

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2024

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Al Henry, Fred Peckham (Zoom), Jeff Dexter, Aaron Robinson, Christine Martin, Ginny Dudko, Rebekah Creshkoff (Zoom)

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt, Stephanie Driscoll

NPS Partners: Carly Marshall

Guests: Bill Dudko

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. Chairperson Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Approval of August 27, 2024: A motion by Robinson seconded by Henry to approve the 8/27 meeting minutes and 9/10 Special Project Review meeting minutes, carried.

Resources and Land Use Specialist Update:

New York State Projects

There was no Notice of Applications Received in the State of New York for August in the Upper Delaware region.

Town of Highland

Camp FIMFO – Engelhardt said the Planning Board of the Town of Highland held a workshop meeting on September 12th to discuss the applicants' response to the comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. (The applicant submitted a revised DEIS that was revised per comments made of last month, as well as a document that went through the comments one by one and described how the report was revised to address each comment, or why they thought a revision was not required.) She and Marshall attended and sat at the table. She said it was a good discussion. The Planning Board collected comments through this past Friday, September 20th and has compiled those comments (including what was discussed at the workshop meeting) into a document that they will present to the applicants at the planning board meeting tomorrow, September 24. She is not available to attend but doesn't expect there to be much discussion. Marshall will be there in case anything significant happens.

Mendes Special Use Permit – There is an application for a mixed-use building that requires a special use permit before the Town of Highland Planning Board, and tomorrow night is its public hearing. Engelhardt said she will be reaching out to the Planning Board Secretary to make sure that we receive application documents.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Projects

There was one Notice of Applications Received in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for September in the Upper Delaware region, however the project is not located in the river corridor:

Escape Property Owners Association, D-1972-125 CP-2. An application to approve the proposed replacement of the docket holder's existing WWTP. The proposed WWTP facility will utilize an activated sludge treatment process with chlorine disinfection and other associated upgrades. The WWTP will continue to discharge up to 0.098 MGD of treated effluent to UNT of Lake Wallenpaupack at River Mile 277.7 - 15.7 - 0.08 (Delaware River - Lackawaxen River -

Wallenpaupack Creek) via Outfall 001, located in Palmyra Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania, within the drainage area classified as the Upper Delaware Special Protection Waters (SPW).

Richardson asked if Engelhardt knew if they have the option to use ultra-violet systems? Dexter said the plant that is next to the river in Damascus uses ultra-violet as part of their solution. Richardson said back when Cochection updated their system he had convinced them to use an ultra-violet system; the cost may be more upfront but it was worth it in the long run. It has been around 10 years and it is still working well. They may want to investigate ultra-violet for this project.

Damascus Township

2020 Beach Lake Highway – Engelhardt said she reached out to Chris Martin, the Sewage Enforcement Officer at Damascus, with regard to the possible installation of a new septic system on the property. She was able to get a look at the site from across the river at the eagle observation area in the Flats of Narrowsburg. She said, though of course she can’t tell for certain from that angle, it does appear that the construction activity is at a decent setback from the river of at least 100’. She looks forward to Chris Martin’s confirmation of same.

Henry asked if the UDC was notified about the septic going in at this location? Engelhardt said no, we didn’t need to be notified. Henry said in the past we’ve been notified if a septic is going in so close to the river.

Willow Wisp Farm – Engelhardt said she saw CEO Ed Lagarenne at the Damascus Road Show on September 16 and he assured her that he had “not forgotten about me.”

Creshkoff asked what the inquiry on Willow Wisp Farm was for? Engelhardt said they have constructed a new barn that will be used for educational events, entertainment, etc. When it was originally reviewed back in 2015 it was only proposed to be agricultural. The use and design have changed slightly so it should be reviewed again. Creshkoff said that makes sense.

Open Substantial Conformance Reviews

| Project ID | Project Name | Municipality | Action | Status |
|------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| 2024-05 | Kate Project | Town of Highland, NY | Class II – Constructed by a government agency | Recommendation of Substantial Conformance sent to NPS on 9/6/24. |
| 2024-06 | Freeman Garage | Town of Lumberland, NY | Class II – Special Use Permit | Recommendation of Substantial Conformance sent to NPS on 9/9/24. |
| 2024-07 | Saint Shohola Deli | Shohola Township, PA | Class II – Conditional Use Permit | Received application information 9/20/24. To be reviewed at the October meeting. |

Additional Comments:

1. Marshall requested information regarding the Highland Greenspace area that Engelhardt is endeavoring to obtain from Supervisor John Pizzolato regarding boulders at the top of the ramp to prevent vehicles from entering the area.
2. The Saint Shohola Deli was approved at a Planning Commission meeting on September 19, which was a public hearing. It is scheduled to be heard at the Supervisors meeting on October 10th.

