



Upper Delaware Council

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UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2023

The Upper Delaware Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2023. Chairperson Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Roll call followed reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees:

Town of Hancock-Fred Peckham (Zoom), Town of Fremont-Dennis Bernitt, Town of Delaware-Harold Roeder Jr., Town of Cohecton-Larry Richardson, Town of Lumberland- Nadia Rajs (Zoom), Town of Deerpark-Ginny Dudko, Berlin Township-Al Henry, Lackawaxen Township-Doug Case, Town of Tusten- Evan Padua (Zoom), Shohola Township-Aaron Robinson, National Park Service- Lindsey Kurnath; Delaware River Basin Commission- Kristen Bowman Kavanagh (Zoom), Delaware River Basin Commission- Beth Brown, New York State- Ryan Coulter, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania- Tim Dugan (Zoom)

Absent:

Westfall Township-Michael Barth, Town of Highland- Andy Boyar, Damascus Township- Jeff Dexter

Staff:

Executive Director- Laurie Ramie, Resource & Land Use Specialist- Kerry Engelhardt, Administrative Support- Stephanie Driscoll

Media:

Peter Becker- Tri-County Independent (Zoom), Ruby Rayner-Haselkorn- River Reporter, Meg McGuire- Delaware Currents, Christopher Mele- Delaware Currents Freelancer, Rosie Starr- WJFF Radio Catskill (Zoom)

Guests:

New York City DEP- Jennifer Garigliano, Town of Deerpark-Bill Dudko; Jane Varcoe, Gene Cramer (Zoom), NPS- Alex Garcia-Maldonado (Zoom), Michael Lombardi (Zoom)

Presentation: “Fall Dewatering Exercise for the 2024 Delaware Aqueduct Repairs” by Director of NYC DEP Bureau of Water Supply Jennifer Garigliano:

Garigliano explained that on March 6, 2023 DEP shut down the Delaware Aqueduct and began the process of dewatering the tunnel to an elevation of -90 feet below sea level. This was the first time a dewatering had been done in almost 70 years. The two-week shutdown enabled DEP to perform critical infrastructure and hydrological tests before beginning the final connection phase. Infiltration was happening when the Delaware Aqueduct is taken out of pressure, causing water to seep back in through the leaks. Garigliano displayed a photo to show what the Delaware Aqueduct would look like drained. She compared the aqueduct to a perforated PVC pipe; if she sprayed water through the pipe that water would come out through the cracks but if she stopped spraying water, the water would start to come back in. The problem is the water coming back into the aqueduct is coming back in at a much higher rate than they anticipated. The original math that was done was based off of numbers from the 1950's with additional factors such as, knowing the leaks were probably greater than they were in the 1950's. She showed a chart on the actual rate of infiltration vs. what they anticipated. It started earlier than anticipated, at a higher rate. They expected the tunnel to refill with the leak at about 20 million gallons, but it is closer to 30 million gallons. The pumping system they had in place is not big enough to handle the amount of water that's coming into the tunnel. More pumps need to be installed into the shaft 6 building to draw the water out. This is why the aqueduct shutdown got moved to next year. With new math they will re-do the numbers with the new math being based on actual data from drawing it down. They want to make sure that all of the numbers are correct when they re-do it. The new pumps to be installed at shaft 6 require additional power and the power will need to be operated at shaft 6. They did not anticipate running the pumps through the entire shut down. They thought they'd be able to dewater, turn the pumps off, and leave them off. They need to have enough power with the appropriate amount of back-up power to run the pumps through the entire shut down. On Monday, October 16, 2023, DEC will shut down the Delaware Aqueduct to do the de-watering exercise once more. They plan to go

more than -90 feet below sea level this time, but no further than -350 feet below sea level. They are going to drop the water in stages starting at -90 feet and letting it hold for a day, and then continuing with that plan of dropping it down further and holding it to make sure that the farther they go down they don't see higher rates coming back in. They will do this to make sure their math is correct and they have the right pumping and electrical feed going into shaft 6. There is only one more chance for the de-watering exercise before they go into the shut down next year. Since they plan to hold the water at certain heights, they anticipate this taking about 3 weeks. Once the exercise is complete, they will do another engineering report with their consultants and make sure the equipment ordered is still enough. In January they will be operating the shaft 6 facility so they have all the pumping, correct lines and electrical in for October of next year.

