

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2013

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, Harold Roeder, Jr., Debra Conway, Jeffrey Dexter, George Fluhr
Committee Members Absent: Fred Peckham, Nadia Rajsz
NPS Partner: Sean McGuinness
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Travis O'Dell
Guests: Jack Niflot

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:44 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 Conway and seconded by Fluhr. Richardson was elected by a voice vote. A motion to nominate Conway as Vice-Chairperson was made by Roeder and seconded by Dexter. Conway was elected by a voice vote.

A motion to approve the December 18th meeting minutes was made by Roeder, seconded by Conway and carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report

Substantial Conformance Update: T. O'Dell noted that a letter was mailed on December 18, 2012 to the Town of Hancock Supervisor and town board requesting a meeting at a time and place convenient to the town to discuss the substantial conformance review. He said he has not heard back from them at this time.

Project Review Update

Natural Gas News: T. O'Dell reported that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Revised Draft SGEIS on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program comment period ended on January 11, 2013. The DEC received over 204,000 comments during the one month comment period; the National Park Service was among those who submitted comments. The DEC has until February 13, 2013 to finalize the SGEIS with the inclusion of the health study and a deadline of February 27, 2013 to respond to the public comments and finalize the regulations.

O'Dell said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of studying the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources. The study was initiated in 2010 through the US Congress and is expected to be completed by late 2014.

Department of Interior: T. O'Dell noted that on December 18, 2012, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service sent a letter to Kimberly Bose of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with comments and recommendations in regards to the proposed Cannonsville Hydroelectric Project located on the West Branch of the Delaware River. McGuinness asked if there were any substantial comments made. O'Dell touched on highlights of the letter which had been discussed in further detail at the January 15th Water Use/Resource Management Committee meeting. He said a copy of the letter is available upon request.

Town of Delaware Zoning Amendments: T. O'Dell reported that a meeting was held at the UDC office on January 15, 2013 between UDC staff, National Park Service, Town of Delaware UDC Representative Harold Roeder, the town building inspector and members from the town board, planning board, and zoning board to discuss their zoning amendments and map changes. O'Dell said he thought all felt the meeting was very beneficial and cleared up a few misconceptions as well as established a procedure for informing the UDC of significant projects within the corridor. The town is going to make changes and submit them to the UDC for review. Roeder said it was a great meeting and he encourages the UDC to reach out to other local towns and townships for similar discussions. Richardson agreed and noted the key is communication. A

brief discussion about the meeting took place. McGuinness noted it was a great combination of Town of Delaware officials at the meeting. Richardson said it is very important for the UDC to have a face.

Port Jervis: T. O'Dell said an article in the January 10, 2013 Times Herald-Record reported that a study conducted by the DEC found where contaminated groundwater from an old gas processing plant is leaking into the Delaware River. A \$6 million clean-up effort is underway by Orange and Rockland Utilities.

Project Review Workbook: T. O'Dell noted that the reporting process in the Project Review Workbook for variances and significant projects can be rather cumbersome for the individual filling out the documents. He feels the process needs to be streamlined. He said a NYS SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) short environmental assessment form or a NYS 239 review form would be good templates for streamlining the process in the Project Review Workbook and recommended using them as guides to draw up new forms of our own and refining the process. Richardson said we should be able to come up with a much shorter form for the towns and townships to utilize. McGuinness read from the "How To Use This Workbook" section of the Project Review Workbook found on page ii. Richardson asked if the workbook is available in a digital form. He was told it is.

TAG Update: T. O'Dell reminded members that the mid-term progress reports are due to the UDC by February 28, 2013.

Training Update: T. O'Dell said he registered for a "Municipal Planning Workshop" sponsored by the Catskill Watershed Corp. on March 1st in Delhi, N.Y. The workshop is free of charge and covers the topics of Local Regulations: Enactment Procedures, Intermunicipal Planning, and Revising Zoning. O'Dell said he feels it would be beneficial for him to attend this workshop. A motion to allow O'Dell to attend the workshop was made by Roeder, seconded by Conway and carried unanimously.

New Business

None

Old Business

Use of 1988 Project Review Workbook: Members continued their page-by-page review of the workbook. Reading began on page SC-9 with Principle C, "Provide for recreational and other public uses while protecting the Upper Delaware as a natural resource", and continued through page SC-12. Conway asked if the Kittatinny Canoes Zip Line was a project that was brought to the UDC. Ramie said it was not. Fluhr asked what we would have done had it been brought to us. McGuinness said it would have been reviewed for how they followed the guidelines and could have been an example of projects that can proceed through the process successfully. Discussion took place about how to get the towns and townships in the habit of saying "Here is a project before us, does the UDC want to comment on it?" Richardson asked O'Dell if he will work on a draft of a form for use by the member towns and townships when projects come to them. It was suggested this might be something to work on with the NPS/UDC Issues Team. More discussion about the meeting with the Town of Delaware took place. McGuinness noted that enforcement of the River Management Plan was designed to be done at the town level through good zoning.

Richardson asked O'Dell how he is making out with Hancock. O'Dell said he has not heard back from the Town after repeated efforts. It was suggested to ask Town of Hancock Representative Fred Peckham reach out to the town. O'Dell says that he simply wants to sit down with them and discuss the review process. Niflot asked if there is any reason to believe that Hancock will make any changes. Richardson noted that the UDC is mandated to complete the review. McGuinness added that the mandate is to do the review and he feels a meeting would be a good opportunity to gather information and see that "everyone is on the same page." Roeder said that communication is the key. O'Dell noted that the Town of Hancock has a good site plan review that mentions that all projects in the corridor be reviewed by the Planning Board for consistency with the Land and Water Use Guidelines.

Other: Richardson said that he has agreed to serve on a County Action Program (CAP) committee. It is designed to work with Sullivan County to try and prioritize and encourage municipalities and businesses to

take energy conserving steps and to try and limit damage done to the environment. He has been charged with looking at street lighting. He noted that if current lighting could be changed over to LED lighting, customers would see tremendous savings, but it is an expensive change-over. As a result, he met with a representative from NYSE&G and learned that rebates may be available retroactively for the lighting upgrade in the Council office completed in September. Richardson said he will get more information and forward it on to staff. Richardson shared information he learned about upgrading street lights in towns. McGuinness suggested following the sale of the Delaware Valley School District which is located in the corridor in the Town of Fremont to look for opportunities to provide input on sustainable practices such as lighting. Fluhr shared a story about the consideration of lights on the Barryville-Shohola Bridge.

Fluhr said that Lackawaxen Supervisor Brian Stuart has a house and beach on the river and that he constantly has people coming onto his property from the river. One issue that many of those people have in common is that they are in need of facilities. Fluhr noted that there are very few places that people can legitimately stop. Fluhr said Stuart was under the impression that the Park Service was going to, on a willing-seller/willing-buyer basis, buy some property along the river to provide rest stops for visitors along the river. Fluhr said this issue of no rest stops has not been addressed for a lot of years. Conway noted there are two portable toilets located along the river in the Town of Highland, but these are not advertised in any way. Discussion of how to let the visitors know where the public facilities are along the river took place. McGuinness said this is one of the issues that the Sullivan County Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee is looking at. Richardson asked if the public facilities could be noted on the new map being created for the Council's Visitor Guide brochure. McGuinness said that identifying public stops could be a project that could be worked on together.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Conway to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. was carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Odell, 2/1/13