

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
April 25, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, April 25, 2023, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Melissa Komar, Chair, called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar  
Debra Orner  
Diane Waksmunski  
Charlie Koren

ABSENT

Russ Kiel  
Danea Koss  
Ron Rovanseck  
Lisa Mays  
Mark Bucci

STAFF

Christopher Allison  
Colleen A. Bukowski  
Shanna Sosko  
Jacob Zerby

GUESTS

Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

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 12:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Waksmunski, seconded by Dr. Koren, the minutes of the March 16, 2023 meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Allison read the April Financial Statement, noting that all payments under the 2020-21 Unified Planning Work Program have been received and that the contract has been closed. After review of the report by those present, Ms. Orner made a motion that the April Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Koren and passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Allison reported that Commission staff coordinated and participated in a kick-off meeting for the Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan wherein federal, state, and local stakeholders discussed scope of work, scheduling timeline, and budget for the plan. He noted that Commission staff has also initiated development of a funding proposal for the

feasibility study relative to proposed renovations to the Main Street Transit Center. The proposal will be submitted to PennDOT for review and consideration.

The Executive Director noted that he continues to work closely with the Commission's Transportation Planner, acclimating him to responsibilities associated with the Long Range Transportation Plan update, as well as other transportation work efforts funded through the Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Allison indicated that Mr. Zerby has also been apprised of staff activities pertaining to the County bridge program.

Providing an update on the Red Mill Bridge Replacement project, Mr. Allison reported that right-of-way/property acquisition has been completed and bid opening for the construction phase of the project is anticipated in mid-May. He explained that once a bid is awarded, a notice to proceed will be issued, with construction anticipated to begin in June. Commissioner Chernisky stated that the Red Mill Bridge project, along with 9 other structurally-insufficient bridges, were rehabilitated/constructed using federal Act 89 funds. The Commissioner commented that the Red Mill Bridge replacement required a collaborative effort among federal, state, and local agencies/individuals and he commended CCPC staff for their efforts in coordinating the project from initiation to fruition.

Mr. Allison stated that the 2021-2022 CCPC audit has been completed by BarnesSaly & Company, P.C. and will be distributed to Commission members prior to the May meeting. He noted that acceptance of the audit will be an action item on the May agenda.

#### Transportation

Reporting on transportation planning activities during March, Mr. Zerby stated that he began prioritization of candidate projects submitted by various municipalities with regard to the 2025 Transportation Improvement Plan. He reported that his participation in several webinars focusing on electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging stations has provided a better understanding of the environmental impact this initiative is expected to have on transportation planning and how Cambria County can be better prepared to apply for funds to promote and implement these types of projects. Mr. Zerby also noted his attendance at the following meetings: workshop with Tunnelhill Borough Council regarding plans for a connector spur from the 9/11 Memorial Trail, permitting and design meeting regarding the Red Mill Bridge project, and the most recent LTAP class.

Mr. Zerby commented on his positive experience at the APA National Conference, particularly his participation in seminars relating to electric and autonomous vehicles. In response to a question by Dr. Koren regarding responsibility for the infrastructure and electric supply, Mr. Zerby explained that various infrastructure models have been developed which include free charging, charging costs offset through advertising; private/corporate owned facilities which charge a user fee; and public/private partnerships.

#### Community Development

Ms. Sosko informed the members that the final draft of the William Penn Avenue Corridor Plan has been reviewed by stakeholders, community members, and PennDOT. She stated that once crash data presented in the plan has been updated, the plan will be finalized with copies made available to interested individuals.

Providing a brief update on the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (CFA) grant, Ms. Sosko stated that indoor demolition activities have been initiated for the Market-Rate Housing Pilot Project. The project site is the former Penn Highlands Building located on Main Street in downtown Johnstown.

Ms. Sosko reported that she recently attended the following meetings: presentation which provided an update on the Johnstown branding initiative and the Johnstown Main Street Greenway project; Senate Transportation Committee Public Hearing on the State of Aviation in Pennsylvania; and the "Posting and Bonding of Local Roads" LTAP class.

Ms. Sosko apprised those present of various sessions she participated in while attending the APA National Planning Conference. She explained that sessions she attended focused on residential adaptive reuse to promote affordable housing; land use and zoning; and revitalization of distressed cities. Ms. Sosko stated that information shared at the conference was insightful and provided strategies for innovative planning.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Allison commented that the final draft of the William Penn Avenue Corridor Plan will be presented at the May CCPC meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Noting that improved broadband service was identified as a top priority in the Southern Alleghenies Regional Comprehensive Plan, Commissioner Chernisky provided a brief update on broadband infrastructure and improved service throughout the County. He commented that over 90% of Cambria County residents now have access to internet service and efforts to provide coverage in the rural areas of the county are constantly improving.

Commenting on other optimistic initiatives in the County, Commissioner Chernisky spoke of the positive economic impacts of the John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport and apprised the members of upcoming aviation educational opportunities soon to be afforded to both college and high school students. The Commissioner also apprised the members of an upcoming forum scheduled by the Pennsylvania Office of Outdoor Recreation to provide an opportunity for the state director to meet with local government leaders, community members, nonprofits, and volunteers to discuss the area's outdoor recreation and its connection to economic development.

#### NEW BUSINESS

With no additional business to discuss, Chairwoman Komar adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.