

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2013 (Re-scheduled from Dec. 17)

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Harold Roeder, Jr., Pat Jeffer, Fred Peckham, Debra Conway, Jeffrey Dexter, Nadia Rajsz
Committee Members Absent: George Fluhr
NPS Partner: Sean McGuinness
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Travis O'Dell
Guests: Andy Boyar (6:51p.m.), Al Henry (7:01p.m.)

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

A motion to approve the October 22 meeting minutes was made by Rajsz, seconded by Peckham and carried with Richardson abstaining as he was not in attendance at the October meeting. The November meeting was cancelled due to a winter weather advisory. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report

Project Review Update

Town of Hancock: O'Dell reported that on December 5, 2013, there was an incident at the site of the Hancock Compressor Station on Hungry Hill Rd. According to an article in the December 10 edition of the *Sullivan County Democrat*, at approximately 9:30 p.m. pipeline crews had to perform an emergency blowdown requiring a 10-mile stretch of the pipeline to be vented into the atmosphere before construction could resume. A neighboring family was asked to evacuate their home for the duration of the event.

NYC DEP: T. O'Dell said he was loaned a set of 2002 and 2003 NYC DEP's Emergency Action Plans for the Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs by NPS Chief Ranger Joe Hinkes. Rajsz said she would share the updated plans her town has with the Council.

PA DEP: O'Dell reported that the Pennsylvania DEP opened the proposed Chapter 78 Oil and Gas Regulations up for public comment on December 14th. Comments are due by February 12th. He covered what he thought might be some main points of concern for the Council. After a brief discussion, it was decided that O'Dell would draft a letter for consideration at the January Project Review Committee meeting. Richardson requested that the letter be sent out in advance.

Communication Tower Workshop: T. O'Dell said that in order to continue the effort to address the need for communication services in the river valley while balancing the scenic qualities of the region, it has been discussed that the Council should host a forum with various speakers who are familiar with the industry. He noted it would be helpful to have a couple of tentative dates in mind to line up speakers and a venue for such an event. Richardson said it could be a public meeting that the towns would benefit from. O'Dell mentioned some of the potential speakers he would like to have present and said it would be nice to make contact with someone from the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway about the regional plan that they have in place. After brief discussion, it was decided to look for a Saturday date in mid to late March. Richardson suggested scheduling the forum from 9 a.m. until noon.

TAG Update: O'Dell reported that signed contracts for the FY 2014 TAG projects have been received from all applicants. He noted that Berlin Township completed their project. They obtained Tax Maps of Wayne County and a file system.

Training

O'Dell reported that on January 15, 2014, he will present on the UDC's project review procedure and how the procedure can be integrated into the recently revised New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process at an informational meeting co-sponsored by the Sullivan County Planning Department and the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development. The seminar will be held at Bernie's Holiday Restaurant in Rock Hill, New York at 5 p.m. and is open to all UDC member towns. O'Dell said that more information will be forthcoming. Ramie noted this is a great opportunity as it is the perfect audience that we've been looking for to tell about what is involved with the UDC project review process.

New Business

Approval for TAG 2014-08: Berlin Township, Purchase Tax Maps/Display: A motion to approve Berlin Township's TAG project was made by Rajs, seconded by Conway and carried unanimously.

Other: None

Old Business

Telecommunications Workshop Discussion: Ramie noted this was covered during O'Dell's Discussion Items Report.

Use of the 1988 Project Review Workbook: Members resumed their page-by-page review of the workbook beginning on Page CV-1 (Review of Challenges and Variances) and ending at CV-3. Richardson read on page CV-2 under Ordinance Challenges, the sentence "No successful challenge shall be cause for any town to be found not to be in substantial conformance with the plan and guidelines" and noted that is an important line. Discussion about the difference in the language used in Pennsylvania and New York took place. It was noted that a challenge in Pennsylvania is similar to a variance in New York. Rajs suggested that such differences and definitions be clarified. Richardson noted that what could come out of this review is a page to clarify some of the language.

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Peckham, seconded by Conway to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 12/23/13