

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 2021

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson (phone), Fred Peckham (phone), David Dean (phone), Jim Greier, Jeff Dexter, Al Henry, Aaron Robinson, Susan Sullivan

Committee Members Absent:

Staff: Laurie Ramie, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas

NPS Partners: Cody Hendrix- Community & Land Use Planner (phone)

Guests: Roger Saumure- Shohola Township Alternate, Kerry Engelhardt

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Approval of the September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes: A motion by Robinson seconded by Henry to approve the September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes carried.

Resources and Land Use Specialist Update: No report during Resources and Land Use Specialist vacancy. Ramie said actionable and informational items will be brought up on the rest of the agenda.

Old Business

UDC Consulting Services Agreement for Project Review and Substantial Conformance Tasks with Shepstone Management Co. Executed on 10/11/21: Ramie said these are the same terms from the UDC Consulting Services Agreement for Project Review and Substantial Conformance Tasks with Shepstone Management Co. that we had in January 2020 during the six-month vacancy so no review projects fell through the cracks. Ramie provided a copy of the executed 10/11 Agreement in the meeting packet.

10/21 NPS Funding Approval for UDC TAG 2022-01: Town of Tusten, \$4,700: Ramie is pleased to announce that Superintendent Salvatore got back to her on 10/21 and relayed that Contracting Officer Patrick Reidy at NPS Regional approved the use of Federal Funding for that one Technical Assistant Grant (TAG) application that we had received. Ramie will send out a news release announcing the grant project.

NPS Follow-up: Land Use Complaint 2021-11: Tow Path Road, Lumberland: Hendrix said he did hear back from the Army Corps of Engineers and they said Land Use Complaint 2021-11 would have minimal impact and they are ok with it. Ramie said, in hearing that, Land Use Complaint 2021-11 is now considered closed.

NPS 9/16 Memo: UDC Definition of Substantial Conformance: Ramie said this is an item that Salvatore asked the committee to bring up again. Hendrix relayed that at the 11/4 full Council meeting Salvatore will be doing a brief on this issue with the outcome from the Solicitor's Office. Dexter said he hopes the Solicitor reads the definition of "substantial" in the dictionary. Henry asked if Salvatore has the opinion that it be forwarded to UDC before the 11/4 meeting so there's no shock and UDC has a better idea of what they are talking about, saying that's open communication. Hendrix said he would talk with Salvatore about those concerns and see if it's possible to send out ahead of the full Council meeting.

Other: None.

New Business

Land Use Complaint 2021-13: Wetlands Disturbance, Town of Tusten: Ramie said the complainant stopped by the office to raise the issue of a wetlands disturbance in the Town of Tusten. Ramie filled out the initial log form and attached an article that had been published in the *River Reporter* on this subject which goes into a lot more detail. Ramie asked the complainant what action he was interested in having the UDC take on this. This matter has been pursued on a legal level as well as the Town of Tusten and NYS DEC. The complainant was initially interested in

coming to this meeting to discuss the complaint with the committee but had a conflict with this meeting time. Ramie invited him to a future Project Review committee meeting. Ramie said you now have this information to review in the meantime. Sullivan said the barricade across the road doesn't directly affect the wetlands but it does affect the neighbors. She said the Town has basically taken their road back. She said she was at the Town meeting where the wetlands status was confirmed. Ramie confirmed that the property is in the river corridor. Peckham said NYS DEC kind of frowns upon beaver ponds and beaver dams because if/when they break, they incur a lot of property damage. Richardson said since it's in the river corridor UDC will likely make a statement at some point. He asked members to review the complaint and the news article to help decide if UDC will speak on this and what we will say.

Racing Recreational Vehicles Complaint in Non-participating Township to NPS: Ramie was contacted by NPS Chief Ranger Keith Winslow who had emailed her that an issue had been brought to his attention. There was an emailed complaint to NPS from a property owner on Grocery Hill Road in Equinunk. The complainant reported there was illegal traffic in Equinunk Village. Police are not responding to calls about ATV and four-wheelers racing through the area at all time of day and night. These are recreation vehicles all along the Upper Delaware Scenic Region in PA. The complainant said they have no law and order in this village and asked for help. Winslow wanted UDC to know that he is looking into the situation to investigate whether the vehicles are impacting the river or the highwater mark. Winslow said he would have no jurisdiction if they are riding on the roads in the Township. Ramie said this is occurring in a non-participating Township and non-participating Townships unfortunately do not get our help; that is part of the incentive of being a member of the UDC. Henry noted that the only law enforcement in Equinunk is the State Police. Richardson said if the ATV and four-wheelers are not running on the roads but on private property, that becomes a Township and a private property owners' issue. Richardson agreed with Ramie's statement and said the committee will keep an eye on the issue.

National Parks Conservation Association/Shippensburg University Visualization Project: Ramie said this project is just in the beginning stages. National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has done a lot of work with the UDC and they are now working with Shippensburg University on a visualization project. Dr. Claire Jantz, who UDC has experience with in creating the Upper Delaware GIS Mapping Tool and other projects, is going to create 2-D and 3-D imagery depicting what a full build-out of the existing zoning would look like in the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor. Their goal in creating these images is to educate about the need for appropriate scale and scope of development within the river corridor, centered on the Land and Water Use Guidelines. They plan to focus on four municipalities as case studies and asked UDC for opinions on which were most appropriate. Ramie, Hendrix, and former UDC Resource and Land Use Specialist Shannon Cilento suggested where a lot of activity has been going on commercially and developmentally are the Towns of Tusten, Highland and Delaware in NY. For PA they suggested Damascus, Lackawaxen and Shohola Townships. Those are the largest population centers and therefore prone to the most development happening. Ramie said it's NPCA and Shippensburg University's call on what they ultimately select. Ramie asked what the timetable was for the project she was told it would begin right after the new year and wrap up by May 2022. NPCA said they will keep UDC posted on this project. Dexter hopes with their GIS program and the full build out they can include ground conditions like steep slopes and wetlands, etc.

Other: Ramie said that Cilento provided a Transition Document which shows the status of the various projects she was working on and that will be very handy for the next individual that takes that position. We are thankful for the organized way she kept her files.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A Motion by Henry, seconded by Greier, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas, 10/27/2021