

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2018

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Fred Peckham, Jim Greier, Susan Sullivan, Harold Roeder, Jr., David Dean, Al Henry, Steve Adams, Aaron Robinson

Committee Members Absent: Debra Conway

Staff : Laurie Ramie, Pete Golod, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas

NPS Partner: Kris Heister, Jennifer Claster

Guests: Roger Saumure (Shohola alternate), Patricia Jeffer (Shohola alternate), Cheryl Korotky

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. A motion by Greier, seconded by Robinson, to approve the Nov. 27th meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report:

Town of Delaware: Callicoon Water Company update: The town has been in the process of assuming ownership and upgrading the Callicoon Water Company, which has been in severe disrepair. The full project has been estimated at approximately \$4.2 million; but that will be slightly offset because they were just awarded a New York State Water Infrastructure Grant estimated around \$534,000.

Town of Highland: The Zoning Draft, which UDC awarded a 2017 Technical Assistance Grant for \$10,000 and was reviewed for substantial conformance, has now been scrapped. It was recently reported that the draft was not well-received by the public which included sections related to animal husbandry, clearcutting, signage and provisions for small quarries. The town board has since decided a major rewrite is required. The new draft is ongoing which Supervisor Haas reported as saying has to be done by March. Regarding the Highland River Access, located off of Rt. 97, Sullivan County had taken the lead on this and was finalizing the local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant work for final engineering, permitting, SEQR, operation and management agreement stages for the access. The design was well received by the town's Planning Board in a Dec. 5th hearing. The only exception was NY Department of Transportation requires a few modifications to the design. According to Sullivan County Planner Heather Jacksy, it does not appear that the state grant request will be funded again this year however.

Damascus Township: On Nov. 28th Golod received the Township's Comprehensive Plan Update. He will email the plan to this Committee for advanced review. Golod is meeting with Claster on Dec. 20th to review the draft plan. A substantial conformance review is underway and will be provided at the Jan. 22nd Project Review Committee.

Brookfield Renewable: Lake Wallenpaupack received 8" of rain in November and due to it Brookfield Renewable has been running power generators, generating electricity in attempt to keep the lake down. At the beginning of December, the lake levels had been 1183.5 feet which is almost two feet higher than its target level.

Resource Specialist's Update: On Dec. 13th Golod, Hahn and Claster met to discuss the comments and edits made to the final Draft Project Review Guide.

On Dec. 14th Golod attended the NYC DEP Public Hearing for the revised plan to build a hydroelectric plant at Cannonsville reservoir. Golod will provide an update to the Dec. 18th WU/RM committee.

On Dec. 18th Golod attended the DRBC RFAC's Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF) meeting, and will provide an update to the Dec. 18th WU/RM committee.

Golod addressed the Committee: "This time of year we're asked by our friends, family, siblings, spouses and significant others what we want for Hanukkah or Christmas. We generally tend to ask for something material, whether it be a gift certificate, hunting gear, shirt and tie, etc. In that spirit I would like to give each and every one of you a gift, it's nothing tangible. My gift to all of you is one wish; for good health. This has been something that has been prominent and prevalent in my life in the past months. From the bottom of my heart I wish each and every one of you the best of health in this past Hanukkah season, the present Christmas season and upcoming New Year. Thank you all for keeping me around. I look forward to seeing you next year."

Old Business:

Town of Delaware Ordinance Amendment Substantial Conformance Review (tabled): Golod apologized for not being at Dec. 6th Full Council meeting as he was on medical leave. Ramie drafted the Dec. 6th letter to CEO James McElroy on Golod's behalf. This letter was a draft for the full Council and never sent. The review Golod gave to the Project Review Committee was an error on his behalf. He should not have made the recommendation that the amendment substantially conformed to the River Management Plan and the Land and Water Use Guidelines. The rationale being, looking back at March 2017, the last time Project Review Committee reviewed an Ordinance Amendment for Substantial Conformance specifically for Renewable Energy Systems was for the Town of Cochection. Golod read the second and third paragraphs from the letter the council sent to the town regarding the review on Renewable Energy Systems: "As you know, UDC drafted a position paper on large scale solar energy systems dated September 30th, 2016 but has not yet finalized it to provide specific guidance on this topic. The 1986 final River Management Plan (RMP) does not directly address alternative or renewable energies since many of these systems were not conceived of at the time. Therefore, these comments are extrapolated from existing provisions in the RMP." UDC closes the letter by saying, "Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed zoning ordinance amendment." Golod feels the next step for him to do is to go back and amend the Substantial Conformance Review report for the Town of Delaware, being not so much as a review but to offer suggestions regarding the amendment and writing a letter to them in a similar framework to what was submitted to the Town of Cochection. Sullivan asked Golod to draft a letter and send it to the Committee via email. Golod confirmed he would.