Henry asked how much water they think will have to be pumped out of the Delaware Aqueduct. Garigliano said they anticipate putting in the pumps for about 35 million gallons. He asked where they are pumping out the water to. Garigliano answered the Hudson River. The water will be pumped out through different shafts on either side of the river. The water will get pumped out to the facilities and through those they will drain out.

Robinson asked for information on elevation vs. depth, because they are citing -90 feet below sea level but the Delaware Aqueduct is -900 feet below the surface. Where is sea level? Is the Delaware Aqueduct at -90 feet below sea level? Is the elevation -90 feet below sea level? Garigliano said the aqueduct is not a straight line across, it's about -70 feet below the surface. It's very close to sea level, but the tunnel itself is -700 feet below. Engelhardt asked if they will be de-watering all the way down to the aqueduct. Garigliano said not for the exercise, but they will for the actual shut down they will have to completely empty it. During the exercise they won't be taking all of the water out of the tunnel; they will be pumping it out so that the tunnel hits a certain elevation above sea level.

Case asked if it's just surface water that is leaking in. Garigliano said it's groundwater, depending on where the leak is coming from. Since it's under the river, it's all groundwater. Richardson asked if the two areas they plan to repair are the only places they see infiltration. Garigliano said there are potentially small leaks other places, but the two they are repairing are significant. There is one in Wawarsing and a larger one in Roseton.

Peckham asked if that was the area with limestone with no steel lining, since they thought the limestone would hold. Garigliano said they knew the limestone was there and there are parts of a steel interliner installed because of the limestone. The problem is that it was not installed in long enough lengths. The big leak in Roseton is by the Central Hudson facility that you can see by the river, which is where the steel interliner ends. If they had gone a little further with the steel interliner when the Delaware Aqueduct was first built, they may not have had this issue. The limestone in the area is what they are attributing the leaks to.

B. Dudko asked if there is a possibility of collapse with no water. Garigliano said there is a very small chance of it collapsing. It is something they have heavily studied and done engineering analysis on. It's in the back of everyone's mind as a risk and has been one this whole time. The chances are very low. Robinson asked, even in Wawarsing where they are going into existing tunnel? Garigliano said yes. Henry asked if the aqueduct is generally full of water or maybe half full at times. Garigliano said it depends on what the flow is that's being sent down.

Ramie asked if the October 16th date is firm. Garigliano said they will be starting the morning on October 16th taking it down to 0 flow. Case asked if next year is when they plan to pump the water, making the water level lower. Garigliano said they will start drawing it down over the summer months. The releases will be based on whatever the hydrologic conditions are. This summer was dry so they didn't need to make large releases to drop. Some of the reservoir will be closer to 60%, depending mostly on Mother Nature. Kurnath asked if we will have any further updates. Garigliano will come back as they get closer to the actual shutdown to do another presentation.

Padua asked if Garigliano knew why over the past 4 days the Cubic Feet per Second rate was dropped at the West Branch. Garigliano said October every year is when they have a big seasonal shift in releases. With the FFMP if you look at the tables, they are done by storage zone and seasons. There are blocks of dates within the FFMP where they get different rates for different seasons with October 1st being the big seasonal drop that they have every year. That's based on the joint fisheries plan between NYS DEC and PA Fish and Boat where they go into spawning season. The goal is to not have huge releases in the river so they are not disturbing river banks and eggs. Padua said he's familiar with the drops on October 1st, but based on fish spawning he's been seeing dried river banks/beds for how low it is killing the spawning habitat for trout. He finds it concerning and that it didn't fit into the goal of the FFMP this year because we didn't have more flow coming in from tributaries.

Everyone thanked Garigliano for the presentation and she left the meeting.

Approval of September 7th Minutes: A motion by Henry with Dugan abstaining, seconded by G. Dudko to approve the September 7, 2023 meeting minutes carried.

Public Comment on the Agenda: Jane Varcoe mentioned an episode about 25 years ago on the Discovery Channel aired about the amount of water they were losing from the Delaware Aqueduct. Robinson added there was a house on Route 209 in Wawarsing that used to sit underwater at all times and the owner of the home knew the Delaware Aqueduct was leaking, but the city ignored him. Roeder said that they determined no one could build in that area again.

Committee Reports: There were no questions regarding previously distributed minutes: Special Project Review Meeting, September 12th (Larry Richardson); Water Use/Resource Management, September 19th (Ginny Dudko). Minutes from Project Review, September 26th; and Operations, September 26th are still pending.

