

**Upper Delaware Council**  
**PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 27, 2021**

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Fred Peckham, David Dean, Jim Greier, Al Henry, Aaron Robinson, Susan Sullivan  
Committee Members Absent: Jeff Dexter  
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Shannon Cilento, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas  
NPS Partners: Cody Hendrix- Community & Land Use Planner  
Guests: Liam Mayo- River Reporter

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Approval of the June 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** A motion by Greier seconded by Robinson to approve the June 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Resources and Land Use Specialist Update:**

**New York State Town Projects**

**Town of Tusten:** Cilento shared that the Planning Board had a meeting on Tuesday, 7/20 and reviewed the Feagles Lake Subdivision plans. This project has evolved slightly with a revised subdivision plan with which the Town of Tusten Planning Board was happier than previous versions. Cilento attended the Planning Board Zoom meeting on 5/17 as the updated plans were presented. The developer moved forward with more refined plans now that the Board gave preliminary go-ahead on lot configuration. More finalized plans were presented at the 7/20 Planning Board meeting but Cilento could not attend due to conflicting time with WU/RM. She will follow up with Planning Board Chair Ed Jackson to get information and updates and await submission from the Town for substantial conformance review.

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Projects**

**Wayne County:** The Wayne County Planning Commission Annual Report revealed that 2020 had a slight decrease in subdivision and land development applications as compared to 2019. Submissions were the lowest March through May 2020, while applications picked up in the second half of the year. With respect to the river corridor, Damascus Township had the highest number of applications for all of Wayne County, with 20 submitted; Berlin Township came in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 13 applications. Damascus also had the largest number of new lots created (10). Berlin again came in 3<sup>rd</sup> with four lots created.

**Lackawaxen Township:** Residents of Masthope Plank Road have been expressing concerns to the Township Board of Supervisors about truck traffic from Holbert Quarry which they claim violates the quarry's conditional use agreement. Residents have stated that trucks from the quarry have made up to 36 runs between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. recently. The UDC has received at least one call about the issue and during Riverfest a resident expressed concern to Cilento while she was tabling at the event.

**Pike County:** Cilento attended a stakeholder virtual kick-off meeting on 7/1 for the Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan update. She completed a stakeholder survey on behalf of the UDC with input from Aaron Robinson. Among the sections reviewed in the risk assessment update, "disease outbreak/pandemic" and "invasive species/harmful algal blooms" are included in addition to the usual sections such as flooding and winter storms. The draft is anticipated to be complete by Spring 2022. Cilento will continue to provide input where appropriate, and review the plan once drafted. Robinson said one of the things he's noticed about these organizations is that there seems to be a propensity to focus in on issues that are impossible for that group to act on. He feels if you take an issue that is so global and big, it's a waste of that organization's time. If you narrow it down to local stream and timber issues, for example, they are actionable.

**Project Review Workbook Rollout:** Since the Project Review Workbook 2.0 has been completed and posted on the UDC website, Cilento continues to attend municipal meetings to announce its release and implementation.

**Town/ship meetings attended as of 7/27:** Town of Tusten Planning Board; Town of Delaware Town Board; Damascus Township Board of Supervisors; Town of Hancock Town Board; Town of Lumberland Planning Board; Westfall Township Planning Commission; Shohola Twp. Planning Commission; Lackawaxen Twp. Board of Supervisors Community Workshop. Cilento is scheduled to attend the 8/25 Deerpark Planning Board meeting at 7 p.m. and the Cocheton Planning Board meeting on 8/26 at 7:30 p.m.

**Open Substantial Conformance Reviews:**

| Project ID  | Project Name              | Municipality | Action                        |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| UDC2020-005 | Feagles Lake Subdivision  | Tusten       | Class II – Site Plan Review   |
| UDC2021-007 | Narrowsburg Union Signage | Tusten       | Class II – Special Use Permit |
| UDC2021-008 | Great Pine Weiden         | Tusten       | Class II – Special Use Permit |

Cilento said we are waiting for NPS determination for Narrowsburg Union Signage and Great Pine Weiden. Hendrix said it was sent two weeks ago and he hopes to get a response this week.

**The FY 2021 (10/1/2020-9/30/2021) Technical Assistance Grant round will observe the following schedule:**

Friday, 8/20/2021, Grantees must complete their projects to the satisfaction of the Contract Criteria and submit a payment request to the UDC for reimbursement of allowable expenses. The Town of Tusten submitted all of the final documentation. Cilento has been in regular contact with Town of Delaware and they have almost completed their project. Cilento has reached out to Town of Hancock a few times and has not heard from them recently. Peckham said the Town of Hancock has been dealing with a lot of big projects right now. Cilento will reach out to them again and try to get a verbal update.

