

Upper Delaware Council
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
November 25, 2014

Committee Members Present: Larry Richardson, George Fluhr, Debra Conway, Harold Roeder, Jr., Fred Peckham, David Dean
Committee Members Absent: Jeff Dexter, Nadia Rajsz
NPS Partner: Carla Hahn
Staff: Laurie Ramie, Cindy Odell, Travis O'Dell
Guests: Cheryl Korotky

The UDC's Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairman Larry Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

A motion to approve the October 28 meeting minutes was made by Peckham, seconded by Conway and carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Discussion Items Report

Project Review Update

Town of Hancock: O'Dell stated that the Town of Hancock will hold a public hearing on proposed Local Law 2 of 2014, "For Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Historic Barns in accordance with Section 483-b of NYS Real Property Law" on December 2, 2014.

Town of Fremont: O'Dell said he reported earlier that the Delaware Highlands Conservancy had initiated a crowd sourcing campaign to raise funds to acquire property in Long Eddy on Ferry Street and make improvements at the site. He announced that the Delaware Highlands Conservancy met their \$5,000 goal through public donations. According to a *Sullivan County Democrat* article, the Sullivan County Legislature tentatively agreed to donate \$5,000 for the project as well. Peckham questioned who will ultimately own the property. O'Dell told him that it is to be conveyed to the State of New York. He added that an on-site meeting of interested parties is supposed to be scheduled to discuss a number of issues.

Town of Tusten: O'Dell referred members to the November 3rd letter to Town of Tusten Planning Board Chairman Edwin Jackson regarding the Big Dog Sawmill in their packets. The letter states, "Accordingly, if the proposed Big Dog Sawmill meets all the criteria of the Town of Tusten's zoning, Sullivan County DPEM, the NYS DEC and any other permitting agencies, the project does not pose a threat to the resources of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor". O'Dell noted that sawmills are an approved use in that section of the river corridor with a two acre minimum lot size which they do have.

Town of Highland: O'Dell said he spoke with planning board chair Berry Hafkin regarding two proposed projects located in the river corridor. The first project is an already constructed archery range that has been operating. The owners never received the special use permits required by the town. O'Dell is unsure if operation of the range has ceased or not. No formal plans have been received for this project. The primary concern is the issue of public safety as the range is located within the hamlet of Barryville. The second project is a proposed mini-golf course scheduled to come before the planning board in January. No formal plans have been received regarding this application. O'Dell will update members as more information is available.

Masthope Sewage Discharge: O'Dell noted that as per discussion at the November 6th full Council meeting, staff was directed to draft a letter to the DRBC and PA DEP regarding water quality monitoring protocols. This letter is forthcoming. O'Dell said he has been reviewing DRBC documents and would like to educate himself more before he drafts the letter. Fluhr said he believes there was a similar issue with Masthope Sewage twenty-five years or so ago. He suggested looking back to find out who resolved the

issue at that time. O'Dell said that he could check back in his records and perhaps the Park Service could check their records as well.

Roebling Bridge: O'Dell reported that vandalism of the bridge occurred on November 15. Graffiti extends half way across the bridge and across several different types of materials (wood, plexi-glass, metal and stone). Park staff is consulting with regional experts on Section 106 compliance and the safest and most effective methods for cleanup.

Port Jervis Whitewater Park: O'Dell said that at the 11/24 Scenic Byway meeting there was an update from Port Jervis Mayor Kelly Decker regarding the proposed Whitewater Park. Permitting is underway, approval is required from United States Fish and Wildlife Service, NYS DEC, and Army Corps of Engineers. Currently, the Whitewater Park Committee is gearing up to raise approximately \$4 million for the project. O'Dell said the project has been downsized due to the discovery of Dwarf Wedgemussels in the area. The Scenic Byway is drafting a letter in support of the project.

New York State Open Space Conservation Plan: O'Dell noted that a draft letter was sent out to both the Water Use/Resource Management (WU/RM) and Project Review Committees for review on October 17th. Enclosed in members' packets is a second draft for the committee's review. Some changes were made to the first draft as a result of WU/RM Committee input. A final draft will be presented at the December 4th UDC meeting for approval. This letter will be taken up under New Business.

