

Upper Delaware Council  
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
February 2, 2017  
(Re-scheduled from January 24, 2017)

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Harold Roeder, Jr., Fred Peckham, Jeff Dexter, Alan Henry, David Dean, Aaron Robinson, Susan Sullivan, Jim Greier  
Committee Members Absent: Debra Conway  
NPS Partner: Carla Hahn, Don Hamilton  
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Pete Golod  
Guests: Rita Greier, Ginny Dudko, Jim Barth, Cheryl Korotky, Jeff Haas (6:51 p.m.), Zoriana Gingold (6:55 p.m.)

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. The January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Chairperson Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:** Current Chairperson Richardson called for nominations. A motion to re-nominate Richardson as Chairperson was made by Dexter and seconded by Dean. Richardson was elected by a voice vote. A motion to nominate Dean as Vice-Chairperson was made by Dexter and seconded by Roeder. Dean was elected by a voice vote.

A motion to approve the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was made by Henry, seconded by Peckham and carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Discussion Items Report:** Referring to Golod's written report, Richardson questioned if there were any timely issues that required discussion due to the condensed meeting timeframe. Golod said members could read his Discussion Items Report individually, but he wanted to take some time to discuss the Enforcement Program Report. He reported that he drafted a letter to Code Enforcement Officers and Building Inspectors for all 13 municipalities requesting all 2016 building permits, variances, and ordinance changes within the river corridor for the annual Enforcement Program Report. Five out of the thirteen municipalities have responded to date, he added. On January 12, Golod met with NPS Superintendent Heister regarding the approach on how to interpret the Enforcement Program goals per the River Management Plan and what the annual report should entail. Golod said that a meeting with Damascus Township Zoning Code Enforcement Officer Ed Lagarenne, Superintendent Heister and himself took place on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The purpose was to obtain an objective third party perspective regarding the program. Golod said he continues to work with the Superintendent to revise and streamline the annual report. Richardson asked Golod if he may have a draft proposal before the February 28<sup>th</sup> Project Review meeting. Golod is unsure.

Peckham read from Golod's report, "On 11/29 The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff from its Oil and Gas Management and Water Resources Planning offices attended a special meeting of the DRBC to discuss draft regulations covering oil and gas development activities in the watershed. The DEP report said, 'All jurisdictions reviewed draft regulatory language for oil and gas management and provided direction to the Commission related to the next steps for regulatory actions. DRBC will be providing additional edited language for certain sections of the proposed regulations to the jurisdictions as follow up actions. Commissioners from all the jurisdictions will continue to discuss future actions concerning oil and gas activities in the basin.'" Peckham questioned what regulations they are talking about. After a brief discussion, Richardson suggested that Golod find out which regulations are being referred to in that quotation from the PA DEP report. Golod said he would look into that for clarification.

Golod said he will provide an update on his GIS course at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Project Review Update**

### **Old Business**

**Draft Solar Position Paper Next Steps:** Ramie reported that since the full Council last met, one more comment on the position paper was received from Westfall Township. A copy of their letter was provided in members' packets. She noted that responses have now been received from eight of the 13 member municipalities. Ramie provided her interpretation of the responses noting that she feels of the reporting members, two are in favor of the UDC's Position Paper; five are against; and one is undecided. Ramie said she feels we still need to have some sort of position in place so that there are some standards by which the UDC can review any applications that come in for solar arrays. She suggested that the Position Paper be revised in some manner. She added that there may be some criteria proposed for considering Conditional Uses. Ramie stated that Superintendent Kris Heister would like to be part of this conversation, but she will be unavailable for both the February 28 Project Review Committee meeting and the March 2<sup>nd</sup> full Council meeting. Ramie added that Heister has suggested a special meeting of either the Project Review Committee or a sub-committee that is interested in working on just this topic. Richardson agrees that the Council does need to come up with some sort of position. He stated that the Draft Position Paper was a good starting point. He suggested that it might be money well spent to have a professional to guide this process. Robinson questioned why the Council needs to take a position at all, noting that we have the River Management Plan as framework. He asked why solar has to be different than any other commercial project. Ramie noted that solar is a new land use and we do not have any guidance provided in the Plan on how to review it. Robinson said it is his opinion that the UDC could learn from the townships' processes of review. Sullivan said she feels the Council needs to focus on all the things we agree on going forward. She said, "We all agree that solar is not going to adversely affect the health and welfare of people who live in our towns; we all agree that it is an overall good; we all agree that commercial solar is a new land use; but these are basic things that we agree on. We support the River Management Plan, do we not?" Robinson answered, "By law, by agreement." Sullivan stated that when Tusten reviews their zoning they have the River Management Plan right along-side it and they have to make it work. A brief discussion about Tusten's position on the Draft Position Paper took place.

**Red Alert Emergency Phones Follow-up:** Ramie said there is no new information to report. Robinson said he's had no further contact with Frontier Communications over the UDC's request for an engineering study.

**Project Review Workbook Update:** Ramie reported that she, Golod and Carla Hahn are scheduled to meet again on February 10<sup>th</sup> to continue their review of the two guides under revision.

**Other:** None

**New Business**

**Explanation of Issues and Communication Databases:** Golod referred to the draft communication tracking chart provided in members' packets. He said that he has created this database spreadsheet to be used to track correspondence between the UDC and the National Park Service and the municipalities. He added that it is a rudimentary tracking system that he is continuing to develop. Richardson said it is a good start. Golod apologized for the small font size.

**Other:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion by Roeder, seconded by Dean to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. was carried unanimously.