

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission

January 17, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, January 17, 2018, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

Ronald M. Rovansek  
James White  
David L. Belz  
Toni Renee Anderson  
Russell Kiel  
Eric Wolf  
Lonnie Batdorf  
Diane Waksmunski  
Rev. Sylvia King

ABSENT

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff  
Christopher D. Allison  
Shanna Sosko  
Katie Kinka  
Colleen A. Bukowski

GUESTS

Rob Sosko

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Belz made a motion that the current slate of officers be retained for 2018. The motion was seconded by Rev. King and passed unanimously. The 2018 slate of officers for the Cambria County Planning Commission is as follows: Chair - Ronald Rovansek; Vice-Chair - Eric Wolf; Secretary - Lonnie Batdorf; Treasurer - Russell Kiel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Belz, the minutes of the December 21, 2017 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The January Financial Statement was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. An updated "Account Receivable" page was also distributed and reviewed. Mr. Wolf made a motion that the January Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batdorf and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff provided a brief update on the Alleghenies Ahead comprehensive planning retreat which included representatives from the six counties participating in the comprehensive planning process. He reported that the two main regional priorities have been identified as Broadband Infrastructure and Development and Increased Coordination, Collaboration and Consolidation. Mr. Imhoff also stated that Cambria County's priorities are focused on Business and Economic Development and Recreational Assets Development. Action items pertaining to these two priorities are currently being discussed by steering committee stakeholders.

Mr. Imhoff apprised the members that the trail connectivity project that will connect Veterans Park in Cresson to the Allegheny Portage National Railroad Historic Site is moving forward. He stated that he met with National Park Service and PennDot staff to discuss the implementation of the recent Eastern Federal Lands Access Program grant. He also noted that Recreation Equipment, Inc (REI), which operates a distribution center in Bedford for the company's outdoor equipment and apparel, has expressed interest in providing financial resources toward the project. Mr. Imhoff stated that further discussions with REI will be forthcoming.

### Transportation

Transportation planner, Chris Allison, stated that collaboration among the planning staff, the County Commissioners, and PennDOT staff has resulted in a proposal for completing local bridge projects utilizing Act 89 and RoadMaP funding. Under this proposal, Cambria County is expected to receive two million dollars to replace/rehabilitate several structurally deficient County bridges. In addition, PennDOT will use a two million dollar match to repair or replace ten structurally deficient municipally-owned bridges. Mr. Allison noted that PennDOT District 9-0 staff has also offered to provide in-house design services for several of the bridges. Mr. Allison reviewed the listing of proposed projects and anticipated time lines for project completion. In response to several questions, Mr. Allison stated that the County currently owns 26 bridges and by 2020 all but one County-owned structurally deficient bridge will be upgraded. The remaining structure, the Red Mill Bridge, has been closed since 2009 and will be given funding consideration in 2021.

### Community Development

Ms. Sosko reported that housing data collected in the Old Conemaugh Borough neighborhood of the City of Johnstown has been verified and entered into GIS format. She stated that data from the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission was also analyzed to determine if an identified distressed structure in the neighborhood is historic and eligible for preservation.

Ms. Sosko stated that, in addition to routine updating and maintenance of the Commission's website, she has begun discussions and scheduling for 2018 LTAP courses.

### Senior Planner

Ms. Kinka reported that she has been engaged in developing a plan for hosting a site visit and neighborhood tour in conjunction with the County Grants facilitator and executives of Intuit Inc. She explained that Intuit recently opened a call center in Upper Yoder Township and is interested in

investing in community development projects in the Greater Johnstown area. She stated that because Old Conemaugh Borough has been named a neighborhood of interest, staff has been working to identify potential redevelopment projects within the neighborhood, partnering with Vision 2025 to develop 3D renderings and imagery of redevelopment and streetscaping examples. Ms. Kinka and Mr. Imhoff noted that Route 271 beautification, neighborhood park development, and development of a hiking trail in the vicinity of Devil's Rocks are possible considerations for the neighborhood. In response to a question by Rev. King regarding engagement of neighborhood residents and businesses, Ms. Kinka stated that she has been scheduling OCB business and community stakeholder interviews to garner local input on the needs of the neighborhood and to assist in developing a vision for the future.

Providing additional information on the Alleghenies Ahead planning retreat, Ms. Kinka stated that the meeting featured guest speaker, Kathy Wyrosdick, who spoke on the successful implementation of Erie County's comprehensive planning goals and objectives. Ms. Kinka, as well as Mr. Wolf, who also attended the retreat, provided positive comments on the insights provided by Ms. Wyrosdick and the collaborative sharing among the six-county attendees.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff presented the following synopsis of proposed amendments to the CCPC by-laws which had been discussed in detail at the October CCPC meeting:

- Geographic region designation changes of six municipalities, i.e., change from central region designation to northern region designation
- Updated language revisions

Noting that the Commission members had previously discussed amendments to the CCPC by-laws and that the proposed amendments had been approved by the County Commissioners, Mr. Rovansek entertained a motion to approve the revisions to the by-laws. Mr. Wolf made a motion that the proposed amendments to the CCPC By-laws be approved. The motion was seconded by Rev. King and passed unanimously. Mr. Imhoff noted that all nine Commission members were in attendance at this meeting, providing all members the opportunity to vote on the amendments.

Mr. Imhoff stated that the EADS Group, Cresson Borough's engineer, has approached the Commission about CCPC staff administering the borough's subdivision and land development ordinance. Indicating that he is receptive to the invitation, Mr. Imhoff requested the members' input on this endeavor. There being no objections to staff administration of the ordinance, Mr. Imhoff stated that to facilitate this endeavor he will develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the Borough outlining the responsibilities of the two entities and a proposed compensation schedule.

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