



Upper Delaware Council

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UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES April 1, 2021

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2021 via Zoom. Chairperson Dexter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock- Fred Peckham, Town of Delaware- Thomas Dent, Town of Cohecton- Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten- Susan Sullivan, Town of Highland- Andy Boyar, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajsz, Town of Deerpark-David Dean, Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Berlin Township-Alan Henry, Lackawaxen Township- Doug Case, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, Delaware River Basin Commission- Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan, National Park Service- Superintendent- Joe Salvatore. Staff in attendance: Executive Director-Laurie Ramie, Resources and Land Use Specialist- Shannon Cilento, Secretary- Ashley Hall-Bagdonas. Absent: Westfall Township- Michael Barth, Town of Fremont- Jim Greier, State of New York-Bill Rudge. Guests: Jessica R. Yoder- Assistant Director- Pike County Planning, Jane Varcoe, Buck Moorhead, Don Hamilton- NPS Chief of Natural Resources, Cody Hendrix- NPS Community & Land Use Planner. Media: Linda Drollinger- River Reporter, Peter Becker- Tri-County Independent.

Presentation: “Lackawaxen River Corridor Trail Study and Pike County Planning Projects” by Jessica R. Yoder, Assistant Director of the Pike County Planning Office: Dexter introduced Jessica Yoder from Pike County Department of Planning. She shared a PowerPoint about the Lackawaxen River Trail Corridor project. The 15-mile route in Pike County, from Hawley to the village of Lackawaxen, will be a continuation of a similar 13-mile trail planned in Wayne County from Honesdale to Hawley. The proposal is to utilize the railroad right-of-way alongside the Stourbridge Line's track, the Lackawaxen River, or the Towpath Road on the opposite side of the river from the tracks. A public survey is open through the end of April to determine public interest and how they would utilize the trail. Yoder said whether the rail route or the Towpath, or both, would be used, is to be finalized. Since the survey began on 3/1, they have had over 700 responses. The survey is a part of the Feasibility Study required as part of the PA DCNR grant that the county is seeking. The study will see if the trail proposal is viable, both financially and physically. A brief question and answer period followed. You may find the survey at pikepa.org. A copy of the PowerPoint can be found on the UDC website.

Approval of March 4th Meeting Minutes: A motion by Rajsz seconded by Peckham, to approve the March 4th, 2021 meeting minutes carried.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

Committee Reports: There were no questions regarding the following meetings. They were: March 16th Water Use/Resource Management (Henry said we are still waiting for some updates from JHA Companies on permitting. Henry said hopefully Salvatore can provide an update on the rescinding the closure of the Superintendent's Compendium in his Status Report), March 23rd Project Review, and March 23rd Operations.

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: Kavanagh thanked UDC for the Letter of Support for the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant application that was due today. The second quarter public hearing is on 5/12. The next advisory committee meetings are not until April and June, and she will update closer to that time. The

Hydrological Report was included in the meeting packet. They will soon be initiating a Storage Capability Study which is a paper study, to review freshwater storage options to meet drought and climate adaptation needs in Delaware River Basin. All upcoming meetings can be found at: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/>

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Rudge provided in advance for the meeting packet a 3/24 press release “DEC Announces Finalization of Trout Stream Regulations: Streamlined rule changes will increase angling opportunities, take effect on 4/1 for 2021 Trout Opener.”

PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources: Dugan provided for the meeting packet a series of press releases. A few items of note are “DCNR Announces Operational Changes at State Parks and Forests.” Essentially, this is the lifting of some of the COVID restriction that have been in place as Governor Wolf continues to promote people getting outdoors, recreating in natural areas, but also advising everyone to continue to be careful and cautious. The second update is on Governor Wolf’s administration announcing funding for volunteer fire companies to increase protection from wildfires in rural areas. Dugan said this is a set of federal funds that they allocate every year to assist our companies in typically rural and suburban areas so that they can be better prepared for wild land firefighting. Grant applications must be electronically submitted through DCNR’s grant website by 4:00 p.m. 5/13. The Spring fire season has begun. It starts as soon as the snow melts. It kicked off here the past couple of weeks and we’ve had relatively active spring wildfire behavior as is typical in PA. In much of the nation, the majority of fires is started from debris burners. They ask if you have yard waste of debris that you’re planning or hoping to burn that you wait or find an alternative way to get rid of that material such as mulching, composting, or spreading it about in a wooded area. PA has had a fair number of fires that have already started in the area locally. They did get some of that VFA funding and used it to buy some small equipment they’ve provided to volunteer fire departments throughout the region, both in Pike and Monroe counties. This year, they used that money to buy backpack leaf blowers. They’ve found that they are great and create a pretty decent fire break on a fast-moving moderate to small-sized wild land fire. We will be in fire season until we have green-up and we should expect that to extend into about the middle of May. Dugan said people are getting out and they are seeing a fair amount of recreation. They had the Mentored Trout Youth Day last Saturday and the opening day across all of PA for trout season is coming up this Saturday before Easter. Locally speaking, they have quite a few vacancies coming up on district staff as well as other districts in the area. Their staff is still working though what is considered a hiring freeze for the Commonwealth. Any position except manager, ranger, or forester (these are considered revenue generating positions) needs to get an exception from the governor and that is a pretty lengthy process. There is a backlog on positions. Ones that aren’t getting filled right away are maintenance positions. They are really boots on the ground and get a lot of work done in their districts and state parks and forests. There have been a few retirements in Dugan’s district, some people on extended sick leave, and vacant positions. He said staffing is dwindling and it’s taking them a long time to get permission to refill those positions. When the job postings come out Dugan will forward it along to UDC staff. Robinson thanked Dugan for the woolly adelgid information forwarded from last UDC meeting. Henry said that Ramie provided information from Department of Agriculture that Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) quarantines were added to Wayne and Pike Counties. Dugan said that is the same information that DCNR would be sending out. He said the SLF range is expanding but has slowed as it’s come North of the Appalachian Ridge due to the type of habitat. They have not been seeing their populations spike as quickly or spread as readily in more natural and Northeastern PA. DCNR is still advising people to keep an eye out and follow what PA Department of Agriculture advises. New Jersey and New York shared similar information and the three states are working together to have the same messaging. It’s the time of year that you could be looking for egg masses; they look kind of like gray putty. You’ll find them on the underside of a branch or rock, under a vehicle, etc. By the middle of summer, you should see the adult SLF. Dent asked why there wasn’t a statewide burn band or at least the counties along the river? Dugan said PA being a Commonwealth, the townships and counties have the authority to enact burn bans. Townships have local burning zoning ordinances and counties can go through a process to establish a county burn ban. A couple of counties have also created calendar-based burned bans for the year. They try to do a fair amount of prevention efforts especially in rural areas but still have people that are burning even when burn bans are in effect. Dugan said one thing that has helped them is for the last six years the National Weather Service and meteorologists have gotten more on board with messaging when we have fire prone weather in the spring.

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: Salvatore apologized for missing the last meeting as he was under the weather. NPS is prepping for summer operations right now and balancing the day-to-day requirements of running this national park unit. They are also dealing with spring cleanup and high-water cleanup as well. Salvatore mentioned some of the challenges he’s facing. All of NPS’s business processes are changing on a national level

right now, which is probably to be expected with the new administration, especially when it switched party lines, but a lot of decisions that used to be made at the park level are now having to be elevated to the region and Washington. He said it's a little frustrating for him and he asks for UDC's patience. That's a lead-in to Henry's questions about lifting the prohibition of trailered launching at Ten Mile River (TMR). Salvatore made the decision to lift that prohibition. Now all decisions made on their compendiums have to go to Regional for approval. That decision is along with mandatory mask wearing and permitting for filming. Salvatore said when he sent his opinion to lift the ban on the prohibition of trailered launching, he received a call from leadership telling him he can't do that; that decision comes down from Regional and he was essentially trying to overturn a decision that was made by the regional director. He understands it's important for the community and wanted to know what he could do so comments were made and letters were sent about safety issues. They asked Salvatore to draft a Briefing Statement. He said at the same time, he's paralleling with NPS having an expired agreement with the Boy Scouts of America. They are monitoring the highwater line as far as the preservation of the river goes. He can't just sign off on that agreement; it has to go through an investment review board and up to Washington. It was sent to the Solicitor's office because it's a lease. He said right now NPS won't be enforcing the trailered launch even though it's in the Superintendent's Compendium. They will be using education with the public. Boyar asked jurisdictionally whether there is authority to even have something on private property? Salvatore said the attorneys are involved right now. He said there's a lot more bureaucracy this year, which is making his job very tough. Sullivan asked where it stands right now with the agreement? Salvatore said they have an expired agreement. They have an agreement in theory and a concept but it has not been signed off on; which is what the government and the federal government is required to have. He hopes to have an agreement signed within the next two weeks.