Status Reports:

- a. **Delaware River Basin Commission:** Beth Brown gave the report as she was in person during this meeting. She was in the area not only to attend the UDC meeting but to also scout out venues for an in-person commission meeting. They plan to have it in the NY portion of the basin in 2024 and will send out more details when she has them. The next DRBC Public Hearing on November 8th and Business Meeting on December 6th will be virtual. An agenda has not been posted yet, but you can follow along by signing up for updates from DRBC website. October 12th is the Water Management Advisory Committee meeting and on the agenda are preliminary results of the review they did on 10 years of water assessments from 2012-2021. Leaving out NYC, once things are in our system and are supplied to water purveyors of a certain size, they require them to take stock of how much water loss is happening. This is the 10th year DRBC requires the water purveyors to provide that data. The Monitoring Advisory Coordination Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13th and a Climate Change Advisory meeting will be in December with a date to be determined. Brown reported there are 2 open positions in the DRBC of a Water Resource Engineer in the Project Review Branch and the Operation and Modeling Branch. In the meeting packet the most recent hydrologic report was included.
- b. **NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation:** Coulter commented that the drive to Narrowsburg was beautiful with the fall foliage. He reported that last week they met with the contractors at the DEC Long Eddy parcel and it looks like they will be able to develop that fishing access site this fall. He will keep everyone posted about when that work will start. It is a popular drift boat destination, so they plan to reach out to all of the angling groups. With the improvement of this site, he believes it will be more user friendly for boaters with about 7 parking spots available and 4/5 other spots. It will be a gravel site with an entrance and exit for easier use.
- c. **Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and National Resources:** Dugan apologized for missing last month's meeting. He reported the agency recently appointed a new Director of the Bureau of Forestry. He will send an email to the members with a link to details on the new State Forester, Seth Cassel. He has been with the Bureau for quite some time, is a good addition to the senior leadership and is well placed to carry them forward as they continue to protect and conserve the forests of Pennsylvania. He said locally, they have been doing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid treatments. Every year in the early part of fall they partner up with Forest Health staff to do stem treatments on Hemlock stands that have been infected with Woolly Adelgid to try to suppress the risks and survive. Hunting season and fall foliage are in full swing right now. Archery season for deer just started and starting October 14th is when grouse, woodcock, early 1 week season of muzzle loader for antlerless deer and bear, and bear archery start.

They are doing media blitzes to the community and tourist agencies to get out and see the fall foliage. Sugar Maples have been having issues with early leaf drop from fungus and black sooty mold. That may be related to excessive moisture that came later in summer into the fall and complicated by the fluctuating water conditions earlier in the year with an about 6-week drought. It wasn't a hot summer but it was relatively moist after the spring drought period which will lead to leaf mold or mildew issues. What they are seeing in Sugar Maples are the leaves casting early. He doesn't know if anyone on the council has encountered Beech Leaf Disease yet, closer to Wayne Counties and into NYS. They are seeing a big impact

on the Beech species in the forest where they are getting a lot of leaf drop. This disease is moving across Pennsylvania from Ohio over the last 7-9 years. It started in Ohio about 9 years ago and quickly moved across Pennsylvania. Seed crop seems to be sporadic but decent in most places. They are seeing decent acorn crop, not consistent for everywhere but most trees were able to hold onto their acorns and they are seeing mass crop coming down. Their staff has been in the field observing black bear, turkey, and deer feeding heavily on acorn crops dropping early.

There was a press event today in the Lehigh Valley related to DCNR and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Governor Shapiro and Secretary Dunn announced a large financial contribution to conservation efforts of \$52.5 million for over 225 recreation and conservation projects. Those include recreational opportunities, natural resource conservation and revitalization to local communities. He brought this up because he thinks it may tie into last month's meeting discussion about UDC funding to show that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is spending money on conservation efforts.

Henry asked if Beech Leaf Disease is fatal to the tree. Dugan said it's hard to answer that since it just started showing up 9 years ago in Eastern Ohio very quickly moving across the northern tier of PA. It's existing in every county in PA right now. They believe it has a high mortality rate since it is stripping the tree of its leaves during the growing season. Some early research is showing a 3-5-year period you will see mortality in more than 50% of the stand. He commented that it is concerning. G. Dudko noticed some of the smaller trees like Lilac bushes seemed to turn brown and drop their leaves 3-4 weeks ago. She found it interesting about the moisture levels and early droughts. Dugan said that probably follows what he was saying about the Sugar Maples, being more of a sensitive species like Lilacs and smaller trees.

