

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
September 21, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Melissa Komar, Chair, called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar
Ron Rovanseck
Russ Kiel
Mark Bucci
Debra Orner
Charlie Koren

ABSENT

Danea Koss
Lisa Mays
Diane Waksmunski

STAFF

Colleen Bukowski
Shanna Sosko
Jacob Zerby

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairwoman Komar adjourned the meeting for an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The regular meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Koren made a motion that the minutes of the August 17, 2023 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kiel and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Noting that the September Financial Statement had been provided to all members prior to the meeting, Ms. Komar called for a motion to approve the statement. On a motion by Mr. Bucci, seconded by Dr. Koren, the September Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORTS

Transportation

Mr. Zerby, Transportation Planner, provided an update on coordination activities pertaining to the County bridge inspection and maintenance program. Mr. Zerby reported that a deficiency letter was

received from the County's bridge inspection engineer pertaining to the Van Ormer Bridge and a downed tree in the stream. He noted that in an effort to remediate the situation he has contacted several contractors requesting quotes to remove the fallen tree and accumulated debris from the stream bed. With regard to the Red Mill Bridge Replacement Project, Mr. Zerby reported that the project is progressing on schedule with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony planned for November 1, 2023. In response to several questions by Dr. Koren regarding a trailhead to the Ghost Town Trail, which is at the site of the Red Mill Bridge, Mr. Zerby explained that coordination with the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority (CCCRA) has been ongoing throughout the replacement project. Mr. Zerby stated that he will contact the CCCRA Director to ascertain how the parking area will be finalized and how original stone abutments from the bridge will be used at the trailhead.

Mr. Zerby stated that in addition to coordinating the most recent MPO meeting, he provided a presentation on the Transportation Improvement Program at the meeting. With regard to development of the Long Range Transportation Plan update, Mr. Zerby reported that a public outreach survey is being developed by the consultant. He explained that Commission staff will be instrumental in disseminating this survey so as to garner information from individuals, businesses, and students relative to all modes of transportation needs within the county.

Mr. Zerby stated that he developed a general scope of work for the design and construction of the Prospect Neighborhood Pollinator Garden and sent a request for proposals to seventeen landscapers/lawn & garden enterprises. Having received no responses or general interest inquiries, Mr. Zerby questioned whether additional enterprises outside Cambria County should be contacted. Ms. Komar stated that she will assist in coordinating development of the project as a community volunteer project. Mr. Zerby stated that he will again contact a member of the Penn State Master Gardeners Program who has been very helpful in assisting with design suggestions, plant selection, and planting guidance, to assist with finalization and implementation of the garden.

Mr. Zerby and Ms. Sosko apprised the members of a planning meeting they attended to discuss development of a on-road/off-road trail which would encircle Prince Gallitzin State Park. Mr. Zerby commented that the project will be a joint venture among park officials, PennDOT personnel, and adjacent municipal representatives. Ms. Sosko noted that although the project is in the preliminary stages of development, early coordination is a positive first step. She stated that CCPC staff has offered assistance with GIS mapping for the project.

Community Development

Ms. Sosko reported that staff participated in a call with other local planners and PennDOT staff to discuss vulnerable road users, i.e., pedestrians and cyclists. She stated that PennDOT staff presented crash data for Cambria County and identified areas that are most dangerous for vulnerable users, specifically the downtown area of Johnstown. Ms. Sosko noted that CCPC staff will continue to participate in and foster further bicycle/pedestrian safety and planning initiatives.

Ms. Sosko reported that staff has initiated HPMS monitoring activities funded through the current Unified Planning Work Program. She explained that under this work task, Planning Commission staff conducts field investigations on sample sections of state highways to verify and update roadway inventory and performance measures in accordance with PennDOT specifications.

Ms. Sosko stated that during the past month she has reviewed several residential subdivision/lot merger plans and of particular note was a subdivision plan for the State Theatre on Main Street in the City of Johnstown. She explained that this plan, which separates the theatre structure and the residential lot, is consistent with the land use goals of the County Comprehensive Plan.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Bucci, seconded by Dr. Koren. Motion passed unanimously.