

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2017

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Harold Roeder, Jr., Jeff Dexter, Alan Henry, Aaron Robinson, Fred Peckham, Jim Greier, Debra Conway, David Dean,
Committee Members Absent: Susan Sullivan
NPS Partner: Carla Hahn
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Pete Golod
Guests: Richard Eckersley, Roger Saumure

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to approve the October 24 meeting minutes was made by Henry, seconded by Conway and carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report:

Project Review Update

New York

Town of Tusten: Golod reported that the National Park Service has concluded that the four reviewed Zoning Ordinance Amendments: Camping Local Law #1-2016; Zoning Law #4-2017; Subdivision #5-2017; Solar Energy System #6-2017 for the Town, substantially conform in regard to the Land and Water Use Guidelines. A copy of the letter from Northeast Region Regional Director Gay Vietzke was provided in members' packets.

Town of Highland: Golod said on November 1 he completed a review for site plan approval for the construction of five accessory use buildings at Camp Tel Yehudah in Barryville, NY. He noted that a document packet was sent via email to committee members for advance review. Golod said upon his review, it was determined that the proposed project did not meet the threshold of a Class II Significant Project. A draft letter to the Town of Highland stating this conclusion was included in members' packets and approval will be addressed during New Business, he added.

Pennsylvania

Damascus Township: Golod noted that on October 27 he received a building permit for a 900 square foot garage on River Road. The garage did not meet the threshold of a Class II Significant Project review. A copy of the November 2 letter to the Township Zoning & Code Officer notifying him of such was included in members' packets.

FY 2018 TAG Update: Golod stated that on October 27 he drafted and submitted letters to the supervisors of Berlin Township, Damascus Township and the Town of Tusten informing them that their projects were approved for funding by the UDC on October 5, but that the National Park Service is currently evaluating the proposed FY 2018 Technical Assistance Grants to rule whether the use of federal funds is appropriate. Once this determination is made, notification will be issued to those supervisors.

Millennium Pipeline Project: Golod reported that the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit has intervened between New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issuing an emergency stay on FERC's "Notice to Proceed with Construction" to Millennium Pipeline. The stay temporarily halts Millennium's construction on the 7.8-mile Valley Lateral Pipeline.

Resource Specialist's Report:

- Golod said that he and NPS Management Assistant Carla Hahn continued working towards a Project Review Guide final draft on November 2, 9, and 16.
- On October 25, November 1, and November 9, Golod attended and completed the three-session Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute course in sub-division and land development (SALDO). He said a report has been included in members' packets.
- Golod said he attended the 4th Stream Corridor Restoration Management Plan meeting hosted by the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition (UDRTC) in Hancock, NY on November 15. At the request of the Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR), he reviewed the Draft Stream Corridor Management Plan and submitted comments to the UDRTC. A verbal report was made to the WURM Committee on November 21.
- Golod reported that he completed GEOG 483: Problem Solving with GIS, the second course of the Penn State World Campus GIS Certificate Program, with a final total grade average of 91%.

Conway asked what the status is of the Town of Highland's zoning re-write that the Council funded with a \$10,000 Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) in 2017. Golod said he provided an update at last month's Project Review meeting that the Town is back in the re-write process with the first edition of the draft being reviewed by consultants, the Laberge Group. He does not have any further update. Conway questioned if the submission of a draft document satisfies the requirements of the TAG program. Ramie said that the contracted work has to be performed, but the zoning does not have to be approved in order for the funds to be released. Henry suggested that Golod check the contract for the Town of Highland Zoning Law Update to review the fulfillment terms and that Conway check with the Town regarding the status of the update.

Old Business

Status of FY 2018 Technical Assistance Grants: Ramie stated that the NPS required the UDC to submit a budget addendum outlining the three projects that the UDC had chosen to award TAG funding to for 2018, which was done on October 10th. At this point, no TAG contracts have been awarded as we wait for completion of the review and approval that federal funds can be used for the awarded projects. Ramie shared a comment from the Northeast Regional Contracting Office regarding project completion timelines for the TAG program which suggests it could extend beyond the fiscal year for the completion of work, contrary to the UDC's past guidance. She said an additional comment asked about the relevance of Berlin Township's proposal to do an inventory of road signs to the River Management Plan. Ramie said she has requested an official ruling so that we can respond appropriately. A discussion about funding and project timelines took place. Henry shared his thoughts on the Berlin Township project noting that public safety is the premise behind it. Ramie said she intends to send a letter to the NPS Northeast Region Grants Management Specialist requesting an official response to the UDC's budget addendum seeking approval of using federal funds to support the three UDC-awarded FY 2018 Technical Assistance Grants projects in order to advise the applicants whether they can begin work. Henry suggested that TAG funding be one of the topics addressed with the Superintendent at the December 9 informal workshop session. Richardson asked about the other two TAG applicants proceeding with their projects. Ramie said she is reluctant to have them move forward at this point without funding firmly in place.

Emergency Phones Update: Ramie noted that when the meetings take place with our federal and state elected officials, the topic of improving public communication in cell phone dead zones is being brought up to inform legislators of this problem.

Project Review Guides Update: Golod said this issue was addressed during his Discussion Items Report.

Letter to NPS: UDC Letter of Interpretation (1): Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Systems: Ramie said this October 24 letter was distributed electronically after last month's Project Review Committee meeting. This letter to NPS Upper Delaware Superintendent Heister proposes to incorporate the conclusions of the "Position Paper on Select Utility Scale Renewable Energy Systems: Solar, Wind, Geothermal and Hydropower" into the Land and Water Use Guidelines of the River Management Plan

through a Letter of Interpretation. Heister had said she would forward the letter to the NPS Solicitor to seek an opinion. We await a response.

Other: Peckham stated that the DRBC is soon to release their revised regulations for natural gas development. He suggested that the UDC's review of these regulations be initiated in the Project Review Committee and provided his reasons. Ramie said this topic is one that straddles multiple committees. Richardson said he feels the topic of natural gas development regulations is more appropriate for the Project Review Committee. Other members agreed.

New Business

Letter to Town of Highland: Application for Site Plan Review and Building Permit – Camp Tel

Yehudah: Golod said this letter states that the project does not meet the threshold of a Class II Significant Project Review. Henry asked if there are any sewer concerns. Golod said there is no plumbing involved. A motion to approve the letter was made by Henry, seconded by Robinson and carried.

Letter to Damascus Township: Detached Garage on 756 River Road: Golod said this issue was addressed during his Discussion Items Report.

NPS Response: Town of Tusten Zoning Amendments Substantial Conformance Review: Golod said this issue was addressed during his Discussion Items Report.

Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI): Subdivision and Land: Golod said a written report of the course was provided in members' packets for their information.

Other: Richardson noted that he received from the Town of Cochection updated pages for the Town's Code book to give to the Council to ensure the information is current. He said he was pleased that his Town was proactive with this. He suggested any Towns with code books should provide updated information to the Council.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Peckham to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 12/5/17