Status of Position Paper on Utility- Scale Renewable Energy Systems: Golod provided the Committee with the most recent updated version of the Renewable Energies Systems Positions paper as of August 2018, still in its track-changes format with comments and edits made by Golod, Claster, and Superintendent Heister. Golod asked the Committee to take their time and carefully read the document so it may be discussed at the January Project Review meeting. Golod feels there needs to be continued conversation on amending the Land and Water Use Guidelines, specifically the Schedule of Uses for renewable energies, specifically for solar, geothermal and wind. UDC must continue towards adding this new land use. Highland, Lumberland and Westfall are looking to amend their zoning regarding renewable energies now. Damascus, Shohola, Fremont, Delaware, Cochection and Tusten proceeded without the guidance of UDC or a proper review from UDC due to the lack of the information in the Land and Water Use Guidelines as well as of Schedule of Uses. Once we get a handle on the position paper, moving forward with the thought process of a minor amendment Golod feels it boils down to adding Geothermal and Wind to the existing definitions. Power generating stations are already listed in the Land and Water Use Guidelines. Add an appropriate commercial solar to the Schedule of Uses that is already in the Land and Water Use Guidelines; pass a resolution with changes referencing the position paper and the processes that UDC took to get to that point. Provide it to NPS to sign-off. Peckham reminded Golod and NPS if they are referencing a source it must be put in the bibliography. Referencing the position paper Golod said everything in black was the original position paper that was conceptually adopted in 2017; the blue, red and purple are the edits and comments that Golod, Claster and Heister have made. Golod will need to go back and review to see what color/edit goes to which person. Henry asked for an explanation of the color codes in the email Golod sends out. Sullivan asked what the definition for Commercial Solar was as it is not listed in the position paper. She remembers UDC talking about one and thought we had a definition. Heister noted that in the position paper on page three, there is utility scale and small scale which is essentially commercial and residential. Golod said when the Solar Sub-Committee was meeting, he believes Sullivan was the one who asked him to compile all of the definitions from all municipalities that had passed zoning regarding renewable energy. Golod still has that document. With this position paper they piecemealed it and created

the best definition amongst the people working on the position paper. Heister said they tried to make it more general. The original definition was based on two megawatts because that was all that could be connected to the grid, but that has already changed. Heister asked if it would be beneficial to send a clean black copy in addition to the color-coded copy. Saumure said it reads the way it reads regardless of the color; anything that is not supposed to be read is already struck out, so if you assume it's all black or if you print it in black you'll be fine. Richardson had a different take. He doesn't like the colors; he doesn't care who put the suggestion there. If you want, put a symbol at the end like a number or letter and say refer back to find who suggested it. He would like to see it in black and red as blue and other colors do not print well. Heister noted on page 12 there is a label of ALTERNATE on the top of the page. It means under that section utility scale energy systems they had two thinkings on it. Both are included for discussion. Richardson said it would be helpful to have the steps again that UDC will need to go forward in proceeding for the minor amendment process.

New Business:

TAG 2018-02: Damascus Township Project Completion: Steve Adams supplied UDC with the project completion form for the 2018-02 TAG which was the comprehensive plan update. The township met all of the criteria and provided UDC with copies of receipts and Golod recommends this committee make a recommendation to approve the project to the satisfaction of the contract. A motion by Henry, seconded by Roeder, to approve Damascus Township TAG 2018-02 was carried.

Other:

12/17 "County to initiate wireless broadband pilot project" Sullivan County Democrat article: Sullivan provided this article for discussion. It reads mostly as if it's happening in Monticello but there is a paragraph that says "If the Monticello pilot project is successful, ITS is able to use the same technology to provide wireless Internet to residents. For instance, they hope to expand the project o the Delaware River corridor, which is basically a dead zone for service." Sullivan said it was encouraging to her that they acknowledge there are millions of dollars from companies like Verizon and nothing has changed. Adams said that AT&T is putting an antenna on their township building tower which has a Verizon antenna as well. Richardson suggested writing a UDC letter to the county to be a partner in any discussions for the corridor.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Greier, seconded by Peckham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. was carried.

Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas, 12/27/18