

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
Sept. 13, 2011

Committee Members Present: Peckham, Conway, Fluhr, Rajszy, Richardson, Roeder, Jr.
NPS Partner: Absent
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Ramie, Odell
Guests: A. Boyar, S. Corrigan, D. Blume, H. Jacksy, F. Santini, F. Schwarz

The UDC's Project Review Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. The purpose of the special meeting was to interview applicants for the Fiscal Year 2012 Technical Assistance Grants Program, rank projects and recommend funding levels.

TAG Applicant Interviews

The committee received seven grant applications totaling \$26,800. Each applicant presented their grant project description and answered questions. The applicants included:

-Town of Highland – Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland Supervisor, explained that this project is to work to develop an early warning system and enhance communication systems to inform emergency situation victims how to access assistance or help. They want to explore this with a series of meetings with various agencies including, but not limited to, Sullivan County Emergency Services, National Park Service, and local emergency providers to identify shortcomings and work on improving them. They would like to develop a brochure that will explain the options available to people should they require emergency aid. He feels that this prototype may be helpful to all towns in emergencies. George J. Fluhr of Shohola commented that his proposal is similar to their proposal and perhaps the two communities could work together on this project. Amount requested, \$1,500.

-Town of Highland – Andrew Boyar, Town of Highland Supervisor, stated that the town is in need of a thorough review of its zoning ordinance. It would be their third re-write in thirty years. They want to make sure that the zoning is thoroughly up-to-date in light of new developments such as alternative energy sources, managing natural gas development impact and strategies to protect town infrastructure, quality of life and land use. Amount requested, \$2,000.

-Town of Lumberland – Frank Schwarz, Grants Coordinator, explained that the proposed project is a Lumberland Cemeteries Brochure. The brochure will list the cemeteries in Lumberland, provide historical information, include photos of site historical plaques, signage and provide a map with directions to each of the six cemeteries. Links will be provided for contacts of the Cemetery Committees, grave plot information, location, maps and the local historian. The amount requested is to cover the contractual portion of the project which includes site field work, research and compilation of the historical narrative to go along with it. The result will be a tangible guide that people can take along with them. Amount requested, \$2,300.

-Shohola Township – George J. Fluhr, UDC 2nd Alternate, explained that the Shohola Township Supervisors see a need for an upgrade and the expansion of their current website. As a result, their proposed project includes expanding the Township website as well as adding an emergency management component and developing a website handbook. Diana Blume, the Township Secretary, explained that the brochure is intended to be more of a navigational tool instructing people how to access the information available on the website. Amount requested, \$3,500.

-Town of Deerpark – Flo Santini, Deerpark Town Clerk, told the Committee that their project includes the updating of the Zoning Ordinance including the codification of six years of local laws. She advised that Fusco Engineering would be doing the update and they would like to put the zoning ordinance in digital form as well as re-doing the book in binder form to make it easier for adding inserts. Amount requested, \$10,000.00.

-Sullivan County Division of Planning & Environmental Management – Heather Jacksy, County Planner, said to the Committee that the county is seeking technical assistance to develop a website that would create a one-source outlet for information on all public (local, county, state, and federal) hiking trails in Sullivan County. Amount requested, \$5,000.

-Pike County – Sally Corrigan, County Planning Director, advised the Committee that their project is to develop a multi-faceted public campaign that goes broader than the Upper Delaware region to areas such as

Philadelphia and Washington D.C. to explain that our natural, historic and cultural resources are the same as they've always been as it has been brought to their attention some concerns related to natural gas exploration in Pike County. They want to be able to effectively communicate a positive image of Pike County and the region to help protect economic development and tourism opportunities. Sally said that if any grant money were awarded, they would be willing to provide a draft copy of the brochure to the Council before payment for their approval. Amount requested, \$2,500.

Following the interviews, the committee went through the process of ranking each project and applying a monetary value based on the overall budget (\$16,700) the Council had available for this grant program. After substantial discussion, the following projects and grant awards (total \$14,400) will be recommended to the full Council for approval at its October meeting based on a motion by Richardson, seconded by Rajsz and carried:

- Town of Deerpark – update and codify Town zoning ordinance, \$4,500.
- Sullivan County – develop website for hiking trails, \$2,100.
- Town of Lumberland – produce a Lumberland Cemeteries brochure, \$1,200.
- Pike County – launch a multi-faceted public education campaign related to natural gas exploration in Pike County, \$1,000.
- Town of Highland – develop an early warning system and enhanced communications system for use during emergencies, \$1,500.
- Town of Highland – review & update Town Zoning ordinance, \$1,400. Roeder asked to go on record that he did not support giving money to the Town of Highland for this project because of the potential of a lawsuit which could affect the UDC.
- Shohola Township – expand Township website, add an emergency management component and develop a website informational brochure, \$2,700.

A discussion followed as to what to do with the balance of \$2,300. It was decided that an inquiry be made to the National Park Service to find out if that money could be moved to another budget line. If it were found out that moving the money could not be done then the balance will be divided equally among the applicants that had not been recommended up to the full amounts that they requested.

Other Business

Soete informed the Committee that Margaret Harrison, Supervisor for the Town of Tusten, brought in a TAG application on September 8, 2011. The deadline was September 2, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. Her application was for the re-writing of their zoning law.

Soete advised the Committee that Pike County had finished their project, a brochure entitled "Planning for the Future". A motion by Rajsz and seconded by Fluhr to authorize the reimbursement request for TAG 2009-05 in the amount of \$1,200 was carried. The check will be on the 9/27/11 abstract of bills.

Soete reported that there are three outstanding 2009 grants that must be completed by Sept.30 in order to receive payment. They are: Damascus Township TAG 2009-01 for "Training and installation for e-mail server" in the amount of \$1,000; Town of Lumberland TAG 2009-04 for "Zoning law re-write to coincide with updated comprehensive plan" in the amount of \$3,500; and Town of Cocheton TAG 2009-07 for "Updating the town's zoning law to address green building standards" in the amount of \$4,000.

Public Comment None

A motion was made by Rajsz, seconded by Roeder to adjourn the special Project Committee meeting at 8:34 p.m.