Boyar commented that these are precisely the type of structural things that really should be avoided. It's one thing for the UDC and/or local users to deal with NPS superintendent on that basis. He said it's surprising just to learn this in the last couple of weeks that the rules are coming down from Regional and Washington. He said he doesn't think it was ever intended to be anything like that. He said it's been elevated especially being in these strange, fiscal time, the price tag keeps going up, the budget keeps going down for NPS. There's just a lot more scrutiny from D.C. Salvatore said this is the new policy and new process but he's still an advocate for the community. He's hoping to close on a house in Honesdale next weekend and will be a permanent member of the community. Boyar said as Town/ship representatives he thinks all can handle dealing with the local bureaucracy but bringing in other levels and all of this back-and-forth definitely is not saving anyone any money. Salvatore said he doesn't think it's changed that much but perhaps he's a little more transparent. There's always been Regional. He's seen where UDC has written to Regional vice versa. He said he's going to secure the Boy Scouts agreement and then the trailered boat launch will be the next priority. Again, they are not enforcing it right now so it is usable. Boyar said his Town may be frustrated just as he is because they are one step removed and don't have a voice in the discussion. Salvatore said he is their voice. Richardson echoed Boyar's concerns but also wanted to express appreciation with the position Salvatore is taking on UDC's behalf and he wishes him luck.

Salvatore said they have hired Jessica Weinman as the new Facilities Manager and she has a week under her belt as of tomorrow. She was the Acting Superintendent here for four months so she is familiar with this Unit and he is looking forward to learning from each other and hopes they can try to leverage other funds sources outside of the base funding. NPS also has two Law Enforcement Rangers that they're losing here within the next three to four months. One of them is retiring and the other one is relocating. Hiring actions are out so they don't have any gap especially during the high visitation summer season. They are also working on hiring an Administrative Technician to work for their Administrative Officer. Bonnie Sheard will be retiring in July and she's Salvatore's Administrative Assistant or Secretary to the Superintendent. She does all of the permitting and she's been at the park unit for 40 years on and off so they are losing a lot of experience. He said he's not hiring specifically behind her because a lot of the stuff she does is babysitting him and he said he needs to start taking care of himself. He said he's not going to have an assistant anymore. The new person is going to work for our Administrative Officer. A lot of what Michelle Blockberger does is support UDC through trying to secure funding. NPS is also working on seasonal hire right now and trying to get interns to support the high visitation in the summer.

Things are completely different. Last year the Superintendent could sign off the purchase request to do the seasonal leasing for housing; now Salvatore can't do that. All leasing has to go to Washington. He went to the Regional Review Board. It was approved and he is waiting for it to come back and he's confident it will get approved from Washington but that is slowing the onboarding of their interns. NPS Cultural Resource Manager Lauren Hauptman, who is incredible, is relocating with her husband who is a Law Enforcement Officer at Delaware Water Gap to Colorado. He's going to have her telework for a while because she does so much and can do it from afar. He asked the group to check out the NPS website; there's a new mobile app. Dent asked if there was a need for intern applicants? Salvatore said having local interns is easy because they don't have to provide housing but if they are from out of the area that may be more complicated. He said he would float it by Division Chiefs and communicate back to Ramie.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Ramie said Jeff Chorba was in over a two-day period to replace our WIFI booster device in the conference room and rewire the system to hopefully bolster our internet connectivity signal strength in the office. That won't address the teleconference phone audio problem during our committee meetings, but we will explore whether it's possible to do a hybrid model with Zoom for those who can't attend in-person. We haven't been billed yet for the cost of that upgrade.

Kavanagh had mentioned the grant support letters; copies of the three support letters which were approved by majority vote are provided in the meeting packet. The vote on DRBC's request was via email and was 8 yes, 3 no, and 2 abstentions. The two projects by the Friends of the Upper Delaware River were supported by 10 yes and none opposed of those who voted.