FY 2024 Technical Assistance Grants

Project completion documents for both TAG 2024-01 (Tusten Update to Open Space and Recreation Plan) and TAG 2024-02 (Damascus Emergency Brochure) have been signed by Richardson, and are therefore officially complete and closed out. The grant funds have been distributed to the two municipalities. The master spreadsheet of TAGs has been updated with this information and uploaded to the website. It will be distributed to the full council next week as part of the meeting packet.

FY 2025 Technical Assistance Grants

We have received three applications for Technical Assistance Grants for the upcoming year:

- Town of Tusten – Town Open Space and Recreation Plan Completion
- Town of Deerpark – Town Brochures
- Berlin Township – Township Tax Maps

The Special PR meeting was held on September 10th, and the committee passed a motion to fund all three applicants. The Berlin Tax Maps were to be funded in full, the Deerpark Town Brochures at 84%, and the requested funding for the Tusten Open Space and Recreation Plan Completion at 36%.

New Business:

FY 2025 Technical Assistance Grants Recommendations to 10/3 UDC: Ramie said this is the time as a committee to weigh in before the full council meeting vote. A draft resolution was presented. Engelhardt said she asked Henry to provide a connection between the tax maps project for Berlin and the River Management Plan (RMP), since it is one of the criteria for TAGs. That is provided as a handout in tonight's packet.

A motion to send the three TAG applications to the full council for approval by Henry, seconded by Robinson, carried. Richardson said next year he would like to have a set amount figured out before determining how much money the UDC will give to each TAG applicant. Funds should be specifically allocated for these.

Other: None.

Old Business:

UDC/NPS Project Review “Road Show” Update: Richardson said that the Cochection Road Show went well. Kurnath handled the questions from the Supervisor well. Engelhardt commented that the most questions they received so far was during the Cochection Road Show. Richardson said Supervisor Maas was approached by Rick Lander of Lander's River Trips about the changing fee schedule for CUA holders. Lander asked Maas to find out where the authority comes from to impose a fee schedule. He said Kurnath responded well. Marshall commented that it was a lively discussion. There were a number of questions and a good back and forth. The Code Enforcement Officer asked for copies of the corridor maps. She dropped those off last week with some extra copies for the Planning Board. During the UDC/NPS staff meeting yesterday, they discussed going to Planning Commission meetings, but maybe spacing them out a bit so they aren't so overwhelming. G. Dudko said she thought the planning commissions were invited to the Road Shows? Marshall said they reached out to the towns first and it was their choice. Most towns opted to present to the full board and some of them invited the planning commission to attend.

Engelhardt said the Shohola Road Show went well. All three Supervisors came to the Planning Commission meeting. B. Dudko asked how many more Road Shows they have left? Engelhardt said one, Lackawaxen Township. Robinson asked if a lot of the Supervisors had knowledge of the RMP and the relationship between the NPS and the UDC? Engelhardt said not all were as engaged as others. G. Dudko said it depends on how often the UDC reps go to the town meetings. Richardson said the Road Show should have been focused on the Planning Boards. Cochection's Code Enforcement Officer wasn't totally sure of what he needed to be sending to the UDC, but at least he knew some things should be coming to us. Dropping off some copies of the RMP and Project Review Workbook might help.

Henry asked if the UDC meeting and committee meeting minutes are sent to town and township Supervisors? Driscoll said no. Henry recommends that all minutes be sent to the Supervisors. Engelhardt asked if Henry attends the Berlin Township meetings to regularly report? Henry said Berlin's meetings are always on the same day at the WU/RM Committee meetings, so there's a scheduling conflict there. Creshkoff suggested sending the minutes to the Town Clerks instead of the Supervisors. Ramie said we could start sending the minutes. If they don't want to receive them, they can tell us. She has a contact group of email addresses. However, we could first reach out to see who opts to receive them; Supervisor, Town Clerk, or Secretary? Henry said we shouldn't give them a choice, just send them right to the Supervisor. Richardson said this recommendation should be sent to the full council meeting for discussion and a vote.

Ramie asked if they are reaching out to the Counties too about the Road Show? Marshall said yes, they are looking to meet with County Planning staff or whoever they'd like NPS/UDC to present to. She is in the process of scheduling Sullivan County's meeting.

Other: Henry said some of the CUA holders reached out to him about eel weirs not needing a CUA; why aren't they charged the same? He pointed them to the RMP (the Executive Summary and Fish and Wildlife section) that explains why they are excluded.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A Motion moved by G. Dudko, seconded by Henry to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. carried.

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Driscoll, 9/30/2024