

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2015

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Fred Peckham, Harold Roeder, Jr., Aaron Robinson, Jeff Dexter, David Dean
Committee Members Absent: Susan Sullivan, Nadia Rajsasz, Debra Conway, Alan Henry
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 25, 2015 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

A motion to approve the July 28 meeting minutes was made by Peckham, seconded by Dexter and carried with Richardson abstaining. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report

Project Review Update

Town of Tusten: O'Dell reported that on August 4th, there was an exchange of emails amongst numerous people regarding construction in the Eagles Nest Estates above Crawford Road. The initial complaint alleged that construction at this location had scared the eagles in a nearby nest and that the eaglets were in jeopardy. Follow-up with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation confirmed that there were no violations of state or local laws and that the eagles were in no danger. O'Dell provided some background on the Eagles Nest Estates subdivision. He noted it was a controversial subdivision undertaken in the early 2000's where the Town of Tusten, State of New York, National Park Service, and UDC reached a mutually beneficial agreement to allow the project to move forward with building and deed restrictions in order to allow development that was harmonious with the surrounding natural and scenic values.

Town of Highland: O'Dell noted that to date we have not received a response from NYS DOT to the UDC's July 23rd letter regarding the Barryville access. Richardson stated that a separate response was received from the NYS DEC. O'Dell said the DEC responded providing information regarding the Fishing Access Site which lies primarily on the upstream side of the bridge, extending from the Delaware River to the cul-de-sac at the end of River Road (County Highway 11A).

Robinson said he did some personal research on the property in question. He provided the details of his research noting he is unsure who in fact owns the property.

Roeder spoke of the article in the August 21 edition of the *Sullivan County Democrat* about Livingston Manor surveyor George Fulton's book about the day everyone in Livingston Manor had to buy back their homes and businesses. Roeder shared details of this historical event.

NYC DEP: O'Dell reported that NYC DEP has started its next round of public meetings to share the latest information with communities along the Delaware River regarding the Cannonsville Dam project. One such meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27th at 6 p.m. in the UDC office. Provided in members' packets was an August 10th press release titled, "Department of Environmental Protection Provides Update on Repairs Downstream of Cannonsville Dam."

Buckingham Township: O'Dell noted there is a proposed pipeline in Buckingham and Preston Townships in Pennsylvania and the Town of Hancock in New York. The pipeline is still in the early stages of leasing property and planning the route but is proposed to cross the West Branch of the Delaware River to connect the Tennessee and Millennium pipelines. A copy of an article from the August 19 edition of *The Hancock Herald* was provided in members' packets. The article further explains the project. O'Dell stated the project is not in the corridor, but he will continue to monitor. He noted it appears that the major concern of citizens in Buckingham Township is the siting of a compressor station.

Shohola Township: O'Dell reported that on July 30th he received the draft zoning amendments for Shohola Township. He is currently reviewing for substantial conformance as per the Project Review Workbook. O'Dell said he will be meeting with the Township to go over the proposed changes. Robinson told him that now would be a good time for comments as they hope to be able to go over the comments at the next Planning Board meeting. O'Dell said he had just few items to address. Hahn questioned if there will be a change to the map as a result of the zoning changes. She was told there will be. She noted that showing overlays on the maps is very helpful.

Enforcement Programs: O'Dell reported that Lackawaxen Township is the only report that is pending. A comprehensive draft report is being compiled and will be presented to the committee when complete. Richardson questioned if Lackawaxen is working on their report. O'Dell said they are.

Project Review Workbook Review: O'Dell noted that four different consulting firms have inquired about the scope of work for this project. On August 11th, he and Ramie had a teleconference with one of the consultants to explain the project and anticipated deliverables. Sealed bids for the scope of work are due by 5 p.m. on September 1st.

Substantial Conformance: No update

FY 2015 TAG Program: O'Dell reported that he has received all of the required documentation for the outstanding FY 2015 TAG projects. He added that the only issue was that Sullivan County was one day late submitting their paperwork due to a personnel vacation issue. Ramie added that it is our understanding that the project was complete on time; it was just an issue of getting the project completion form to us by the August 21 deadline.

