



Upper Delaware Council

P.O. Box 192, 211 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, New York 12764-0192 • (Tel.) 845-252-3022 • (Fax) 845-252-3359

www.upperdelawarecouncil.org

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2022

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2022. Chairperson Boyar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll call followed.

In attendance: Town of Hancock- Fred Peckham (Zoom), Town of Fremont- Jim Greier, Town of Delaware- Harold Roeder, Jr., Town of Cochecton- Larry Richardson, Town of Tusten- Sue Sullivan, Town of Highland- Andy Boyar, Town of Deerpark- Virginia Dudko, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajs, Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter, Berlin Township- Alan Henry, Lackawaxen Township- Doug Case, Shohola Township- Aaron Robinson, Westfall Township- Michael Barth, Delaware River Basin Commission- Kristen Bowman Kavanagh (Zoom), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan, National Park Service- Cody Hendrix. Staff in attendance: Executive Director- Laurie Ramie, Resources and Land Use Specialist- Kerry Engelhardt, Secretary- Ashley Hall-Bagdonas. Absent: State of New York Guests: Frank Salvati, Jane Varcoe, Peggy Richardson, Bill Dudko- Town of Deerpark Alternate. Media: Liam Mayo- River Reporter, Peter Becker- Tri-County Independent (Zoom).

Presentation “History of the Lenape in the Upper Delaware River Valley” by local historian Frank Salvati:

Boyar introduced Salvati as a resident of Port Jervis. He is a passionate student of the Indian Wars, with particular interest in the northeastern United States. He is a popular speaker on the French and Indian Wars, the American Revolution, and the War of 1812. Salvati gave an oral presentation on the “History of the Lenape in the Upper Delaware River Valley” which he said he would need to condense significantly. He provided a handout from Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage showing the approximate area of Lenapehoking, homeland of the Lenape, later called Delaware Indians. The names of bands were among those recorded by early explorers and colonists, though spellings may differ. The absence of names in interior regions, along the Atlantic Coast, and north of Trenton, reflect areas of little or no early direct contact between Indians and Europeans. The geography includes all of present-day New Jersey, southern New York State including Staten Island and western Long Island, a bit of western Connecticut, eastern Pennsylvania, and most of Delaware. It is uncertain if the Massepequa and Matinecock were Munsees. Members thanked Salvati and Boyar presented him with a UDC lapel pin. Salvati noted that he would be speaking on “Oguaga: Indian Life during the American Revolution” on 6/26 at 3 p.m. at the Deerpark Museum in Huguenot.

Ramie noted that she had included in the packets the tentative itinerary for the 2022 Rising Nation Journey, which the Lenape Nation of PA holds every four years. They paddle the entire length of the Delaware River. It begins on 7/29 in Hancock, with a 9:30 a.m. opening ceremony at the Hancock Firemen’s Field and ends on 8/21 in Cape May, NJ. Members of the public are welcome to join the paddle and various programs along the route, including at the Equinunk Historical Society, Willow Wisp Organic Farm, and the Zane Grey Museum. Many organizations also sign a Treaty of Renewed Friendship. With the board’s endorsement, Ramie said she would look into the possibility of the UDC participating in a treaty-signing set for 8/2 at 5 p.m. at the Zane Grey Museum grounds in Lackawaxen, PA. More information on the Rising Nation Journey may be found at www.lenape-nation.org/1st-project

Approval of May 5th Meeting Minutes: A motion by Henry seconded by Dugan, to approve the May 5th 2022 meeting minutes carried.

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

Committee Reports: There were no questions regarding the following meetings: Water Use/Resource Management May 17th (Ginny Dudko); Project Review May 24th (Larry Richardson); and Operations; May 24th (Andy Boyar)

Status Reports

Delaware River Basin Commission: Bowman Kavanagh reported that the Hydrologic report and meeting notices can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/> 6/29 at 1:30 is the Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC) meeting.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Absent. Ramie will reach out to NYS DEC to check on the status of an appointed New York State representative to the UDC to succeed retiree Bill Rudge. For any access or fisheries related issues in the meantime, UDC was directed to contact Ryan Coulter (ryan.coulter@dec.ny.gov) or Bobby Adams (robert.adams@dec.ny.gov).

PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources: Dugan said June is the end of the Fiscal Year for the Commonwealth. It is the end of Spring fire season. Our cool, wet springs help limit the impact of the spongy moths but Central Pike County was a heavily hit location. It's fishing and boating season and Dugan stressed the importance of PFDs. PA hunting licenses are on sale 6/13.

National Park Service-Upper Delaware: Community and Land Use Planner Hendrix shared that Alejandro "Alex" Garcia-Maldonado recently joined UPDE as the new Cultural Resources Program Manager.

UDC Executive Director's Report: Ramie said everyone is invited to a press conference and outdoor luncheon that will take place on Friday, 6/17, at 10:30 a.m. in Livingston Manor, NY. Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) will be celebrating the \$300,000 line item that was secured in the NYS budget for an Upper Delaware River Watershed Protection and Restoration Program that FUDR will manage. They'll also showcase a stream restoration project on the Little Beaver Kill that was completed last September with Trout Unlimited. Boyar and Ramie were asked to speak during the ceremony, Reservations are required through the link that Ramie sent on 5/27.

Among the speakers listed for that press conference are Assemblywoman Gunther and Senator Martucci. Ramie mentioned that Sen. Martucci has decided not to run for re-election and that, under the new maps, the 42nd Senate District removes Sullivan County and adds it to the 51st District, with Orange County remaining in the 42nd. In the meantime, the 19th Congressional District which had originally moved Sullivan County to the 17th District represented by Congressman Jones who met with us, now stays in the 19th but has no representative since Antonio Delgado became Lieutenant Governor. There will be a special election on Aug. 23, but ahead of that Lt. Gov. Delgado faces off in a June 28 primary to run to keep his appointed seat. Ramie said following all of the redistricting impacts on the river valley is extremely confusing!

When we mentioned at a committee meeting that the UDC has 40 or so Upper Delaware Litter Sweep t-shirts left, one person to notice that was Ingrid Peterec, National Park Service chief of interpretation. She inquired about getting shirts for her seasonal interns but said she would make sure they earned them by doing a full clean-up. It so happens that we had one outstanding township that had lacked volunteers, so on 6/10, the six-person crew will be picking up trash at the Buckingham Access as well as Bouchoux Trail. Hall-Bagdonas had suggested organizing trail clean-ups in the river valley, although there may not be free disposal options available. However, staff will provide supplies and Litter Sweep t-shirts to any other groups and individuals who organize additional litter pick-ups throughout the river valley.

Ramie expressed appreciation to Beth Brown, communications director from the Delaware River Basin Commission, for surprising her on 5/22 with a donated basin topographic map. Ramie was attending Sullivan County Historian John Conway's lecture at the reopened Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg on roadside attractions. Brown was exhibiting there Saturday and Sunday during the Festival of the Founding Fish: Upper Delaware Shadfest At the conclusion of Conway's talk, Brown gifted the Fort and its managers at The Delaware Company with a map then called Ramie up as well on behalf of the UDC. She said the new map will be useful for educational display purposes.

Ramie referenced the June calendar of meetings, activities, and deadlines. Our 7/7 presentation will be by the National Canoe Safety Patrol. There's an open slot for 8/4, then NYC DEP Chief of Staff Jennifer Garigliano will be here on 9/1 to give an update about the Delaware Aqueduct Repair project. Members suggested arranging a presentation on cell towers in August, if possible.

New Business

UDC Resolution 2022-06: Permanent Employee Status: Having successfully completed her six-month probationary period as Resources and Land Use Specialist, Engelhardt became eligible to advance to permanent employee status. She had completed a Staff Performance Appraisal interview with Ramie on 5/20 and with the Personnel Subcommittee on 5/24. A Motion by Rajsz seconded by Henry to approve draft Resolution 2022-06 Granting Permanent Employee Status to Resources and Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt carried, with a round of applause for her professional contributions to the UDC.

Substantial Conformance for Tusten Zoning Update re: Communication Towers: Engelhardt reviewed a written report on "Communications Towers in the River Corridor" that included references from the 1986 River Management Plan and Town of Tusten Zoning Law, as well as past UDC correspondence on this subject. Since this land use is not specifically addressed in the Land and Water Use Guidelines, reviewing project proposals and zoning ordinances associated with these facilities is a challenge of interpretation. The Project Review Committee had reviewed the Town of Tusten Zoning Update favorably but had outstanding questions about its provisions for communications towers and facilities. On a motion by Richardson, seconded by Robinson, the board authorized Engelhardt to advise the Town of Tusten and its planning consultant Peter Manning of the UDC's approval of a substantial conformance recommendation for all provisions of the Tusten Zoning Update except the Communications Towers section as it pertains to river corridor districts. She will formalize the ultimate action taken with a letter to NPS seeking a final determination for this FY 22 UDC Technical Assistance Grant project's substantial conformance with the Land and Water Use Guidelines.