Robinson said he read an article about the study of a management tool to hinder the spread of Woolly Adelgid by cutting breaks in the stands. They are finding if they harvest a small area, it allows a certain number of predators for the aphids in and you get natural control. They are doing more research but think this is a promising management tool. He said if he can find the article, he will pass it along to Dugan. Dugan thanked him. Robinson added that he saw a doe with horns. He asked around about it and people said it is possible. Dugan and Coulter agreed that it is rare but possible. Dugan said that their foresters are seeing a bit of a rebound in the turkey population. It's nice to see young of the year making it to fully grown stage. Some of the staff is seeing more grouse out going through timber stands. He commented it's better to hear that people feel like they are seeing more than they were 5, 8, 10 years ago. They are trying to be optimistic that a couple species they were worried about are making a decent rebound. Robinson said he hasn't seen much woodcock around. Is the population declining? Dugan said from what he's heard, woodcock seems to be relatively stable because they're so migratory; they spread their success across multiple states. He spoke to someone from Ruffed Grouse Society recently who said they were seeing more woodcock nesting in PA than they have in the past. Peckham said it comes in cycles. He's seen a lot of turkey, grouse and deer but not a lot of predatory animals such as coyotes and bobcats. One year you'll see more predators and not the game and vice versa.

Padua wrote in the Zoom chat that he had seen a large swatch of Beech trees that seem to have been dead in State Game Lands in PA. Padua said he witnessed it in Rileyville along a 100-yard stretch. Dugan said if you are used to looking into the woods and can tell the tree species, you will notice the Beech Leaf Disease.

- d. **National Park Service:** Kurnath announced NPS has a new Community Planner starting December 12th. Her name is Carly Marshall who is currently serving as the Planning Director for Gettysburg. She has worked for and with a number of municipalities in her capacity as a planner for local governments developing comprehensive plans, land use regulations and ensuring compliance for developments and global regulations. Marshall is passionate about public service and volunteers her time to local causes including historic preservation and farmers markets. She is originally from Susquehanna County and is excited to be returning to NEPA and eager to begin her position. Kurnath thanked the members for their patience and help recruiting.

When Peterec represented NPS in August she had told the council that their Community Volunteer Ambassador, Corrinne Hinton, who worked for the NPS a couple of years ago, was starting work in November. She will be focused on building up volunteer engagement. She will be with NPS for 50 weeks;

all of next summer. Kurnath said the last few of the seasonal employees will be coming off the books in the next week or two with summer officially coming to an end.

Kurnath thanked the UDC for letting NPS host their first post season Water Safety meeting with the CUA partners last Friday and thanked Driscoll for taking notes. That was the first time they had gathered liveries at the end of the season to get feedback that would be fresh on their minds. It gives NPS a list of things to prepare for next season so when they meet again in the spring, things can start off smoothly. Kurnath brought up the water safety message decal for the boats (rafts, kayaks, canoes). She doesn't think they'll be able to do that with the rafts but it has been worked into the decal for the fishing guides. She thanked B. Dudko for that recommendation.

She said that yesterday (October 4th) an agency mock exercise of the Delaware River Spill Response Plan was done. They were at the Delaware Water Gap at Milford Beach. The Spill Response Plan efforts have been going on since the 2018 train derailment and subsequent conversations about updating the response plan. The Upper Delaware River put together requests for assistance and ended up getting funding to work with federal and state agencies. They've been working to develop strategies and test the plan. They have hosted a number of strategic planning and tabletop exercises which resulted in developing what is being led by the EPA and the Coast Guard, what they call the Geographic Response Plan (GRP). They have been working on building up response plans in the upper, middle and lower sections of the Delaware River. These Geographic Response Plans help them have a bigger impact during the initial phase of an incident to help protect all of the resources that are in the river. After developing draft GRPs for the middle Delaware River, they were able to test those during the mock full scale hazmat exercise that was designed to test a larger scale incident with the EPA coming in as the lead agency with support from the Coast Guard. They had 2 regions of the EPA present from PA and NJ as well as county responders, the Coast Guard, EPA's contractors and NPS. Kurnath commented the exercise was beneficial. The next steps are to take the lessons learned from yesterday, keep building up GRPs for our region in the Upper Delaware section and to make sure were interfacing with our local agencies to understand everyone's capabilities are.

