

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Dec. 15, 2009

Committee Members Present: Roeder, Shafer, Richardson, Keesler, Peckham, Fluhr, Bowers
NPS Partner: Hamilton
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: Niflot, Sundholm, Wieland, Chase, McKay

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Harold Roeder Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A motion by Richardson seconded by Shafer to approve the Nov. 24 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report: Soete reviewed the Discussion Items Report he handed out. Some highlights included:

Cell Tower Application (Lackawaxen Township): It was reported that a legal notice appeared in the Dec. 9 issue of the River Reporter announcing a Lackawaxen Township Hearing being held Dec. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Township Building. The hearing pertains to a request for a variance from local ordinance to permit the proposed improvements and favorable improvement, or in the alternative, a variance from the setback requirements and the landscape requirement regarding an application from American Communication Facilities and South Canaan Cellular Communications Co. for the request for approval to construct a wireless communications facility consisting of a 150-foot high monopole and equipment cabinets on property owned by Masthope Mountain Communities. Soete said he would research if the tower would be located in the River corridor.

Natural Gas Drilling/Leasing Update: Roeder announced that he had received information that someone drilling for Hess Corp. has been using air instead of water in sections of the drill. Peckham added that Echo Contractors jobbed out to Newfield. They use a closed system and reuse the water.

Old Business None

New Business

Pond Eddy Bridge Update: Ramie reported that a Memorandum of Agreement is being circulated to endorse replacement of the Pond Eddy Bridge and has been circulating since March. The deadline is Jan. 11, 2010 to hear from the involved parties if they will be signing this MOA, and if not, why not. The NYS SHPO has not been willing to sign. Copy of a letter from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington, DC to the Federal Highway Administration PA Division dated Nov. 24 was handed out to the committee. The letter stated in part: "...comments reveal that Shohola Township officials and residents of Pond Eddy, PA are frustrated with the time it has taken to complete the Section 106 review and are very concerned with the poor condition of the existing bridge. The Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition, Friends of the Pond Eddy Bridge, and the Historic Bridge Foundation, on the contrary, favor the rehabilitation of the existing two-span Pennsylvania Truss bridge; question the need for a new bridge with a 40 ton weight capacity; and question the adequacy of PennDOT's analysis of alternatives. PennDOT has determined that bridge replacement is the only feasible and prudent alternative meeting the projects purpose and need. While PennDOT has documented its reasons for selecting the replacement option and does not believe it has been arbitrary in reaching this conclusion, though it would be extremely unfortunate to lose the historic bridge at this location, the ACHP feels FHWA has demonstrated the need to move forward to ensure a safe, reliable river crossing for the Village of Pond Eddy." In the letter, the ACHP also offered comments and recommendations for finalizing the MOA for the replacement of the Pond Eddy Bridge.

Ramie noted the next teleconference for the Project Team for the Bridge will be held Jan. 12. UDC staff usually participates in these teleconferences.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Shohola-Barryville Bridge, Jan. 21: It was announced that the UDC received invitation to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Jan. 21 marking the reopening of the Shohola-Barryville Bridge. Festivities will be held on the New York Side of the Bridge. The four-span Shohola-Barryville Bridge over the Delaware River is a \$9.5 million project that connects Route 434 in Pike County, PA with New York Routes 55 and 97 in Sullivan County, NY.

Public Comment

~ There was a round of applause in gratitude for Alan Bowers, Westfall Township Representative, on his last committee meeting since he will be retiring from the Council this December.

Adjournment A motion by Richardson seconded by Shafer to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager