whited
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

Lonnie Batdorf
Ronald M. Rovanseck

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff
Shanna M. Murphy
Colleen A. Bukowski

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting. However, Mr. Imhoff noted that one vacancy remains on the Commission Board of Directors and the County Commissioners are open to appointee suggestions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 16, 2016 CCPC meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Kiel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wolf and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The July-August Financial Statement was read by Mr. Imhoff. Upon review of the statement, Mr. Kiel made a motion that the July-August Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. White and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that there was no correspondence to be read at this time.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff reported that in-house review of the 2016 Long Range Transportation Plan Update was completed in June and after review with the LRTP Steering Committee, the final draft of the plan was available for public review and comment. He explained that comments and input received during the review process were incorporated into the final document, which was officially adopted by the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization on August 11, 2016. Mr. Imhoff further explained that the LRTP outlines transportation projects and priorities through 2040, most of which involve maintenance of current transportation facilities. He noted that copies of the LRTP Executive Summary will be made available to the Commission members and the document will also be posted on the Commission's website.

Providing an update on the six-county regional comprehensive plan initiative, Mr. Imhoff stated that the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) recently released the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for plan development. He explained that a \$164,000 grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development will fund half of the project with the remaining costs to be shared by the participating counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset. Cambria County's share of \$30,000 will be funded through the Unified Planning Work Program. In response to an inquiry from Mr. White, Mr. Imhoff explained that although SAPDC will be executing the contract for preparation of the comprehensive plan, the planning directors of all counties participating in the project will be involved in the consultant selection process.

Regarding the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan, Mr. Imhoff stated that the three-day charrette held in July was very successful in gathering public input and ideas for improving the safety, functionality and marketability of the corridor. He stated that project priorities were formulated through meetings of project stakeholders, focus groups, and the general public. Mr. Imhoff indicated that the corridor plan will highlight the importance of improvements to the Admiral Peary Highway/Route 53 intersection, the need for a pedestrian connection between the Mt. Aloysius College campus and downtown Cresson, and community interest in a pedestrian connection between Cresson and the Allegheny Portage Railroad historical site.

Mr. Imhoff stated that CCPC staff attended a meeting with representatives of the Johnstown Planning Commission and the Johnstown and Cambria County Redevelopment Authorities in June. Explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to begin a dialogue among the groups and foster a spirit of collaboration, Mr. Imhoff stated that the next meeting of the group will be held in September.

Mr. Imhoff noted that the County Commissioners have scheduled a meeting for August 22 to discuss the Northern Cambria Municipal Authority's proposed waterline construction project. He stated that representatives from PA DEP, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Northern Cambria, Ebensburg, and Carrolltown Municipal Authorities will also be in attendance.

Transportation Planning

In the absence of Mr. Allison, Mr. Imhoff provided an abbreviated report on transportation planning activities. He explained that recent federal legislation has mandated that unused transportation funds earmarked prior to and including 2015 be used on other active projects on the National Highway System within a 50-mile radius of the original project. Mr. Imhoff stated that there are unused funds on the following two earmarks in Cambria County: HAIDA Industrial Park access road (\$640,000) and US Route 219 corridor study (\$250,000). He noted that every effort will be made to repurpose these funds to other eligible transportation projects in the northern part of the county.

Mr. Imhoff requested that the members review the transportation planning status report submitted prior to this meeting and contact Mr. Allison with any specific questions or requests for additional information.

Community Development

Ms. Murphy reported that data collection, photography, mapping, assigning of GIS attributes, and data uploading for the Carrolltown Borough sign inventory was an ongoing activity during the past two months. She indicated that to date staff has collected data for 538 signs and is nearing completion of field data collection.

Indicating that she had completed two GIS online courses, Ms. Murphy explained that the courses covered basic fundamentals of GIS and lessons on using Arc Desktop and Arc Online. She stated that the information ascertained from the classes are applied on a daily basis to several CCPC projects and will be a valuable asset to future planning initiatives.

Ms. Murphy noted that during the past two months she was involved with a variety of coordination activities. She explained that in addition to participating in the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor charrette, prior to the event she distributed advertising posters throughout the community, e-mailed invitations to various stakeholders, and coordinated activities with the consulting team. With regard to another coordination activity, Ms. Murphy stated that she attended a meeting of the County Grants Coordinator, Commissioner Chernisky, and representatives from UPJ regarding a potential sidewalk project which would provide a connection from the University to the Richland Town Centre and surrounding areas.

Noting that she is in the process of choosing and scheduling Fall 2016 LTAP classes, Ms. Murphy informed the members that Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission will be hosting a Salt and Snow Management class in Cambria County. This course will be held in every PennDOT District throughout the Commonwealth.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that as discussed at the June meeting, he will soon be initiating efforts to hire an additional staff person. He suggested that the Employment and Contracts Committee be reconvened to facilitate this process.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that there was no "New Business" to discuss.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Whited informed those present that the Northern Cambria County Area Business Alliance is hosting a business seminar entitled, "Overtime Rules and Regulations." Although Mr. Imhoff felt that the new legislation would not affect CCPC staff, he requested Mr. Whited to provide him with the specifics of the workshop.

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