Upper Delaware Mapping: O'Dell said that Shannon Thol, a student in Penn State's GIS Master's Program continues to work on the GIS mapping program for the Upper Delaware. He attended a meeting with Thol and Park Service on Nov. 24th. It is hoped that utilizing ArcGIS Online as a platform, UDC staff, NPS staff, and town officials can use the system for identifying the location of proposed projects in reference with the corridor boundary, town zoning, roads, waterways and other applicable information. This project is still in its infancy, O'Dell noted, so there are still a number of issues to address. A brief discussion took place about the accuracy of the corridor boundary on the map. O'Dell said that Thol has offered to make a presentation to the committee as the project progresses. Dean questioned whether once the project is finished, are users to accept the map as fact? Hahn explained that the completed map will be a tool that users can work with. Members agreed that it is a starting point in determining the age old question of where the corridor boundary actually is.

Project Review Presentations: O'Dell said that on November 5th he gave the presentation to the Lackawaxen Planning Commission. He felt that overall the presentation was well received and he was able to answer some questions and concerns regarding the UDC and the partnership between the townships, the Council, and the NPS.

The next presentation is scheduled for December 18th at the Town of Cochecton.

TAG Update: O'Dell reported that we are still waiting for signed TAG contracts from the Town of Fremont, the Town of Delaware, and Berlin Township.

Upcoming Training: O'Dell said that on November 17th he attended a free workshop at the Sullivan County Government Center focusing on Sustainable Development Strategies. Speaker Randall Arendt's presentation was focused on Roadside Commercial Development and how changing our views on commercial development can help to lead to more attractive and sustainable development. O'Dell said that Arendt explained that often this involves changing the antiquated views on development requirements such as height restrictions, setbacks, and parking. Arendt recommended that to begin these conversations, visioning sessions with as many people, including public officials, should be held. The sessions could simply consist of showing slides of different types of development and have the audience rank each slide. These sessions help get community feedback and consensus on how to shape the community through zoning changes. Richardson said he attended the workshop as well and felt it was a really good presentation. He noted the presentation was about how to have development and have it in an attractive manner. Richardson said he initially thought the presentation was going to be about attracting development to one's town and keeping it. He walked away from the workshop feeling his town's zoning is good, but could perhaps be improved in a manner that would not discourage development. He learned it is

recommended to have boards that will hold the developers' "feet to the fire" in order to encourage development that complements the area.

New Business

2nd Draft to NYS DEC Commissioner Martens: 2014 Draft Open Space Conservation Plan

Comments: Richardson noted this draft was sent out to members for review in advance. He added that the letter was already vetted by the WU/RM Committee and moved to the full Council for approval. A motion to move this 2nd draft to the full Council for consideration was made by Conway. The "Mitigation and Adaptation through Sustainable Forestry" comment was discussed. The motion was seconded by Peckham. Richardson reiterated this letter is to go to the full Council for consideration. The motion failed with Dean voting no and Fluhr and Peckham abstaining. Richardson asked members if they would rather leave the plan as it is or address some of the deficiencies they have identified. Peckham suggested changing the wording of the last sentence of the comment under "Mitigation and Adaptation through Sustainable Forestry". Members discussed the wording. It was decided to change "We strongly suggest the encouragement but advise you to reconsider any regulatory mandates" to "We strongly suggest the encouragement but we advise you against any regulatory mandates". A motion to send the letter with the noted change was made by Conway, seconded by Peckham and carried.

Design Handbook Printing Update: Ramie noted that the UDC's newly updated "Design Handbook for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River" is currently available only in a digital format, posted on-line. The Council had allocated \$600 in its FY 2015 budget for printing costs. Printing bids for the Handbook were sought and it was realized that there was a shortfall to enable the printing of the desired quantity of 100 copies. Ramie submitted an application to Sullivan Renaissance for a "2014 Environmental Initiatives Grant Application for Projects Under \$500" for \$270 on November 12th. Ramie said she learned on November 18th that we won a grant of \$300. She expects the printed copies will be available in early December. Richardson recommended that CD's of the Handbook should be burned. Fluhr suggested that copies could be given to the UDC delegates for distribution in their towns and townships.

Other: None

Old Business

Use of 1988 Project Review Workbook: Members agreed to table review of the Workbook until next month.

Other: Roeder commended the Town of Cohecton and those involved in the restoration of the historical marker along Route 97 addressing the border war with New Jersey that was knocked down by a tractor trailer that slid off Route 97 in February of 2013. He noted it was put on the river side of the highway. Discussion took place of the need for many of the historical markers to be restored. Ramie said there is one foundry in the country that produces the signs. Dean said that the Town of Deerpark historian, over the course of seven years, had all the markers re-painted. Ramie noted that Norma Schadt is an authority on historical markers.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion by Roeder, seconded by Peckham to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. was carried unanimously.