

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
September 17, 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, September 17, 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
Russell Kiel
Diane Waksmunski
Debra Orner

ABSENT

James White
Lonnie Batdorf
Ronald Rovansek
Rev. Sylvia King

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. Orner, the minutes of the August 20, 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 September 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 Ms. Waksmunski, seconded by Mr. Kiel, the Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff stated that due to a major virus attack on the County computer network, during the past several weeks CCPC access to shared and desktop files has been significantly affected. He noted that the County IT department has finally reconnected all CCPC computers with the exception of Ms. Murphy's, which appears to have been critically affected by the virus and may take additional time to reinstall programs and reconnect to the system.

Mr. Imhoff reported that, at the request of the County Commissioners, he prepared a COVID-19 Relief grant application requesting approximately \$4,250 for expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic. Mr. Imhoff explained that the reimbursement request will cover the cost of laptop computers/software licenses which enabled staff to work remotely and advertising/zoom subscription necessary to continue monthly CCPC meetings. Commissioner Chernisky stated that the County chief clerk and solicitor are reviewing the submitted expenses from each department to ensure that such costs are eligible under the CARES Act.

Stating that he continues to be involved with the reorganization of Vision 2025, Mr. Imhoff informed the members that an Executive Director position for the organization has been advertised locally as well as on several economic development and non-profit websites. He noted that other initiatives of the Vision 2025 Executive Committee include development of a promotional video which introduces the organization's leadership to the community; organization of community listening sessions to ensure inclusivity and diversity within the organization and to aid in determining ongoing/future community development activities; and preparation of by-laws to incorporate Vision Together as a non-profit organization.

Mr. Imhoff apprised the members of the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new sidewalk that connects Mount Aloysius College with downtown Cresson which was held on August 28, 2020. Mr. Imhoff indicated that this project was the number one priority of the CCPC's Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan completed in 2017. Noting that there were over 100 people in attendance, Mr. Imhoff stated that this was an impressive celebration to recognize the cooperative venture between the college, Cresson Township, and the PA Department of Transportation.

At this time, Mr. Imhoff recognized Community Development Planner, Shanna Sosko, for her participation on Cambria County's Census Complete Count Committee. He stated that due to Ms. Sosko's efforts in leading the Committee and spearheading an aggressive marketing campaign, the County is expected to achieve a response rate significantly higher than the 63.8% rate achieved in 2010. Congratulations were extended to Ms. Sosko by CCPC members and staff.

Transportation Planner

Providing a brief report on transportation-related initiatives, Mr. Allison stated that the Long Range Transportation Plan, the 2021-2034 TIP, and other supporting documents are currently being reviewed by PennDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. It is anticipated that the updates will become effective on October 1, 2020, the start of the new federal fiscal year. Mr. Allison noted that meetings of the technical and coordinating committees of the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization were recently held on-line.

Mr. Allison provided the following update on several county bridges: Barr Avenue Bridge - repair and overlay completed and ribbon cutting ceremony held in early September; Creslo Bridge - coordination activities with County Solicitor regarding environmental permitting for stream channel improvements at this site; Red Mill Bridge - Commissioner-sponsored press event held to promote renovation of the structure and tout the success of the County's bridge rehabilitation program.

Community Development

Ms. Sosko stated that because her computer has been severely impacted by the virus attack to the County's system, any work involving the County GIS files, i.e., trail mapping, has been at a standstill. She stated that her involvement with Census outreach and subdivision and land development reviews has continued without interruption. She expressed satisfaction in the Census marketing campaign undertaken by the Census Complete Count Committee in Cambria County and anticipates a very positive response rate by the September 30th deadline.

With regard to LTAP, Ms. Sosko stated that fall and winter virtual classes and drop-in sessions have been marketed to Cambria County's 63 municipalities. She also noted that Hastings Borough officials have taken advantage of LTAP's technical assistance capabilities and recently met with a traffic expert regarding possible solutions to speeding issues within the borough.

Senior Planner

Ms. Kinka stated that she continues her involvement with Vision Together 2025 and is participating in the Equity and Inclusivity subcommittee. 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. Ms. Kinka reported on the Neighborhood Development Committee and Neighborhood Pride subcommittee efforts to identify public spaces infrastructure which could provide appropriate and visible canvases for public/street art. She noted that the river walls and the retaining wall near Washington Street and Point Stadium have been identified as possible canvas sites.

Ms. Kinka apprised the members of on-going implementation activities pertaining to the market-rate housing strategy, *Elevate Johnstown*. She stated that in addition to conversations with local developers and stakeholders interested in participating in a pilot residential project, she participated in a walking tour/site visit with an investment group which will soon be starting a residential rehab project in downtown Johnstown.

Ms. Kinka reported that staff work efforts continue on the update to the bicycle/pedestrian plan, *Connecting Cambria*. She noted that Johnstown's Complete Streets Policy has been adopted by City Council and will positively impact the future of bicycling as a mode of transportation within the City.

Noting that there was no Old Business or New Business on today's agenda, Mr. Wolf inquired if anyone in attendance had any other business they wished to discuss at this meeting. There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.