

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission

April 20, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

Ronald M. Rovanseck
Russell Kiel
James White
Eric Wolf
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Toni Renee Anderson
David L. Belz
Rev. Sylvia King
Lonnie Batdorf

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff
Christopher D. Allison
Shanna Sosko
Katie Kinka
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. White, the minutes of the March 16, 2017 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Imhoff reviewed the April Financial Statement, noting the accounts receivable and expenses paid and to be approved for payment. There being no questions on the report, Mr. Wolf made a motion that the April Treasurer's Report, including expenses 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 meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

Mr. Imhoff noted that oral presentations of the monthly status reports would not be given at this meeting. He encouraged members to contact the appropriate staff member with specific questions regarding activities undertaken during the past month.

OLD BUSINESS

As a follow-up to discussions at the March CCPC meeting, Mr. Imhoff reported that the Commission will be hosting an IUP intern. He explained that during his three-month internship, Jacob Formica will focus his efforts on GIS activities and the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Noting that priorities for the comprehensive plan are now being formulated and refined, Mr. Imhoff encouraged Commission members to review and discuss the following seven priorities: agriculture, broadband/wireless capacity and access, gaps in housing stock, recreational amenities and natural assets, lack of coordination and capacity, blight and abandonment, and business development. In addition to brief comments on these priorities, those present also discussed the following:

- The influx of individuals who are contributing to the opioid crisis in the region and the negative effects that the crisis is causing throughout the region
- Blighted housing stock, particularly in the City of Johnstown
- Need to market the positive aspects of Cambria County, i.e., friendly atmosphere, good social relationships, reasonable cost-of-living, recreational facilities, cultural amenities, etc.

There was a general consensus among the members that "public health" should also be considered as a plan priority.

Ms. Kinka reported that a media summit was recently held in an effort to market the regional plan and capture additional citizen/organizational input. She indicated that reporters from several newspapers, as well as television station WJAC, attended the summit and featured very accurate and informative articles/reports on the planning process. Ms. Kinka further explained that a survey has also been developed to garner public input from the five-county region. She stated that the survey is available at www.allegheniesahead.com, as a QR code survey which can be accessed via an iphone app, and also in hard-copy format through the CCPC. Both Mr. Imhoff and Ms. Kinka urged the members to complete the survey and encourage others to do so as well.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Wolf made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kiel and passed unanimously.