

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Minutes – July 1, 2009

The Ulster County Planning Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. – Surrogate Courtroom, 3rd Floor
County Office Building

The Referral Review Process Committee Met at 6:30

Chairperson Hokanson called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and asked for the roll to be called.

- 1. ROLL CALL - Present:** R. Pecora, M. Beuf, D. Martorana, T. Natale, T. Hokanson, R. Oakes, T. Wilkin, S. Hudson, R. Praetorius, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, A. Yuran, R. Elwell, R. Pritchard, D. Doyle, J. Schwartz, R. Leibowitz.
Absent: P. Hakim, J. Konior, L. Biggin, F. Greitzer, G. Matichuk, T. Briggs, S. Finkle
Guests: Michael Baden, Rich Decker

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The June meeting minutes were approved. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Martorana.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that Cynthia Ruiz, Transit Director of UCAT, has resigned and is now working for Dutchess County. He added that UCAT reports to the County Executive through the Planning Department (as do several other departments). Mr. Doyle also informed the Board that our Principal Transportation Planner Bill Tobin will help with the transition process by spending 3 hours a day at UCAT while the search is on for a new Transit Director. Mr. Doyle stated that Mr. Tobin's work week is now 40 hours and it is anticipated he will be on this schedule until the end of the year.

Mr. Doyle stated that our 2010 budget is due July 17th and it should be similar to the 2009 budget. Approximately \$400,000 of our budget comes from Federal Funds through SAFETEALU, which expires at the end of September this year. We are hoping this funding will be continued. Mr. Doyle stated that we are now in the process of looking at our transportation improvement programs. Projects that are not implemented and are project obligated are in jeopardy of being moved back on the list. Mr. Doyle stated that our budget looks good and he added that Ms. Schwartz's work on grants will help us continue several needed programs.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

5. COMMUNITY REPORT

Mr. Watkins said thank you to Board and Staff for communications and added they are helpful.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications - Handed out separately.

Mr. Doyle asked the Board to look at the handout on General Town Law. Mr. Doyle stated we have been making recommendations based on energy efficiency. Mr. Leibowitz added this law relates to local comprehensive plans and recommending solar energy. Mr. Doyle stated there is a responsibility to do solar applications, not just ability. He added that this law goes back to the 1980s and guarantees individuals the right to solar access.

Mr. Doyle noted that Virginia Craft has been preparing the grant notification for the Board on a regular basis. We will now also be e-mailing these to Supervisors and Mayors. Mr. Doyle added that if anyone else would like them e-mailed to let him know. Mr. Leibowitz noted the grant notifications are also on our website.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Ag District Additions Update
Mr. Doyle stated the Legislature will vote this evening on the Ag Additions. The two parcels in New Paltz that were controversial last year were removed at the Committee level this year as well.
- b. Retreat Scheduled - Thursday, July 30th @ SUNY Ulster – Howard St. John Conference Room
Mr. Doyle stated they would need three hours to do this retreat and asked if 6:00 would be an appropriate start time. The Board agreed. The retreat will be from 6:00-9:00pm. Mr. Doyle stated that he will be mailing materials by mid-July for consideration. Staff will attend. Mr. Doyle asked the Board to e-mail him topics of discussion they were interested in.
- c. Ulster County Greenway Compact Grant
Ms. Schwartz stated that were awarded \$100,000 by NYS in December 2008 for a regional waterfront plan. As part of that plan we discussed finding priority growth areas. Ms. Schwartz stated we have been approached by the Greenway to apply for a \$49,000 grant to help move the first phase of the plan along and she gave a presentation to the Board.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Doyle stated we were asked to provide support letters for a NYS Smart Growth Grant Program for the Town of Marlborough, Town of Shawangunk, Hamlet of Highland (Town of Lloyd). Due to time limitations we had the Chair sign them and got them out right away. \$250,000 is available to municipalities. Ms. Schwartz stated we will let the Board know how the Towns make out.
- b. Mr. Doyle spoke to the board relative to the AVR project and discussed a 3 county regional housing needs study that was not released. UC Planning Dept will release Ulster County's data and we have informed the Orange and Dutchess counties of our intent. The report will be available on our website. The three county executives are coming together to release all of the data. The Housing Needs assessment has been a 2.5 yr effort. It looks at change in population and the need for housing in the three counties. Mr. Doyle stated it is difficult to get planning depts. and economic development agencies to see that housing prices affect growth. There have been dramatic changes in demographics. The study was funded by the Dyson Foundation with participation by Pattern for Progress and representatives from each county.
- c. Mr. Doyle stated we are putting the finishing touches on an affordable housing campaign. By September the information should be released and the ad campaign should be out in October or November. Mr. Doyle stated the people doing the campaign are putting together materials for a forum and once that is ready he would like to invite the Board to see it.
- d. Environmental Notice Bulletin – *No Member Comment*
- e. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Martorana, seconded by Ms. Pecora.