

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
March 16, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Melissa Komar, Chair, called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar
Debra Orner
Danea Koss
Ron Rovansek
Lisa Mays
Diane Waksmunski
Mark Bucci
Charlie Koren

ABSENT

Russ Kiel

STAFF

Colleen A. Bukowski
Shanna Sosko
Jacob Zerby

GUESTS

Commissioner Thomas Chernisky
Jerry Parisi, former CCPC Employee

Ms. Komar welcomed Dr. Koren to the Commission Board of Directors. She noted that the County Commissioners appointed Dr. Koren to represent Planning Region 3, filling Eric Wolf's unexpired term on the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Komar adjourned the meeting for an Executive Session to discuss personnel and the current staff vacancy. The regular meeting was reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

At this time, members and staff discussed a scheduling conflict with the next regularly scheduled CCPC meeting (April 20, 2023). There was a general consensus among those present that the April meeting be rescheduled for the last week of April on a day that a majority of the members are available to attend the meeting. Mr. Allison stated that he and staff will reschedule and properly advertise the meeting change.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski, the minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The March Financial Statement was read by Mr. Allison and reviewed by those present. There were no questions or comments on the report as presented. Mr. Allison requested that, in addition to approving the Treasurer's Report, the board consider approving staff attendance at the American Planning Association's National Planning Conference to be held in Philadelphia in late March. Several members commented that staff education is important to sound and progressive planning and there was a consensus among those present that staff be permitted to attend the national conference. Ms. Mays made a motion that the March Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment and expenses associated with staff attendance at the APA conference, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovansek and passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Allison reported that Commission staff has met with PennDOT and CamTran staff to discuss funding for a feasibility study on proposed renovations to the Main Street Transit Center. He noted that supplemental funding through the Commission's current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be sought to fund the study.

Noting his attendance at the Southern Alleghenies Planning Advisory Committee, Mr. Allison reported that a market rate housing study and a greenways plan update, both encompassing the six-county region, were discussed. He also commented that the Southern Alleghenies Mini-Grant program is accepting applications for projects that bolster/maintain the region's bicycle and pedestrian mobility and infrastructure, as well as projects that conserve natural resources and expand recreation opportunities within the six-county area.

Mr. Allison provided a status and schedule update regarding the Red Mill Bridge Replacement project. He reported that environmental permits have been approved by the appropriate federal agencies, permitting comments submitted by DEP have been addressed and submitted for continued DEP review and approval, and structural plans have been submitted to PA DOT for review and approval. Mr. Allison noted that construction activities cannot be initiated prior to June because the North Branch of Blacklick Creek is a Pennsylvania trout stream. Mr. Allison stated that staff involvement has recently been focused on easement approvals and property acquisition. In response to a question regarding the contracting process, Mr. Allison stated that bid documents and the construction contract for this project will be handled through the County Commissioners' office.

Transportation

Mr. Zerby reported that transportation activities have focused on the Long-Range Transportation Plan update, participation in the William Penn Avenue Corridor Plan stakeholder meeting, coordination activities for the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) meeting and bylaws update, and involvement with easement and compensation discussions regarding the Red Mill Bridge.

Mr. Zerby apprised the members that he participated in a meeting to discuss the development of a connector spur from the 9/11 Memorial Trail to Tunnelhill Borough. He indicated that a framework is being developed to

determine how best to move forward to develop a connector between the borough the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site/Lemon House property as well as the eventual 9/11 trail.

Community Development

Reporting that the William Penn Avenue Corridor Plan was presented to community stakeholders and the Cambria County MPO, Ms. Sosko noted that the plan was well received at both meetings. She stated that a public meeting has been scheduled for March 22, 2023 to present the finalized plan to residents of the Prospect neighborhood. Ms. Sosko indicated that discussions continue regarding several projects set forth in the study, i.e., pollinator garden, solar lighting. She also noted that funding considerations through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (CFA) to implement suggested projects are also continuing.

Noting her continued review of municipal subdivision plans, Ms. Sosko stated that development of a car wash is being planned along Route 22 in Cambria Township. She reported that during the past month she has also provided several land use letters for various DEP permits throughout the county and letters of support for numerous projects seeking state grant funding.

The Community Development Planner apprised the members of upcoming LTAP classes and stated that every municipality in the County has been provided information on the next training class which will be held on March 30, 2023. She noted that this class will review laws governing posting and bonding requirements. For the benefit of the newer members of the Commission, Ms. Sosko explained that the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is a program offered by PennDOT to provide municipal employees and elected officials various training opportunities regarding street and road maintenance and safety techniques. These courses are free for the municipalities to attend.

Ms. Sosko stated that going forward she will be the Commission liaison between the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, the WOD consulting firm, and developer Mike Artim, with regard to the market rate housing project in downtown Johnstown.

NEW BUSINESS

With no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Ms. Mays. The motion passed unanimously.