

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2022

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Andy Boyar (Zoom), Fred Peckham (Zoom), Ginny Dudko, Harold Roeder, Al Henry, Aaron Robinson (Zoom), Sue Sullivan.

Committee Members Absent: Jeff Dexter, Jim Greier

Staff : Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt.

NPS Partner: Cody Hendrix- NPS Community & Land Use Planner

Guests: Jane Luchsinger- Tusten Deputy Supervisor, Bill Dudko- Town of Deepark Alternate

The UDC's Project Review Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. The purpose of the special meeting was to interview applicants for the Fiscal Year 2023 Technical Assistance Grants Program, rank projects and recommend funding levels. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There was no public comment on the agenda.

TAG Applicant Interview

The committee received one grant application requesting \$17,245.

-Town of Tusten- Luchsinger reviewed the Tusten application. With Town and UDC support, the Zoning Review Committee began a comprehensive revision of the zoning law in fall 2021. All proposed changes have been recorded by the planning consultant and drafted into the zoning law. The zoning law (adopted in 2011) has undergone amendments (three local laws adopted in 2017) which have not yet been integrated into the zoning law. The town intends to engage General Code (who hosts the remaining entirety of the town's online code) to integrate the 2017 zoning amendments, bringing the online zoning law up to date. The work will commence following the adoption of Local Law No. 1, 2022 which is expected in September. LL #1, 2022 is a 32-page document, with amendments dating back several years and covering numerous sections of zoning law.

The current project will be completing the comprehensive revisions and drafting a local law to amend the zoning law. This relies on the completion of an up-to-date zoning law and a copy of this law in Microsoft Word format. It is possible this version of the zoning law will be available by the end of 2022. This new document will enable the planning consultant to accurately integrate all proposed amendments into the body of the zoning law and show the additions and deletions.

The Land and Water Use Guidelines were mentioned in the application: "Local and State governments have broad responsibilities and many authorities which can be used to protect River valley resources. Several Towns have already implemented zoning and subdivision ordinances and similar measures, which in addition to meeting local needs, often do exactly what Congress intends with the Upper Delaware legislation. Other Towns are considering such tools." The last step in the Tusten Zoning Update process is consistent with the guidelines mentioned above. In the event the UDC only funds a portion of the amount the Town requested, the Town would have to withdraw funds from a Reserve Account to cover any shortfall.

Ramie said UDC did not allocate any specific amount for TAGs until after we see what comes in for applications because our budget only covers the first two quarters of the fiscal year before TAGs come back. Right now, funding is still open-ended for FY23. In the past we had typically budgeted \$20,000 when there were competitive applications. Members talked about different reasons they have received one proposal for the past two years. Robinson said if a Town/ship puts a lot of effort in a cultural or historical project and it gets rejected, it's disheartening and there may be reservation in the future not to pursue these projects.

Peckham notes the application states: as the zoning ordinances pertain to the RMP, but there is no guarantee it will involve the river corridor. He cannot see giving them all the money, maybe half of the request.

A Motion by Henry seconded by Roeder carried with one abstention to request to full Council 10/6 to approve a Fiscal Year 2023 Technical Assistance Grant (2023-01) for the Town of Tusten's Zoning Laws Online Codification Project in the amount of \$8,622.50 based on the availability of funds.

Other Business

Richardson said he was disappointed in the vote for substantial conformance at the 9/1 meeting; in the regard that Project Review committee walked through the whole substantial conformance review and approved it. He feels the questions were answered that were pertinent to the review. Boyar and others asked great questions and those go beyond what UDC Project Review committee does. Richardson said to have some of the Project Review committee change their minds at the full council meeting is not a good precedent. He asked going forward, to please to get all the questions answered in committee, so that vote at least holds. He does not think it's good for UDC's image to have a split vote. Boyar said even though all the boxes were checked you really must look at the project in its entirety and ask if the project would be good for the corridor? It was a split vote that did nothing more than send a message out and he supports the vote 100%.

Public Comment: None.

A motion made by Robinson, seconded by Dudko, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. was carried.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas, 9/27/2022