

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2013

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Harold Roeder, Jr., George Fluhr, Nadia Rajasz, Fred Peckham, Debra Conway, Jeffrey Dexter
Committee Members Absent: None
NPS Partner: Carla Hahn
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Travis O'Dell
Guests: None

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m

A motion to approve the July 23 meeting minutes was made by Peckham, seconded by Rajasz and carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report

Substantial Conformance

Town of Hancock: T. O'Dell reported that he has compiled all pertinent local, county, state and federal regulations and reviewed them with the principles and objectives of the Land and Water Use Guidelines for the Town of Hancock. He hopes to arrange a meeting with the Town Planning Board and County Planning personnel to go over these preliminary findings. Ramie said this is a huge accomplishment on O'Dell's part.

Project Review Update

Town of Highland: T. O'Dell noted that Reber's Livery has been operating on a parcel behind the Carriage House in Barryville. He said that back in April a complaint was received concerning a campground going in behind the same business. O'Dell contacted Town of Highland Planning Board Chairman, Berry Hafkin, and was informed that no campground was going in and that the facility would operate out of a non-permanent structure and rent between 7 and 14 canoes. It has been brought to his attention that it is a permanent structure and a campground is operating at the site. After a brief discussion about this issue, Peckham asked if a letter of inquiry could be sent to the Town asking for clarification on the issue. Richardson agreed and suggested waiting for a response before further discussion.

Town of Lumberland: T. O'Dell reported a NYS DOT rock scaling project is proposed in the Town of Lumberland on State Route 97. Photos of the areas that are to be worked on were projected on a screen. The current conditions of the rock slope create potential hazardous situations for all users of the highway. A comment letter that will come under New Business asks that several conditions be followed. Those conditions include: (1) All necessary measures are taken to ensure the safety of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic throughout the duration of the work; (2) Pollution and sediment control measures as stated in the work plan are adhered to; and (3) The recommended time frames from the New York State Department of Conservation are followed as closely as possible in order to avoid potential wildlife conflicts. O'Dell said he has learned that the project will take place between November 1 and December 31.

Damascus Township: Two new telecommunications towers are proposed at 199 MacCubbins Road and 52 Jurgensen Road. Both proposals are for 189-foot tree pole communications towers and associated compounds, and are located in the Upper Delaware River Corridor. O'Dell noted that two letters concerning this issue have been sent from this committee. A response letter from PSI was included in members' packets. O'Dell projected the photo simulations that had been sent to him for members to view. The photo simulations had been completed at each location from the water surface of the Delaware River.

Discussion took place about whether the towers could be seen from NYS Route 97, the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. Hahn noted that Verizon has two towers currently in the area and questions why they want to put two more towers in Damascus Township. Discussion took place about the usage of towers being for broadband or voice band and future technology. Dexter spoke about coverage in Damascus Township and other areas of the river valley. Other members added to the discussion of cell phone coverage.

Barnes and Cortese Landfills: A copy of a letter from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation outlining the history of and updates on these sites was included in members' packets for informational purposes.

TAG Update: O'Dell reported that all 2013 applicants did meet the deadline for submitting their project completion paperwork. He noted that Sullivan County completed only half of its project and is requesting half of what was awarded. Richardson said that policy is that if a project is not completed, the project does not get funded. A very lengthy discussion took place with various opinions expressed. Ultimately, it was decided that an incomplete project can not be funded. O'Dell noted that the Town of Fremont completed its project, but requested less funding than was awarded. Peckham asked if we have received any applications for the FY 2014 round of TAGs. O'Dell told him yes and reminded members that applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on August 30, 2013 and that there will be a Special Project Meeting on September 10th at 6:30 p.m. for review of the FY 2014 grant applications.

New Business

Draft Letter to NYS DOT: O'Dell noted this letter regarding the rock cut along State Rt. 97 was discussed earlier in the meeting. A motion to send the letter was made by Rajs, seconded by Roeder and carried. Rajs thanked O'Dell for copying the Town of Lumberland on the letter, noting the Town had no prior knowledge of the project.

Technical Assistance Grants Program Action Items: The committee received requests from TAG recipients for committee action:

~TAG 2013-01 Town of Deerpark, Subdivision re-write, project completed, request for payment, \$3,600.

~TAG 2013-02 Town of Tusten, Zoning Law Re-write and printing, project completed, request for payment, \$5,000.

~TAG 2013-04 Town of Cochection, Codify Local Law, project completed, request for payment, \$7,000.00.

~TAG 2013-05 Town of Lumberland, Updated Emergency Management Plan, project completed, request for payment, \$5,000.

~TAG 2013-07 Sullivan County, Improve Interpretation at Minisink Battleground Park, project not completed, request for partial payment, \$3,103.11.

~TAG 2013-09 Town of Fremont, Purchased Town Clerk Software Program and training, project completed, request for \$1,740 of the \$2,100 awarded.

A motion to approve all the TAGs with the exception of Sullivan County and de-obligate the money for Sullivan County and the difference for the Town of Fremont was made by Rajs, seconded by Roeder and carried.

Other: Ramie noted that now that some of the TAG funding has been de-obligated, a decision needs to be made as to what will be done with that money. She provided members with the total. A motion to replace the front door of the office with a new energy efficient door (a quote had been provided by Just-in-Time Contractors of Callicoon and was in members' packets) and send the remaining balance to Lakewood Oil for the purchase of fuel oil was made by Rajs. Richardson said the minutes should reflect that the Project Review Committee consists of the same members as the Operations Committee. The motion was seconded by Roeder and carried.

Old Business

Cell Tower Workshop Report: Ramie noted that provided in members' packets was a history on what the UDC has done to date concerning cell towers in the river corridor. She said that three meetings were held in

2001 and the goal was to explore the feasibility of working together on a river valley master plan to provide advisory guidelines to review cell tower applications. Ramie said as of November 2001 they were searching for a wireless service provider willing to present at an informational meeting. She found no reference to the subject after that. Richardson suggested setting up a meeting with a consulting firm or individual that is knowledgeable about the latest technology with the tower industry today. Hahn questioned if anyone had seen the Sullivan County report "Broadband and Mobile Telephony Study and Plan" done by Darcy Gerbarg. T. O'Dell said he has that and will circulate it to committee members. Rajszyk stated there needs to be a coordination of efforts on this issue. Richardson said he would like to be brought up to date on the latest technology available. A brief discussion took place about Gerbarg's report. Ramie said she will do some research to find people who are qualified to speak on the issue. Richardson asked staff to come up with some suggestions by next Project Review meeting of who may be available to give us some information and proceed from that point with the concept of a conference on the issue.

Use of the 1988 Project Review Workbook: The consensus of the committee was to table this review until next month due to the time.

Other: None

Public Comment:

Adjournment: A motion by Rajszyk, seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 9/3/13