

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2014

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Jeff Dexter, Nadia Rajsz (6:40 p.m.), George Fluhr, Andy Boyar, Harold Roeder, Jr., Fred Peckham, David Dean
Committee Members Absent: Debra Conway
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, October 28, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairman Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

Discussion Items Report

Project Review Update

Town of Fremont: O'Dell reported that the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC) is in contract for the Long Eddy property on Ferry St. with the intention that after they acquire it, the property will be sold to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to develop and manage as a river access and additional parking to accommodate drift boats. The DHC has initiated a crowd sourcing campaign to raise funds to assist with the acquisition and make improvements to the site. More information can be found at www.delawarehighlands.org. A conversation about why the state is not buying this property outright took place.

Lackawaxen Township: O'Dell stated that on October 20th, Lackawaxen Township held a public hearing for the purpose of considering amending the definitions of "cluster development", "multi-family dwelling", "townhouse", and "tourist recreation and lodging facility." He had requested more information regarding the amendments which he received earlier in the day. He will review the information and provide an update. O'Dell said he will be giving a Project Review presentation to the Lackawaxen Planning Commission on November 5th.

Masthope Sewage Discharge: O'Dell said that at the September 4th full Council meeting, NPS Superintendent Kris Heister reported that there had been elevated levels of fecal coliform entering the Delaware from the Masthope Mountain Community sewage treatment plant over the Labor Day weekend. This has been an ongoing issue on high visitation, holiday weekends, with no resolution from Pennsylvania DEP or National Park Service to date. An article from the October 1 *News Eagle* regarding the issue was provided in members' packets.

Roebing Bridge: O'Dell reported that NYS DOT has begun working on the drainage at the Roebing Bridge. Hahn added that the work is to be completed by November 17th.

New York State Open Space Conservation Plan: O'Dell said this draft was circulated to both the Project Review and Water Use/Resource Management Committees on October 17th. It will be discussed under New Business. Public comments are due by December 17, 2014.

Upper Delaware Mapping: O'Dell reminded members that Shannon Thol, a student in Penn State's GIS Master's Program, has proposed to create GIS maps of the Upper Delaware, complete with zoning information. The ultimate goal is mapping and evaluating land cover and land use change over time. She will be analyzing the time period from 1986-2014. O'Dell referred to the letter in members' packets that

was sent out to the counties introducing Thol and explaining the project and what is needed to accomplish it. Hahn said that letters have also been sent to the towns and townships. O'Dell noted the letter was a joint one from the NPS and UDC. Hahn stated that one of the four projects that Thol is working on is to make it possible for the NPS, UDC, and towns/townships to be able to access this information through a website to accomplish their own work. O'Dell said that Thol is proposing to overlay a town's zoning on a map in order to help determine if a property is in or out of the corridor and which district it is in. Hahn noted that Thol is working with both the towns/townships and the counties to ensure that the most current information is being used in this process. Dexter stated that in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the maps are generated by the county. Fluhr told Hahn that he and Shohola Township are unsure of what is being sought for this project. He noted that the township did not request to have a mapping project accomplished through the TAG program as they were unsure about that as well. Fluhr is under the impression that Pike County may already have the maps created. Hahn said that will be determined as a result of this project. Fluhr hopes there will be instruction as to how these maps can be used once they are created. Peckham asked if Thol was an employee of the Park Service. Hahn stated that Thol is volunteering with the Park Service to develop this mapping system for her Master's project for Penn State University. Dexter spoke of the Wayne County Agricultural Land Use Study which used aerial photographs that were taken in 1959 and obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture. He noted the results show a huge increase in forest cover. A brief discussion about impervious surfaces took place.

Project Review Presentations: O'Dell said that last month he was asked to contact the Cochecton Planning Board Chair to set up a presentation. He emailed that person on October 7th and has not received a response. Ramie added that attempts by phone have been unsuccessful as well. Richardson said he will look into this.

O'Dell reiterated that he has scheduled the Project Review presentation with Lackawaxen Township on November 5th.

TAG Update: O'Dell reported that signed TAG contracts have been received to date from the Town of Tusten, Shohola Township, and Sullivan County. He noted that Sullivan County needed a revised contract replacing signatory Legislature Chair Scott Samuelson for Joshua Potosek, County Manager, to match their resolution that was previously approved.

Upcoming Training: O'Dell said that on November 17th, he will be attending a free workshop at the Sullivan County Government Center focusing on Sustainable Development Strategies. A handout with more information was provided in members' packets. He noted that speaker Randall Arendt is the country's most sought after speaker on the topic of creative development design as a conservation tool.

New Business

New York State Draft Open Space Conservation Plan Discussion: T. O'Dell said this Draft Plan is an update and revision of the 2009 Plan. It was sent out in advance to members of this and the Water Use/Resource Management committees, he added. Public comments will be accepted until December 17, 2014. He hopes that a draft letter can be ready to send out by either the November or December full Council meeting. The pages of the Plan that pertain to our area were provided in members' packets. He asked members to look the draft plan over and send comments by November 3rd so that a draft letter can be worked on. Richardson noted that this Draft was discussed at the October 27th Upper Delaware Scenic Byway meeting. Dean asked what the comments were at that meeting. Rajsasz stated that the Town of Lumberland is looking at two parcels, if there is money, to acquire as open space. Dean shared his interpretation of the draft plan which is that it is a plan to "increase density of housing as best as possible to preserve the rest of the land." He said the problem comes about "if you own the rest of the land and you can't do anything with it." Dean said he continues to read through the entire draft plan. Richardson said it is his understanding that a particular property needs to be listed in the final plan in order to be funded should funds become available. O'Dell hopes that NYS DEC Representative Bill Rudge will be in attendance at the November full Council meeting to answer questions and address concerns. O'Dell feels the Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area and its lack of a management plan is something that the UDC should comment on. Rajsasz agreed with that. O'Dell pointed out a couple of other issues that warrant comments.

Richardson suggested asking Rudge about the prerequisite of properties being listed in the plan in order to be funded.

Other: None

Old Business

Use of 1988 Project Review Workbook: Members resumed their page-by-page review of the workbook beginning on Page SP-33 (Review of Significant Projects) and ending at page SP-37. Hahn questioned if discussion is taking place during the review. Ramie said that issues are addressed and noted as they come up. O'Dell said the Review Workbook contains some discrepancies and he had hoped the consultants would have picked them up during their review of the River Management Plan. Ramie said a list of documents that they did review was included in the technical report. She is not sure if the workbook is on the list. O'Dell noted that Class II review for "Projects to be constructed, permitted, or operated by government agencies" refers the user to SP-33 which is "Review Criterion #5" and says it is for "Projects involving facilities in the river corridor to be constructed or operated by governmental agencies." He noted the word "permitted" is a major word that is not consistent throughout the document and makes it hard to use. A brief discussion took place regarding permitting. Hahn questioned if members would decide on a resolution regarding O'Dell's comment of the discrepancy. Ramie said all the comments made during the review would be compiled to look at as a whole once the review is complete.

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Rajs, seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 11/4/14