Ramie reminded everyone of the joint training session that UDC and NPS are sponsoring on Monday, April 12, at 6:30 for the River Corridor GIS Mapping Tool Application. The presenter will be Dr. Claire Jantz, director of Shippensburg University's Center for Land Use. This is a free virtual workshop open to everybody and will offer one hour's educational credit for planning and zoning board members. The link to register is pinned at the top of our Facebook page or you can ask Cilento to sign you up. Please also encourage your Town/ship board members to participate and learn the features and use of this publicly available Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River mapping resource.

We have a 4/23 deadline for member municipalities to submit proposals for the UDC's 2021 River and Shoreline Clean-up Grants. We already received one from the Town of Lumberland. Those applications will be reviewed at the 4/27 Operations Committee meeting, with a recommendation coming to the full Council on 5/6.

The Spring issue of "The Upper Delaware" is due to be delivered on Monday, 4/5. A digital copy has been posted on our website Publications page.

Looking at the April calendar, we didn't list the specific community-based Litter Sweep clean-ups but do have those plotted on our master calendar. In terms of upcoming UDC presentations, on 5/6 we will hear from Haley Sprigston of the Rondout Neversink Stream Program about riparian buffer management. At Sullivan's suggestion, we have invited Sullivan County officials to speak about their Broadband and Cellular Service Upgrade Project on 6/3 but are waiting to hear back on a confirmation. We intend to make the same request to Wayne County.

Ramie said she knows that Rajszt attended a program with U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, who came to Sullivan County to make some announcements regarding broadband funding. Rajszt said yesterday Senator Schumer came to Mamakating where Mike Brooks was the chair of the Sullivan Broadband Local Development Corporation as well as Lorne Green, Chief Information Officer of the Sullivan County Division of Information Technology Services who is the guru behind this broadband expansion the county. They presented to Senator Schumer their plans to enhance broadband throughout the county and to make it more user friendly. They shared a white, square "hotspot" that will be installed in underserved neighborhoods in Sullivan County to provide WIFI access. The hotspot idea was conceived by Green. Rajszt said the Senator did say that there was money to be had and he will definitely put money into the County. Rajszt also put in a pitch for increased funding for the UDC.

Old Business

Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Update: Cilento said she and Hall-Bagdonas are still working with all of the Litter Leaders regarding planning. At this point, all locations and events are nailed down. In two or three municipalities we have two separate cleanups or two litter leaders, which is wonderful. We have around 17 events altogether and a lot of excited volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of a lot of people in the community, including some of board members, we raised about \$2,000 to cover the costs of our t-shirts and supplies. That's aside from the \$933 that we have left over from the PA DCED grant for additional supplies, for hard hats, pickers, etc. We've also gotten in touch with PennDOT who was wonderful and they are providing us with vests and gloves for the PA side. Working with NYSDOT hasn't been as easy. Today we received a letter from Senator Mike Martucci urging NYSDOT to approve our permit application. Cilento and Hall-Bagdonas went out to get the exact mile marker locations for the permits in the last few days. Cilento has to submit to two regions; Region 9 in Binghamton which covers down through Sullivan County and then Region 8 picks up in Orange County for the Deerpark team.

