

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
September 10, 2024

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Fred Peckham (Zoom), Harold Roeder, Aaron Robinson (Zoom), Ginny Dudko, Al Henry, Christine Martin (Zoom)
Committee Members Absent: Jeff Dexter
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt, Stephanie Driscoll
NPS: Lindsey Kurnath (Zoom), Carly Marshall
Guests: Deerpark alternate- Bill Dudko, Town of Tusten Deputy Supervisor- Jane Luchsinger, Town of Deerpark Town Clerk- Florence Santini

The UDC's Project Review Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. The purpose of the special meeting was to interview applicants for the Fiscal Year 2025 Technical Assistance Grants Program, rank projects and recommend funding levels. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

TAG Applicant Interviews

The committee received three grant applications totaling \$30,838.25. Each applicant presented their grant project description and answered questions. The applicants included:

-Town of Tusten- Jane Luchsinger, Deputy Supervisor, thanked the UDC for the support given to the Town of Tusten in the past, especially last year for the first part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The 2025 TAG Tusten has applied for would complete phase 2 of the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Tusten. An inventory was done and is almost complete. They are very proud of the document that is being produced, as it may be the first of its kind in the river valley.

Surveys were sent out to property owners in Tusten, and they are waiting to receive those back. The survey is also available online. Luchsinger explained that it's a comprehensive plan for the land use of the town. They are pleased with MJ Engineering, who they have worked with for over a year now on this project. She commented that consultant Peter Manning is great also, and took time out of his schedule for Luchsinger to give him a tour of Tusten while he was in the area when he first began working on Tusten projects. Afterward, he hiked the Tusten Mountain Trail on his own.

Henry asked after Tusten presented phase 1 of the plan to the public, what were their thoughts? Do they think it's overbearing? Luchsinger said the plan will never dictate what people can and can't do with their land. If, for example, the state comes in looking to build a recreation spot in the area, the town can present this plan to them to recommend a spot. The town can only enforce zoning laws on private property. Henry asked if this plan will be put in the form of an ordinance? Luchsinger said as part of a final review, it will need to be approved. This plan will give the Planning Board something to look back on if, for example, a large hunting camp sells their land to a developer that plans to build a development of houses. Richardson said it sounds like it will be an overlay on current zoning. Luchsinger said this plan includes public input, which is so important.

Henry asked if the town has heard back on the surveys they sent out yet? Luchsinger said the surveys were only sent out a day or so ago. But at the 8/1 public meeting they held, people were saying they want more recreational sites other than National Park Service sites. There is only one site in town, and that is on The Flats. Engelhardt asked how the public meeting went? Luchsinger said it was wonderful. They received a lot of positive feedback. MJ Engineering had maps all around the room that showed open space, zones, water elevation, and water heights. At the end of the month the town will hold a stakeholders meeting, which the UDC and NPS will be invited to. Henry said a lot of the people come to this area thinking it's a National Park; was trespassing a concern by anyone at the public meeting? Luchsinger said no, that did not come up.

Ramie asked if the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant that the town received from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for phase 1 of this project will carry over to phase 2? Luchsinger said yes, it is a two-year project and the town is responsible for a \$75,000 match. The town is looking for financial support to match that \$75,000. Ramie asked if the town plans to apply for that grant again? Luchsinger said not at this time since they want to finish this cycle's grant first. Ramie commented that it can be hard to get a match through federal funding. Luchsinger said she just submitted their annual report for that grant. Engelhardt asked if the town has been meeting their anticipated timeline with phase 1? Luchsinger said they started a little late with MJ Engineering, but not too far off. Richardson asked if phase 1 will be done by the end of the year? Luchsinger said probably not the approval, but the project itself should be done. Marshall said the approval process isn't part of the application. Richardson said they just need a final product to get paid from the UDC. Ramie said completion depends on whatever is written into the contract. Richardson said there are no requirements that the applicant must guarantee approval. Luchsinger thanked everyone for their time and left the meeting.

-Town of Deerpark- Town of Deerpark Town Clerk, Flo Santini, introduced herself and thanked the UDC for the opportunity to explain the town's TAG application. She said in 2011 the UDC approved a TAG to develop their current brochure "A Map of the Town of Deerpark... Gateway to the Upper Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River", which is out of date at this time. Deerpark is working with Orange County on updates. She handed out copies of the old brochure and a plan of what the new brochure would look like. She said within the River Management Plan (RMP) it states that the goals are to give directions to residents and non-residents. She pointed out that the UDC is mentioned on the front of the brochure.

