

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Minutes – July 6, 2011

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

The Executive Committee Did Not Meet

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** R. Pecora, J. Katz, J. Konior, T. Marion, S. Ricci, T. Hokanson, H. Grant, T. Wilkin, M. Baden, F. Greitzer, P. Economos, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, A. Yuran, R. Elwell, R. Kinnin, S. Finkle, D. Doyle, R. Leibowitz **Absent:** G. Matichuk, E. Hooper **Excused:** P. Hakim, K. Lovelett, L. Biggin, J. Constable
Guests: Simone Harari – Real Escapes Properties

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The June minutes were approved. Motion by Ms. Pecora, seconded by Mr. Konior. All were in favor.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT - 2011

Mr. Doyle informed the board that we have begun the budget process for 2012 and materials have been submitted to the County Executive's office this week. Mr. Doyle stated that the budget is pretty much the same as this year and added that if the board has any initiatives they would like to undertake they should submit them in the near future. Mr. Doyle stated that the Dept of the Environment has taken on initiatives that we would have done in the past (climate work, energy efficiency, etc.) One item we need to look at is - the Charter calls for us to update the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Doyle stated that with workloads and staffing we may have some difficulty with this. Ms. Pecora asked if there was a timeframe involved. Mr. Doyle stated it needs to be done every five years. Mr. Budziak asked who participates in the comprehensive plan. Mr. Doyle answered that participation is non-specific within the charter. It is left to the department and the Legislature to decide. Mr. Doyle stated that we would like to finish the priority growth areas and move to the compact. The compact would then constitute the comprehensive plan. We have an economic development plan, a housing plan, an open space plan and a transportation plan - all have been adopted. He added that we have all the elements, but need to knit them together. Mr. Wilkin asked if we have moved forward with the vacant transportation position. Mr. Doyle answered that we will be scheduling interviews. Ms. Elwell asked if there was agriculture and markets money available. Mr. Doyle stated he was told there were no monies available now but we do have a resolution to apply for funding next year.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

5. COMMUNITY REPORT

Mr. Baden stated that the Town of Rochester PB & ZBA have switched meeting dates (PB is now 2nd Tues & ZBA is meeting the 3rd Tues). They would like to get referrals back by their meeting dates, if possible. Ms. Elwell informed the Board that the county now has an interactive recreation map online which, she added, is fantastic (produced by the Tourism Dept & Dept of Environment). Mr. Wilkin stated that Town of Shawangunk invited neighboring towns to their planning board meeting where the DEC was giving a presentation on wetlands. He added that DEC came by his home during the day today while doing remapping of wetlands in the area. The map is of the Wallkill watershed and contains Orange County, part of Sullivan County and the lower half of Ulster County. Mr. Doyle added that these maps are not official, but they are likely to be used for SEQRA by DEC. Mr. Katz stated that he knew of four people who fought the new designation, which would have required them to carry flood insurance where it was not required previously; and the people won.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Doyle informed the Board of the ReLeaf Seminar. He congratulated the Town of Ulster on FEIS for Tech City.

KEY: (f) = handout will be in folder at meeting
(m) = handout included in the mailing

Mr. Budziak stated that he has something to do with the ReLeaf seminar and he encouraged the board to attend. Mr. Wilkin stated the information had been sent to the board.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. **UCPB Response to Town of Gardiner Planning Board concerns/requests regarding Memorandum of Agreement (Exception Agreement) – (m)**

Ms. Pecora made a motion to approve the Board's response letter. Mr. Baden seconded it. Mr. Katz abstained. All were in favor.

b. **AFPB (Agricultural Farmland Protection Board) Update**

Mr. Doyle stated that all of the parcels that were sent to the Board were recommended except for two. There was a horse farm in Hurley and the Wine winery in New Paltz. The plan for Town of New Paltz was also endorsed by the AFPB.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Visitability – An Inclusive Design Approach for Housing (f)**

Mr. Doyle stated it has become increasingly important to make sure housing and other commercial facilities can be used by handicapped and others with disabilities as demographics change. We are teamed up with Resource Center for Accessible Living for this effort. Communities may want to consider incorporation of design techniques for accessibility for new structures in site plans. Copies of the booklet have been sent to Clerks, Planning Chairs and County Legislators and our Board. Mr. Doyle stated that this will be posted on the website.

b. **HUD Sustainability Grant**

Mr. Doyle stated we continue to explore the grant we applied for last year with the Planning Depts of Dutchess and Orange Counties. There is \$61 million is available nationwide. We have decided to simplify the organizational structure. We will use the Transportation Council structure. We will try to look at what non-profit has a lead role (coordination) and deal with a single non-profit. Representative from housing consortium (three were involved last year). The grant will focus on urbanized area. Mr. Doyle stated that Ms. Schwartz-Berky has been leading the entire 3-county effort, however, others are now helping significantly.

c. **Wawarsing Flood Buyout**

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that a leaking aquaduct in Wawarsing has affected 40 (or more) homes in that area. State Legislation passed with the budget that assigns the leftover Catskill Flood Buyout program to Ulster County. We are aiming to implement a buyout program similar to the Catskill Flood Buyout with a preference to deal with homes that have been damaged or subject to seepage. Mr. Doyle stated that we have written to the State requesting additional guidance so we can implement the program, but their response was that it is up to Ulster County. Mr. Doyle stated that there is somewhere between \$3.6 to 3.8 million is available to cover every home subject to seepage within 2 miles of an underground aquaduct that delivers water to NYC. We have to define the area as there maybe other properties that fall within the criteria. Mr. Doyle added that NYC DEP has pledged \$3.7 million to match state dollars to help with administrative costs.

d. Environmental Notice Bulletin & Grant Opportunities– *No Member Comment*

e. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

Ms Pecora made a motion to write a letter of support for the Body of Truth Spa referral from Town of Rochester (#2001-95). Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. Mr. Baden recused himself. Mr. Doyle asked for clarification as to what exactly we are supporting. DEC is not an issue anymore. Mr. Doyle asked the applicant to reach out to staff to request a letter.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm – All were in favor