Rajsz said hypothetically, if NYSDOT doesn't come through with the permits what should the affected teams do? Cilento said that's a great question and we are hopeful the permits will come through but would also suggest there are many accesses, pull-offs, town and county roads within the river corridor that we can utilize. For example, in the Town of Fremont a Sullivan West teacher and guidance counselor is bringing National Honor Society students to clean river accesses and they don't want the kids to be on Rt. 97. The t-shirts from Platform Industries in Honesdale have been ordered. Boyar said coincidentally today, he bumped into Rajsz and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther. He asked if Rajsz is working with Gunther tomorrow, for Gunther to lean on NYSDOT. He also said he knows there are laws against litter which are not enforced. He hopes there isn't stronger enforcement for people who are picking up litter as an individual not necessarily under the auspice of the UDC or other organizations. Cilento said we sent the same request to Gunther's office through Matt McPhillips, her aide, and she hasn't heard back. She also called today and got her voicemail. Cilento told Rajsz that she did provide them with a sample support letter. Henry said Rt. 97 for the most part is the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB). Perhaps that group can put some additional pressure on NYSDOT. He also said if it is a scenic byway and they prohibit people from picking up trash, who picks up trash on Rt. 97? Cilento said that's a great question that we are trying to get answered from NYSDOT. Cilento said she knows Ramie brought it up at the UDSB meeting and DOT staff are part of those meetings. Richardson commented that NYS has an Adopt-A-Highway Program. He doesn't understand how this is much different other than it may be larger. He is part of an Adopt-A-Highway program with the Cohecton Democratic Club and they adopted Rt. 17B, a state highway from the Town of Bethel line to the Fosterdale intersection which is about two miles. They are two-year contracts; they've renewed it and they've picked. There are regulations you have to follow but he doesn't know why this situation is so different. NYS told them that if they tell them ahead of time, they are supposed to alert them when they are going to be working, they will actually pick up the trash and they leave the bags along the road. Richardson said they haven't taken advantage of that, typically when they're done, they pick it up, and get rid of it. Henry said he hopes the members of the press can put some pressure on NYSDOT. Sullivan said as we've reached an increase in residents, second homeowners, and Airbnb guests, we have an increase in trash. This is something that NYSDOT needs to recognize. We're not dealing with the same situation we had three to four years ago. Dent said he feels that the safety issue is a very big concern. Dexter expressed thanks to the staff that are doing everything they can to make this event happen.

3/30 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge Meeting: Ramie said she would give an overview of the meeting that took place on the 3/30. PennDOT is in charge of the Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge. They are now engaged in this public process to have input on the future of the 1902 bridge. The three options are to rehabilitate it, replace it or remove it. Ramie said the universal agreement is nobody wants to see it removed, but there is controversy over which of the other options to pursue, whether to keep the historic bridge intact and maintain it or to remove it and replace it with a modern, potentially 40-ton concrete bridge. They have the Project Advisory Committee and UDC and NPS are participating on that committee, but there's only been one meeting back on 2/22. The meeting on 3/30 was meant for everybody else essentially. An issue Ramie had with the presentation by PennDOT and their consultants was that they stated that the Project Advisory Committee was favoring a new bridge. Having sat through that meeting, that is not necessarily what she heard. Even if that was the majority opinion at that committee, she felt it was premature to put that out there after one meeting, which did not include a vote or necessarily any consensus. She said it sort of skewed the meeting going forward and it became very adversarial. At one point it got a little ugly because people were reacting to hearing this notion of the historic bridge going away