Richardson asked where the new brochure would go? Santini said they plan to place it at the kiosks along the river, liveries, storefronts, and other locations for information. Richardson asked how many of the original brochures the town went through? Santini said she doesn't have an exact number, but at least 2,000 copies. They want to print more brochures so that more people will want to come see the beautiful Town of Deerpark. Engelhardt said in the application it stated that the town plans to print 7,500 copies. Santini said that is correct. Engelhardt asked if they have been in contact with the Orange County GIS department? Santini said yes, they have drafted the new map that they plan to put in the brochure. Engelhardt commented that she was surprised the quote was so low from OC GIS at \$173.25. Santini said yes, that was kind of them.

G. Dudko said in the application it states that the town will list emergency resources in the brochure. Santini said yes, on the map. Richardson said the UDC has in the past considered how much of the town lies in the corridor boundaries. It would be nice to see that on the map in the brochure. Engelhardt asked if the corridor boundary could be added to the map? Santini said sure, that is a great idea. Ramie asked if they are aware of the TAG deadline? It needs to be completed in 10 months. Santini said OC GIS has already completed the map, so completing the project within the 10 months is completely doable. B. Dudko asked where they are having them printed? Santini said Media Solstice, they still have all the town's files of information from the last time they printed the brochures.

The town decided not to put the names of golf courses, campgrounds, etc. on the map since there can be a lot of turnover for those types of businesses. They plan to only list what they are. Henry said he doesn't see emergency phone numbers on the old brochures. Santini said that is correct; they will be added to the new brochures. B. Dudko said they will be listed on the map which is shown in the mock brochure. Henry said the listings are very small and hard to read. He asked if the town will go through with this project even if they don't receive full or any funding from the UDC? Santini said yes, they have to. They need new brochures. Martin asked how much printing in 2011 compared to now is? Santini said she doesn't have those figures, but it isn't much of a difference since the company already has all of their information. Richardson quickly researched that Deerpark asked for \$4,500 in 2011 to fund the entire brochure project.

-Berlin Township- Henry is presenting the application for Berlin Township on Supervisor Cathy Hunt's behalf, as she couldn't be here tonight. He said Berlin Township is looking to purchase new tax maps to have available in the township office for information purposes. He isn't sure how old the current tax maps they have are. There are 52 maps at \$5 per piece at the township building. Richardson asked if these

hanging map files are something the county can provide? Henry said yes. Engelhardt said as the maps change, they can replace them individually in the future. Henry said if you look at the tax maps from the county, they are wrong. He's not sure when they get updated. It wouldn't be a bad idea for the town to have updated tax maps. You can go online to find the information, but some people don't know how or just won't do that. Richardson asked how many of these tax maps are within the corridor? Should we be paying for maps for the whole township? Marshall asked if the county could add the corridor boundary to the maps? Henry said you can add the boundary, but the maps themselves are wrong. Marshall said she is looking for a clear connection to the River Management Plan (RMP). Richardson said if the township doesn't get the full amount from the TAG, will they proceed? Henry said no. Last year they talked about only funding the percentage amount within the corridor, but decided not to. Richardson said it's historically something the UDC has always considered. Engelhardt reminded everyone that we only funded Tusten for half of what they asked for with the 2024 TAG request.

B. Dudko asked if a private citizen could have a tax map printed? Engelhardt said yes, for \$10 a map from the county. Henry said the township just wants to have updated tax maps for people to come in and look at if they need, not to give out, just as reference material. Engelhardt said she's sure you can make a copy of whatever you needed there with a standard copier. Peckham said in New York State maps are large and go by deed numbers.

Following the interviews, the committee discussed each project. Ramie said we are only budgeted right now through December 31st, so there is no dollar amount earmarked for 2025 TAGs since they don't come due in the first quarter. Richardson said if we funded all these requests the total would be \$30,838.25. Robinson said last year \$15,000 was budgeted for TAGs. Richardson said at this point, a reasonable number would be \$13,000 for 2025 TAGs based on what was actually approved in FY2024. After substantial discussion, the following projects and grant awards (total \$13,000) will be recommended to the full Council for approval by resolution at its October 3rd meeting based on a motion by Henry, seconded by Roeder and carried, with Martin opposed:

- Town of Tusten – Open Space and Recreation Plan, Phase 2: \$9,740
- Town of Deerpark – Updated town information brochures: \$3,000
- Berlin Township – Updated tax maps: \$260

Other Business: Richardson asked if the committee could get a copy of what the UDC has funded in past years. Engelhardt said she will circulate that chart. The UDC has approved \$946,463.50 and paid \$823,264.68 since 1988, with some projects coming in under what they originally applied for. Richardson commented that the UDC has helped a lot of towns and townships since 1988; most of the money went to some kind of planning and updating project.

Public Comment: None.

A motion was made by Roeder, seconded by Henry to adjourn the special Project Review Committee meeting at 7:45 p.m.