The Natural Resources Team wrapped up a few sampling efforts recently including snail sampling where they found 20 different species. There has been a year of shad sampling and the 2023 Special Protection Waters done with DRBC. They did some invasive plan management with the regional team along the towpath that included treating knotweed. They've also had some revegetation efforts going on by expanding their test lot of shrub willows at the TMR access, and seeing some success with native vegetation returning to that area with the willows. They also planted some replacement shrub willow at Skinners Falls.

She reported that the Government is funded through November 17th. Richardson asked how fast the EPA could respond to an emergency in the Delaware River. Kurnath said she wasn't sure, but she would ask. The scenario that was played out yesterday was 45 hours into the incident. Richardson commented that it could be pretty far down the river by then. Kurnath said that was the logic behind the exercise; where they were in the Middle Delaware, knowing that a lot of EPA's resources would be coming from Philadelphia or New York areas, the most feasible place to stop it may be the Middle Delaware unfortunately. It all depends on where it happens, and they will continue to develop GRPs where there are the highest risk areas of trains going off the rails.

G. Dudko asked if the Natural Resources Team ever reports on the eels and the population in the Delaware River. She commented that summer and fall are big eel seasons for the Delaware River. Kurnath said she doesn't currently have eel numbers but she could ask and Coulter said he could also get some information on them to send out.

Ramie asked if the Central New York Railroad was involved in the exercise since she had given their contact information to the EPA because Central New York Railroad wanted to be invited to the emergency drill. Kurnath said to her knowledge they were not there but she will ask the EPA if they invited them. She knows the goal of the exercise was to contain the spill after it happened. Ramie said they voiced they would like to be included in any future exercises involving the railroad. Kurnath said a question she has for Chief Ranger Winslow is at what point does the EPA come in and are they ready if there's an incident where the

EPA doesn't enter. B. Dudko asked if the fire department calls the NPS when there is a spill. Kurnath said that's part of what they are figuring out; who calls who and when.

- e. **UDC Executive Director:** Ramie thanked Kurnath again for providing the UDC with funding through the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2024, so that if a Government Shutdown had occurred the UDC could continue operations. However, this amplifies the issue of relying on one source of funding. In the packets is the letter our attorney/solicitor Jason Ohliger wrote at the directive of the board. After we met with him, Ohliger's recommendation was that the letter focus on the Executive Branch because of the Executive Orders that had been signed when the RMP was put into place. While the orders have been mentioned in our other letters, maybe starting from a legal standpoint will get more attention. Ramie worked with Ohliger on the wording to make sure it was accurate and represented the situation. She thinks he had a good tactic with the approach he took to be relatively direct and brief. The letter was approved at the September 26th Operations Committee meeting. Ohliger and Ramie were both away for a few days so the letter was sent today to the Governors with attachments that include the Executive Orders and the 1988 letter from the 3 members of Congress. The only change to the letter since the September 26th Operations Committee meeting would be on the second page, second to last paragraph, where Ohliger addresses the rationale for including the Congressional letter in the attachments. It indicates the long-term nature of the UDC to cooperatively manage this partnership. The letter ends in a call to action, that we want to set up a meeting with the Governors' offices to discuss the mechanism for this funding. Ohliger emphasized that a cost adjustment would be the appropriate action so that the UDC can survive and thrive. The letter specifically went to Governor Hochul and Governor Shapiro and the next step is for the letter to be sent to all our state and federal representatives as well so they know we have this correspondence. Ramie will also do a news release to quote from the letter directly to increase public awareness.

Ramie sent an email today to voting members of a support letter request with a template which would be needed by October 12th. The support letter concerns a grant that the American Rivers organization is submitting to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which has funding through the Federal Infrastructure Act to restore fish passage through barrier removals. There is a dam in Jeffersonville in the Town of Callicoon, Sullivan County, which was damaged back in the 2006 flood that engineers say can never be fully repaired. The property owners of the dam have been looking for solutions since the flood. NOAA has \$175 million available through the Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant. The UDC has been asked to do a support letter since Lake Jefferson feeds into the East Branch of the Callicoon Creek, which is a tributary to the Delaware River. Ramie said we would personalize the template if approved. Richardson had the idea to check with the Town of Callicoon to see if they have a position on this. She forwarded the email with the request to Town Supervisor Tom Bose, asking whether or not they are doing a support letter. Ramie said she will inform the members when she gets a response and recommended that they vote conditionally since this is our only meeting before the deadline. Beyond the reasoning of migrating fish, it could also be a boon for flood protection in the future to remove the spillway. Richardson made a motion to send a letter of support if there is no objection by the Callicoon Town Board, seconded by Roeder, which carried.