and being replaced by a modern bridge. The options were outlined and then the comments started coming in after they did a live online survey. She jotted down a couple of the quotes that were written in the chat boxes as this was going on and they became kind of hostile. One person said, "This is an activist community that will oppose you every step of the way. I don't think you guys understand this community at all. We banned fracking. We will stop you from doing this." She said it was that sort of rhetoric that was a little overwrought because they did say, which she is taking on good faith, that all options are on the table. It went from one extreme to the other. One was keep the bridge one was keep the bridge, but take away vehicular traffic altogether and just leave it as a foot bridge for pedestrians or bicyclists. Ramie said she's not sure what we would have gained by taking that route. The other was we need a two lane, modern bridge for commerce and emergency vehicles. Others pointed out they don't use it now and they never have, because the bridge at one time was only built for nine-ton traffic and it's been at four-tons for the much of its lifespan. Ramie said she didn't appreciate that UDC was lumped into that notion of favoring a modern bridge. Ramie said she would like to hear Dexter and Sullivan's opinions since they attended the meeting, then hold a straw poll and put together a comment letter by the 4/23 deadline. Ramie said that Rick Lander came to the office this morning. He participated in the meeting as well. He made a good point that after the alternative is chosen, which they are aiming for a June decision, they're still expecting it would be at least two years after that to get through the environmental clearance and permitting phases before any sort of construction would occur. Lander's point was couldn't something be done about the mess that is there in the meantime? They've dumped a big pile of dirt to block the access because the bridge is closed to traffic and pedestrians. There are large signs that say no turn-around and given that he has the business right there, and it is within a scenic and recreational river, he would like to find at least a more attractive way to have the bridge closed. Sullivan said there were over 89 people on the call with members of the community weighing in on being appalled by the idea of a two-lane bridge. She is also appalled by the idea of a two-lane bridge because the weight limit on the PA side is a 10-ton limit on all the roads. To build a bridge that takes 40-tons of vehicle to arrive at roads that take 10-tons and aren't changing makes no sense. The nearest state route to that is 652 and it's not changeable; it's cliff. If you want to go up to Damascus to the other bridge; Rt. 371, that's also steep cliffs. She said it makes no sense to her and she thinks the community was really distressed. She feels this was the first they heard of it and weren't given any heads up and were not part of the discussion until now. She said it would drastically change the Village of Milanville. Sullivan completed the survey today and encourages everyone to consider Skinners Falls as a recreational area that in the summer is filled with people going back-and-forth between the campgrounds and the falls. The idea of having faster traffic there doesn't make sense to her. Discussion continued. Ramie said the bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and it's now the oldest bridge of the interstate bridges with the exception of the federally-owned Roebling Bridge. Richardson echoed what Ramie said, saying he's disappointed because he thought it was somewhat resolved after Senator Jen Metzger came down here and, and endorsed our local position of keeping and rehabbing the original bridge. He submitted a survey today as well and his position is that they should rehab it to its original 9-ton limit. It's a historical bridge; we lost the Pond Eddy bridge and these historical structures have to be preserved. Sullivan said a 9 or 10-ton limit on a rehabbed bridge would accommodate UPS trucks and ambulance services. It only precludes tractor trailers. Dexter said he's a little bit agitated but it boils down to if you look at that bridge in the historic setting that it's in, that bridge fits just so nice. If you have a concrete modern bridge there you are just going to ruin the ambiance. There was not a single road in that area that can handle similar traffic because the road are not wide enough. There's no shoulders in places. The guardrails are sitting right on the edge of the road. There's other places where the guard rails beside the roads collapsing and the guardrails are just hanging there. It would cost the state more money to upgrade those roads to handle those semis than it would be to replace the bridge. Rajs said these are the same arguments that were used with the Pond Eddy Bridge. It was a bridge to nowhere with nothing on the other side and they ended up coming in and taking it down and replacing it. They fought to have bridge that resembles the historic bridge but they were going to take it down one way or another. Henry said before a straw poll shouldn't we have more information like the costs; what are they proposing to charge to fix the old bridge, etc? Ramie said they are not going to determine that until after the alternative is chosen. Sullivan asked if it was possible to advocate for a 30-day extension of the comment period as Henry pointed out many people don't have a lot of information on this. Richardson said if you look at their plan and presentation, they don't provide you with dollar amounts but they do provide usage and what the different styles handle. Ramie said they did state that the financing would be no different for rehabilitation versus replacement. Ramie said a request for an extension could be made but it would mean that much longer for nothing to happen and the bridge to remain closed since October 2019. A Motion by Boyar seconded by Richardson for Ramie to draft a comment letter with UDC in favor of the

rehabilitation of Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge to be reviewed by members ahead of the 4/23 deadline carried with one abstention by Peckham, who favored a modern bridge to be prepared for future development.

Other: None.

New Business

Resolution 2021-12: Adopting an Upper Delaware Council Position on Definition of Substantial Conformance: A Motion by Richardson seconded by Rajsz to adopt Resolution 2021-12 carried.

Draft Letter to NPS re: Town of Tusten Comprehensive Plan: A Motion by Richardson seconded by Sullivan to approve the draft letter to NPS re: Town of Tusten Comprehensive Plan carried. Richardson said if you have a chance to read that Comprehensive Plan, it is big; he thinks that Cilento did a wonderful job reviewing it.

Draft Letter to Delaware County Dept. of Planning & Watershed Affairs re: Delaware County Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan: A Motion by Henry seconded by Robinson to approve the Draft Letter carried.

Other: Sullivan asked for an update on the knotweed at Skinners Falls. Hamilton said there is going to be a Knotweed Control Site demonstration going on there with various control methods along the DEC access. It will include repeated cutting, covering with a geotextile fabric, treated with an herbicide, and will even have goats foraging on a plot. That will be going on for the entire summer. Ramie said, looking at our newsletter, the date for the public demonstration at Skinners Falls is 6/5 from 1-4 p.m. They will be doing a demonstration 6/19 at Hancock Fireman's Park and one in Deposit as well. This project is being done by Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR).

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion by Henry, seconded by Robinson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 4-20-2021