

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2015

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Debra Conway, David Dean, Aaron Robinson, Jeff Dexter, Al Henry, Nadia Rajs, Harold Roeder, Jr., Fred Peckham
Committee Members Absent: Susan Sullivan
NPS Partner: Kris Heister
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Travis O'Dell
Guests: Andy Boyar (6:36 p.m.), Pat Jeffer (6:55 p.m.)

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairman Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

A motion to approve the November 24 meeting minutes was made by Peckham, seconded by Conway and carried with Rajs abstaining. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report

Project Review Update

Town of Fremont: O'Dell referred to an email from Heather Jacksy of Sullivan County Planning provided in members' packets. The email summarizes the most recent events involving the Long Eddy access in the Town of Fremont. No UDC action is required at this time, he stated.

Town of Tusten: O'Dell reported that the Town of Tusten held a public hearing on December 8th for the purpose of regulating campgrounds and campsites, as well as the use and storage of recreational vehicles within the Town. O'Dell believes the intention of the zoning amendment is to capture temporary campers. O'Dell said he can provide the language to anyone interested. The standards of the proposed local law directly correlate with the Land and Water Use Guidelines.

Lackawaxen Township: O'Dell noted that the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on December 16th to amend Section 504, Signs, of their zoning ordinance. The legal notice described simple changes to the title, emergency services signage, and making the sign performance standards applicable to all non-residential uses. O'Dell said he awaits a requested copy of the proposed ordinance.

Shohola Township: O'Dell said the second draft substantial conformance review for Shohola Township's proposed Zoning Ordinance No. 79 will be discussed under Old Business.

Pond Eddy Bridge: O'Dell reported that emergency repair work started December 8th and will continue through the second week of January. The work schedule will be 6 days a week weather permitting. It will take approximately one day per bay and then at least 3 – 5 days to switch from span 1 to span 2.

Skinnners Falls Bridge: O'Dell noted the 114-year-old Skinnners Falls Bridge, which spans the Delaware River between the Sullivan County Town of Cohecton and Wayne County, Pa., will be closed indefinitely, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. An inspection revealed that the bridge's suspension wires were twisted and out of line, making the bridge unsafe to carry vehicles. Richardson said he hopes that bridge is still not closed at the same time they plan to work on the Narrowsburg Bridge. Ramie noted the Narrowsburg Bridge is the designated detour for the Skinnners Falls Bridge.

FY 2016 TAG Program

O'Dell reported that he has now received all of the signed TAG contracts. Heister questioned if Damascus Township's TAG project, "Compile, generate and distribute emergency action educational material", will be available to other towns and townships upon completion. O'Dell responded that he feels the reason state

law delegates the emergency response to the township is because it's a very local level. Damascus Township has certain evacuation centers and routes in place and certain individuals with specified responsibilities. Ramie said Damascus' plan will be specific to them, but can certainly be used as a model for other towns and townships.

Robinson asked O'Dell if he has heard any dollar amount for the repairs currently being made to the Pond Eddy Bridge. O'Dell said he has not.

New Business None

Old Business

Shohola Township Zoning Changes Substantial Conformance Review: O'Dell referred to the 2nd Draft Report for Shohola Township's Substantial Conformance Review of Proposed Zoning Ordinance No. 79 along with the corresponding pages of the draft ordinance provided in members' packets. He noted that a page by page review was conducted last meeting and as a result he made the suggested changes to pages 15, 17, and 26. He stated the action he is looking for is to forward the review on to the full Council for their recommendation. Richardson questioned if Shohola Township has accepted the amendments to the zoning ordinance. Robinson said the public hearing is scheduled for January. Richardson said it is his opinion that the committee should not be approving something that is labeled "draft". Dean suggested that a letter of acknowledgment that the review has been through the process here and no objections have been found to this point could be sent. Robinson stated the draft dated December 2015 could be approved. Boyar suggested that the draft could be approved "in concept". Ramie referred members to page 27 of the document under Conclusion where it states, "We recommend that Zoning Ordinance No. 79 be found in substantial conformance with the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River." She noted this is one of the reasons the Council needs to be addressing the Project Review procedures. O'Dell noted that ultimately it will go to the full Council which will make the recommendation to the National Park Service. The Park Service makes the final determination. Rajsz commented that changes to the document may come about as the result of the public hearing. Robinson said the Township would advise the Council of any changes. After more discussion, Henry made a motion to send a letter to Shohola Township with the Project Review Committee's conceptual approval of the changes to Draft Zoning Ordinance No. 79. The Committee will await the outcome of the Township's public hearing in January for the full Council to act on making a recommendation of substantial conformance for the National Park Service's determination. That motion was seconded by Peckham, a vote was taken and the motion carried. Richardson thanked O'Dell for his work.

Follow-ups on Telecommunication Services in the River Valley: Robinson said that he would like to be authorized by the committee to make some contacts and inquiries regarding alternative ways of communicating in the river valley. He noted there are some really innovative methods currently available. He spoke of some of that technology, noting that some of it is not very expensive. Committee members were all in agreement that Robinson could seek out this information on behalf of the Project Review Committee. He asked that the topic be kept on the agenda for further discussion. Heister reported that her staff is looking into the possibility of extending telecommunications services through the use of National Park Service existing infrastructure. A brief discussion about past, current, and future technology took place.

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Rajsz to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. was carried unanimously.