**Other:** Ramie said one item that came through the Upper Delaware Community Network was that a complaint had been filed with PennDOT because of overweight and oversized vehicles using State Route 10-17 (River Road). The person commenting on the Upper Delaware Community Network said he was traveling behind a box truck the other day and branches came down in front of him and it's causing serious erosion along the beginning of River Road. PennDOT sent them a quick reply saying they have notified the state police regarding the enforcement of the weight restriction on State Route 1017. PennDOT will also send an inspector to visit and document the condition of the road to determine if the trucks are damaging the road. Peckham asked if PA allows local traffic for construction jobs? Members said yes. Ramie said if you have any road condition concerns in PA, PennDOT has a Customer Care Center at [www.customercare.penndot.gov](http://www.customercare.penndot.gov). Their hotline is 1-800-FIX-ROAD.

**Old Business**

**Project Review Tasks from Five-Year Plan:** Cilento said, as with the Water Use/Resource Management Committee, Henry was our star student in getting back to staff with his edits on the Project Review tasks from the Five-Year Plan. Cilento asked members to take another month to review. If there are certain priorities or actionable items they may want to take action of or help facilitate let her know.

**Land Use Complaint 2021-007: Humphrey Road Clearing, Narrowsburg:** Cilento said this complaint is now closed. After the last Project Review meeting, she and Hendrix were able to go out with Code Enforcement Officer Jim Crowley and meet with the landowner. Crowley was using the term "garden" but the landowner is actually planting a personal orchard. It's less than an acre and not as steep a drop-off as it looks like from the road. The property owner seems responsible and will be replanting everything this fall. Cilento also followed up with the complainant and they were satisfied.

**NPS Findings on Upper Delaware Corridor Acreage History:** Ramie said after we completed our paper on how the acreage of the Upper Delaware Corridor was determined it was requested that Hendrix look into the archives of

the Denver Service Center to see if they can find the specific map or documentation. Hendrix said the Denver Service Center forwarded him to the Washington Office. He heard back from them at 3:30 p.m. today with a lot of documentation he has to review. They told him they are still trying to look for the map we're requesting. Hendrix received the documents via a link but he needs to use his credentials to access it. He will download the PDFs and send them out to members. Greier said there is no map; the acreage figure was a barter with the Citizens Advisory Council, NPS and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC).

**Other:** None.

**New Business**

**TAG 2021-01: Town of Tusten Project Completion Approval:** Cilento said that the Town of Tusten submitted for their reimbursement for their Technical Assistance Grant. The total project cost was \$11,956.25 and they are requesting the full \$9,000.00 reimbursement. They have fully adopted the Comprehensive Plan as of May. Cilento said the Town has complied with everything and they have a great new Comprehensive Plan. A Motion by Peckham seconded by Henry to approve the completion of Town of Tusten TAG 2021-01 carried.

**Land Use Complaint 2021-009: Hancock Riverfront Campsite, Hancock:** Cilento said we have two relatively benign Land Use Complaints this month that she followed up on that have subsequently been closed. Jeff Skelding from Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) had called, saying a few anglers reached out to him about development going on at the parcel just below the Bard Parker Access in Hancock which is the first parcel in the corridor. There were rumors that it was going to be a campground. Cilento asked the Hancock Code Enforcement Officer who said no permits were issued for the parcel but he was going to check with DEC. He went and reviewed the site and said all they have done was put in a good road, brought in a single trailer, moved some trails and knotweed, and planted some trees well away from the river. He spoke with DEC and reviewed his information and there are no violations. If they ever try to put in commercial camp sites with facilities, they will need building permits. At this time, he doesn't see an attempt to put in more than one camping trailer.

**Land Use Complaint 2021-010: Arrowhead Lane, Tusten:** Cilento received a call from a River Road resident who said there was some clearing and mowing at the end of Arrowhead Lane. She spoke with Jim Crowley and he informed her that is Dan Corrigan's Northeast Wilderness Experience property that he's just doing trails on and there's no formal application yet. When there is he will forward it to UDC. Henry said he spoke with Dan Corrigan and that property actually belongs to his brother, Devin Corrigan. Henry said Dan advised that they were just clearing Japanese Knotweed at the site.

**Other:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** A motion by Henry, seconded by Greier, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas, 8/2/2021*