Ramie pointed out presentations the UDC is making that were listed on the calendar handouts. The UDC was asked by the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation to speak to their Leadership Sullivan class on October 17th. These are adult learners from business and organizations that work in Sullivan County. The Delaware Highlands Conservancy will be joining us for the presentation. The NPS was not available to present due to a scheduling conflict. The UDC will also be doing a presentation at the Water, Water Everywhere Conference hosted by Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) on October 24th, which is the first of their 2-day annual conference. The UDC offered to cover registration costs for the conference and 4 people are participating in person and via Zoom. There is a presentation scheduled by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy about different strategies for land protection at the next full council meeting on November 2nd. The deadline for the fall/winter issue of *The Upper Delaware* newsletter is November 27th and it will publish on December 11th.

New Business:

- a. **Draft Resolution 2023-06: Approving Technical Assistance Grants for Fiscal Year 2024:** A motion by Henry, seconded by Bernitt to approve draft resolution 2023-06, carried.

- b. **Draft Resolution 2023-07: Approving Award of Newsletter Contract for Fiscal Year 2024:** A motion by Henry, seconded by Bernitt to approve draft resolution 2023-07, carried.
- c. **Economic Impact of Tourism Statistics:** Ramie said every year she waits for the NPS to update the nationwide report they do on Visitor Spending Effects out of curiosity to see how we're doing and what the trend is. This report is usually done in late August/early September for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The handout included in the meeting packet shows data compared to 2021. It wasn't radically different from the previous year, going from \$13.3 million to \$13.5 million value of economic output to NPS gateway communities and represents 270,718 visitors. Beyond the numbers that are on the chart of jobs, labor income and overall economic output, Ramie shared the breakdowns of visitor spending and how different sectors are affected. There is a pie chart that shows that the number 1 sector in terms of the value of it at 27.29% being responsible for those jobs is lodging, number 2 is restaurants, number 3 is gas, number 4 is groceries, number 5 is retail, number 6 is recreation industries, number 7 is camping and number 8 is transportation. For example, camping only amounts to 3.32% of visitor spending, which in her opinion seems like a small amount for the Upper Delaware with the number of campgrounds we have. Those percentages have corresponding cost figures: lodging is \$3.7 million of the overall \$13.5 million in visitors spending. Ramie pointed out that the graph has been steadily going up since 2019. We are at the highest amount of visitor spending that has ever been recorded since 2012. She commented that 2016 was another good year with \$11.5 million because of the NPS Centennial Anniversary. They also do a monthly breakdown of the recreational visitors. The most popular month is July, followed by August, September, June, May, and December comes in last. B. Dudko asked how much people that come to the campgrounds and liveries spend at local stores and restaurants. Coulter agreed that it's a good question. Bernitt said, from running a general store in Hankins, about 75% were local shoppers. B. Dudko said he was curious to find out if visitors stop on their way to buy groceries, bring with them or go into local stores.
- d. **Other:** G. Dudko mentioned that the Town of Deepark Historian Norma Schadt is keeping the historical markers well preserved. In the last two years, Schadt and a group of volunteers are having the town workers bring the signs in to be restored and put back in place. She said that the group has put together a PowerPoint on restoring the historical markers and if any towns, townships or historical societies would like to see the PowerPoint, they should contact Schadt at (845) 856-2702.

Old Business:

- a. **Tablet Guidelines & Tablet/Accessories Distribution:** Driscoll read off the guidelines to the council. Henry asked if there was any type of anti-virus on the tablet. Engelhardt said there is the Windows Defender that comes standard on all Windows devices. B. Dudko asked if the user is to make updates, meaning is the user the person operating the tablet and Driscoll answered yes. G. Dudko asked how many people signed up for tablets. Driscoll said 9 voting members. G. Dudko asked if those 9 people will not need paper packets prepared then? Driscoll said that's correct, they will be emailed to them in advance for the user to load and have ready for the meeting. Driscoll had the tablets and accessories in the conference room to distribute after the meeting and sign out. Ramie reminded everyone that voting members were asked if they would like/use a tablet for meeting packets, so there are only enough tablets for the members who said yes.
- b. **Other:** None.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder seconded by Bernitt to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. carried.

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Driscoll, 10/12/2023