

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
August 20, 2020

To assure continued safety and well-being of members and staff, the regular monthly meeting of the CCPC was held via zoom video conference/teleconference on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 12 noon. The meeting and teleconference line were publicly advertised pursuant to public notice. CCPC members and staff attended via video/teleconference.

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

PRESENT

Eric Wolf  
Ronald M. Rovansek  
Russell Kiel  
Diane Waksmunski  
Debra Orner  
Rev. Sylvia King

ABSENT

James White  
Lonnie Batdorf

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Commissioner Thomas C. Chernisky

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public participated in the teleconference and no public comment was offered at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski, the minutes of the June 18, 2020 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Imhoff noted that this report, as well as all other pertinent documents, was provided to the members prior to this meeting via e-mail. The July-August financial statement was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by the Commission members. There were no questions or comments on the report. On a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Ms. Orner, the Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

In a related financial matter, Mr. Imhoff stated that within the next few weeks, laptops will be purchased to facilitate staff working remotely. He explained that laptops and related licensing are necessary due to the continued uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation, the importance of uninterrupted service to the County and its residents, and the availability of funding for these purchases (either through the CARES Act or through the CCPC's anticipated 2021 budget). Mr. Imhoff stated that he authorized staff to purchase laptops, with reimbursement for such expenses provided upon submission of proper purchase documentation.

## CORRESPONDENCE

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

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

Providing an update on the reorganization of Vision 2025, Mr. Imhoff stated that efforts have been focused on rebuilding the organizational structure and addressing inclusivity of board membership to reflect the needs and wants of the community at-large. He credited the Chamber of Commerce with an excellent public relations campaign to promote the accomplishments and positive vision of Vision Together 2025.

Mr. Imhoff reported that staff is investigating the feasibility of assisting in the update of the Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He noted that although the Commission does not have the staff capacity to prepare the update, the Emergency Management Agency has funding to retain a consultant and provide the CCPC an administrative fee to oversee and coordinate plan development.

### Transportation Planner

Mr. Allison reported that the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program was submitted to the PennDOT Central Office. He noted that this submission culminated several months of staff efforts to complete the update, prepare supporting documents, coordinate required public meetings, and garner necessary local approvals.

The Transportation Planner noted that work has begun on the 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program. Staff recently completed the annual listing of federally obligated transportation projects and participated in Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) virtual conferences.

Mr. Allison provided the following update on several county bridges: Red Mill Bridge in Blacklick Township - replacement will involve construction of an 18-foot wide structure to accommodate farm vehicles; Creslo Bridge in Adams Township - deck replacement and stream channel improvements at the site scheduled for 2021; Barr Avenue Bridge in Northern Cambria - groundbreaking ceremony held with repair work to include repaving of the bridge approaches and the epoxy overlay on the concrete deck.

### Community Development

Ms. Sosko reported that map work for the bicycle/pedestrian plan update has been initiated. She stated that the existing off-road trails map that is included in the plan will be updated to depict newly opened and planned trails, specifically those associated with the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority and Friends of the Inclined Plane Trail. Ms. Sosko noted that, if feasible, on-road trail assets may also be added to the map.

Ms. Sosko spoke on the efforts of the CCPC staff and the Cambria County Census Complete Count Committee to encourage County residents to self-respond to the 2020 Census. She provided details on the on-going marketing campaign that has included newspaper and television articles/advertising,

social media weekly updates, and signage on CamTran urban and rural transit vehicles.

Ms. Sosko also noted that although the Planning Commission has received fewer land development/subdivision applications because of the COVID-19 situation, staff reviews have continued in a timely manner.

Noting that the in-person LTAP classes have been cancelled through the Commonwealth, Ms. Sosko stated that PennDOT LTAP staff is offering virtual courses and virtual drop-in sessions. She stated that information on these courses/sessions, as well as how to access the presentations, has been sent to all municipalities in Cambria County.

#### Senior Planner

Ms. Kinka reported that staff work efforts have focused on developing a framework for updating the bicycle/pedestrian plan, *Connecting Cambria*. Noting that the plan was adopted nearly two years ago, Ms. Kinka stated that the plan update will serve as a progress tracker and will redefine priorities based on completed and anticipated bicycle and pedestrian projects. In a related initiative, Ms. Kinka noted that she has been actively involved in the City of Johnstown Complete Streets Policy steering committee. She explained that this policy will serve as a guide for multi-modal transportation activities within the city. Ms. Kinka stated that she has also been involved in discussions as to how best to proceed with the fabrication and installation of bike racks in downtown Johnstown.

Ms. Kinka informed the Commission members that she is continuing her efforts to implement the market-rate housing strategy. She has conversed with local developers and stakeholders interested in participating in a pilot residential project, including a potential partnership involving the redevelopment of the State Theatre and the old Lee Campus Hospital.

Ms. Kinka stated that she continues her involvement with Vision Together 2025 and anticipates participating in the Equity and Inclusivity sub-committee. She also indicated that she is actively involved in implementing the priority goal of cultivating the next generation of local leaders through discussions with the Greater Johnstown School District.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff reported that he recently met with the Ad Hoc Personnel Committee, consisting of Russ Kiel, Debra Orner, and Lonnie Batdorf. Noting that committee members requested additional salary information, Mr. Imhoff stated that final analysis and recommendations will be presented to the entire Commission board prior to 2021 budget preparation. Mr. Wolf thanked Mr. Kiel for organizing the ad hoc committee meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wolf stated that there was no New Business on today's agenda.

With no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.