O'Dell reported that applications for FY 2016 are due by August 28th. He asked members to note the change for the FY 2016 program requiring all private consultants applying for a grant to have a letter or resolution of support from the respective municipality sponsoring the application.

Other:

New Business:

Approval of Town of Highland TAG 2015-02: Update and Improve Town's Website: A motion to approve TAG 2015-02 was made by Roeder, seconded by Robinson and carried.

Approval of Town of Fremont TAG 2015-03: Print/Distribute "The Echo" Publication of the Basket Historical Society: A motion to approve TAG 2015-03 was made by Roeder, seconded by Robinson and carried.

Approval of Town of Delaware TAG 2015-05: Codify Local Laws and Ordinances: A motion to approve TAG 2015-05 was made by Roeder, seconded by Robinson and carried.

Approval of Town of Tusten TAG 2015-07: Create Topographic Maps: A motion to approve TAG 2015-07 was made by Roeder, seconded by Robinson and carried.

Approval of Shohola Township TAG 2015-08: Produce History Related Kiosks Panels: A motion to approve TAG 2015-08 was made by Roeder, seconded by Robinson and carried.

Approval of Sullivan County TAG 2015-11: Eagle Education Initiative: A motion to approve TAG 2015-11 was made by Roeder, seconded by Robinson and carried.

Pond Eddy Bridge Permit Comment Responses to UDC: O'Dell referred to the handout from SAI Consulting Engineers provided in members' packets. He stated that they are including many of the UDC's comments into the scope of work for the bridge project. Ramie said we were pleased to see that they took our comment letter seriously and addressed the suggestions point by point and had a comment one way or the other. Richardson questioned if there is any further action to be taken. Ramie said no.

Other: Robinson asked what the UDC can do to augment the cell service in the valley. He spoke of a tower going up in Shohola Township just outside of the corridor. He noted that Verizon was aware of the limitations within the corridor. He said he is aware of at least three hardships this past summer where no cell service was available. He said that if we welcomed a cell service provider, they may come. He does not feel it is good policy to not have communication in the valley. Robinson listed the very minimal areas of service from Port Jervis to Narrowsburg. O'Dell shared details of the March 29, 2014 UDC Communication Towers Workshop. Peckham spoke of new technology where cell service is provided on electric poles currently being instituted by PPL. Robinson said he feels cell service should be a high priority and asked if the UDC can contact someone concerning the issue. Richardson agreed that some other form of service besides the traditional cell tower could be investigated. He added that if such a venture is profitable to the provider, they will look into it. Robinson feels the UDC should make the need for service known. Robinson said he wants to put the burden of lack of service on someone that is accountable. He wants them to know that out of 73.4 miles of river frontage, there is very limited service. Dexter noted that cell coverage is economically driven. After more discussion it was decided to invite Dick Comi, a consultant who has over 30 years of telecommunications experience first working for the telephone and wireless industries before becoming co-owner in 1997 of The Center for Municipal Solutions, to an upcoming full Council meeting to provide a communication update to the members. Hahn suggested that Congressman Gibson's office or Sullivan County Communications Committee could be solicited for input. Dean noted it is such changing technology, that it should be revisited periodically.

Old Business

“Mapping, Modeling and Monitoring Land Cover in the Delaware River Basin” Update: O'Dell stated this project has been undertaken by Shippensburg University. The project is to build a very high-resolution map of land use and land cover for the Delaware River watershed; to develop a land use and land cover forecast model; and to assess the viability of long-term monitoring. A copy of an “Updates from Shippensburg” newsletter was provided in members' packets. Dean asked if they are financed by the William Penn Foundation. O'Dell said they are in part.

Other: Richardson commented that the July 1952 *National Geographic* magazine article, “Today on the Delaware, Penn's Glorious River” (with Map and 33 illustrations, 27 in Natural Colors) by Albert W. Atwood and Robert F. Sisson was fascinating reading. He said that Ramie shared the link for the article and encouraged everyone to read it. Peckham asked Odell to remind him to bring his original copy of that *National Geographic* magazine to the next full Council meeting. Members discussed some excerpts from the article.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Dexter to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. was carried unanimously.