The National Park Service previously indicated that they were not compatible within the river corridor boundaries. However, Hendrix said that policy has changed. Members said they would like to see a written policy from the National Park Service about conditions for compatibility of communication towers as an allowable land use within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Starting at the 6/28 Project Review meeting, staff was directed to revisit developing UDC standards to review communications tower projects, potentially by seeking a Letter of Interpretation or Minor Amendment to the River Management Plan.

Interstate Bridge Commission Funds Plans for 10 Delaware River Crossings: Ramie participated in the 5/25 virtual New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting. The Commission offered no timeframe to decide the fate of the historic Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge at that annual meeting, but advanced plans for an \$18,040,000 major rehabilitation of the Callicoon-Damascus Bridge to start next year with the bidding process in February 2023. Ramie provided her full press release in the meeting packet.

UDC Accepts Applications for Technical Assistance Grants by Aug. 19: A press release was also included announcing the opening of the Fiscal Year 2023 Technical Assistance Grant round. Members were asked to please advise their towns, townships, and the five river valley counties that TAG applications are due by 8/19. Engelhardt will update the forms on the UDC website.

Other: None.

Old Business

UDC Public Outreach Statement: Members reviewed a streamlined five-sentence paragraph that the Operations Committee had recommended at their 5/24 meeting. A Motion by Henry seconded by Rajsz to amend UDC Public Outreach Statement with a change of two words suggested by Dugan carried. The final approved Public Outreach Statement reads: "The Upper Delaware Council was created and mandated in 1988 by an Act of Congress. It oversees a partnership of Federal, two States, and local governments to manage the 73.4-mile designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The UDC fills a vital role in the relationship between the National Park Service and the local communities, protecting home rule authority, safeguarding private property rights, and advising towns/townships on meeting the River Management Plan Land and Water Use Guidelines. The organization has been funded through a federal allocation, flat since its inception, with neither the State of New

York nor the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania contributing their shares. Despite funding challenges, the UDC has fulfilled its core responsibilities set out in the federal legislation for the benefit of the approximately 250,000 visitors each year and all those fortunate enough to live in the Upper Delaware River Valley.”

Letters to NY and PA Governors for UDC State Funding and to NYS Lt. Gov. Delgado: Ramie introduced draft letters to Governors Kathy Hochul and Tom Wolf that will accompany the resolutions by New York towns and Pennsylvania townships, respectively, supporting State funding for the Upper Delaware Council. Members suggested some revisions to emphasize that “time is of the essence”. Ramie will make the changes and consult with Boyar to sign the final letters, which will be sent by certified mail to the governors and copied to state and federal legislators. Ramie noted that the packets also include a congratulatory letter that the UDC sent to newly-appointed Lt. Gov. Delgado on 5/9.

UDC Comments on NPS FY 2022 Work Plan: A copy of the UDC’s 5/27 memo offering comments and questions on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s work plan was included in the packet. Hendrix said a response is pending after consulting the various divisions.

NPS 5/26 Substantial Conformance Determination: Heron Hill Hunt Club Variance: This letter for Heron Hill Hunt Club Variance is the standard letter sent over from NPS Regional on 5/26 with an approval for concurrence on the UDC’s substantial conformance recommendation. Engelhardt will now close out this project on the database.

Other: Peckham noted community opposition for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area becoming a National Park is growing.

Jane Varcoe recommended that the committee look into the Wayne County Broadband Grant regarding the issue of improving telecommunications.

Executive Session: A motion by Richardson seconded by Robinson to go into executive session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss personnel matters was carried. A motion by Robinson seconded by Henry to come out of executive 9:04 p.m. was carried. A Motion to accept the Personnel Subcommittee’s recommendation carried. Ramie will do a memo to the bookkeeper with any relevant information.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion by Robinson, seconded by Barth, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. was carried.

*Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas 7-6-2022
Apologies there is no recording of this meeting due to technical error*