

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
January 20, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Wolf called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Eric Wolf  
James White  
Diane Waksmundski  
Lonnie Batdorf  
Ron Rovanseck  
Debra Orner

ABSENT

Russ Kiel  
Rev. Sylvia King  
Danea Koss

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff  
Christopher D. Allison  
Katie Kinka  
Shanna Sosko

GUESTS

John DeBartola  
WJAC-TV News Reporter

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, Johnstown, PA presented comments on a Vision Together 2025 discussion topic which was reported by Mr. Imhoff at the November CCPC meeting. Mr. DeBartola quoted a paragraph from the CCPC November Minutes regarding Afghan refugees. Mr. DeBartola stated that he had spoken with Michael Tedesco, Vision 2025 CEO, with regard to this topic as well. Mr. DeBartola stated that he has submitted a Right to Know Request to the CCPC requesting records and correspondence regarding this issue.

Mr. Wolf acknowledged Mr. DeBartola's comments, stating that Mr. DeBartola was welcome to attend the remainder of the meeting; however, no further discussion on this topic will be held.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Batdorf, the minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Imhoff read the January Financial Statement, noting revenue and expenditures for the past month. There being no questions or comments on the report, Ms. Waksmundski made a motion that the January Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovanseck and passed unanimously.

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

Noting that he has accepted an employment offer with the City of Johnstown as City Manager, Mr. Imhoff stated that his last day as Executive Director of the Commission will be January 28, 2022. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the CCPC members and staff, the County Commissioners, and the residents of Cambria County for the opportunity to serve in this capacity over the past 10 years. Mr. Imhoff stated that he is proud of the Commission's accomplishments completed during his with the CCPC and hopes to see the spirit of cooperation and collaboration exemplified by public, private, non-profit, and governmental entities continue well into the future.

Mr. Wolf, along with the other members present, expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Imhoff for his leadership, forward-thinking, and dedication to Cambria County residents and elected officials. Members cited several noteworthy accomplishments spearheaded by Mr. Imhoff and offered congratulations on his continued success as City Manager.

### Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison reported that to further the update of the 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), he has met with PennDOT District 9-0 and Central Office staff to review the draft document. He explained that increased transportation funding has been made available through enactment of the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

In other transportation-related

**2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** The Transportation Planner continued coordination with PennDOT in the development of the 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update. A meeting was held with PennDOT District 9-0 and Central Office staff on January 19<sup>th</sup>, to review the latest version of the draft TIP, which was updated to include additional projects resulting from increased funding through the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The draft was approved by the Cambria County MPO Technical and Coordinating Committees at their January 24, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Allison reported that staff has begun formulating a draft of the William Penn Avenue Corridor Plan. He [William Penn Ave. Corridor Plan](#)

The Transportation Planner completed meeting notes for the November stakeholder meeting, and distributed them to the meeting attendees. Staff met on January 13, 2022 to discuss next steps.

Providing an update on current transportation activities, Mr. Allison briefly discussed HPMS work activities, noting that twenty-one roadway sample sections were selected and field-viewed. He stated that two sections required changes which were submitted to PennDOT central office HPMS staff. The Transportation Planner also reported that development of the 2022-24 Unified Planning Work Program, which provides transportation funding to the CCPC from the Federal Highway Administration, has been completed and submitted to PennDOT and FHWA for review and comment.

With regard to the William Penn Avenue Corridor project, Mr. Allison stated that, pursuant to comments and concerns garnered at a Steering Committee meeting held in November, staff will begin formulating a draft of the plan. He noted that he anticipates that a draft document will be completed within the first quarter of 2022.

Apprising the members of the Red Mill Bridge emergency removal situation, Mr. Allison reported that Wrought Iron Bridge Works was awarded the contract to remove the structure. He stated that removal work has been initiated and activities in support of the Section 106 historic preservation process continue.

#### Community Development

Ms. Sosko discussed several subdivision/land development plans recently submitted to the Commission for review and comment. She stated that Jackson Township Supervisors submitted a subdivision plan for a 60-acre lot to be used as a KOEZ site in the Township's Laurel Ridge Business Park. Ms. Sosko also apprised the members of pending Dollar General plans in Gallitzin, Stonycreek, and Washington Townships.

Ms. Sosko stated that she participated in an on-line focus group discussion hosted by the Conemaugh Health System about accessibility to the outdoors for people with disabilities. Noting that the participants included adults with disabilities, advocates, and community leaders, Ms. Sosko stated that discussions provided an opportunity for staff to learn how to better include accessibility in future bike/ped planning and asset mapping.

Ms. Sosko reported that in an effort to generate interest and to encourage participation in updating the Portage Regional Comprehensive Plan, CCPC staff met with Portage and Cassandra Borough elected officials to discuss the project.

#### Senior Planning

Ms. Kinka stated that in addition to participation in telephone conversations with stakeholders invested in executing the pilot housing project, she also facilitated a meeting with City and County project stakeholders to discuss available public funding to support the project. She explained that topics of discussion focused on specific eligibility requirements of existing public monies and the specific build out plans of the pilot project, including potential dollars invested per new unit.

Ms. Kinka reported that she continues to coordinate and encourage municipal participation in development of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. She stated that the Local Planning Team members have discussed the compilation results of the risk factor assessment tool, the pre-release of the community preparedness survey, and the goals and objectives of the 2016 plan for revision and incorporation into the current update. She stated that a key point discussed by the planning team members is the need to identify/develop a clearinghouse location for all hazard mitigation information.

With no "Old Business" or "New Business" on the agenda, Mr. Wolf adjourned the meeting.

