

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Minutes – June 1, 2011

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

The Executive Committee did not meet

Mr. Wilkin called the meeting to order at 7:35 and asked Mr. Samuelson to read the roll call.

- 1. ROLL CALL - Present:** R. Pecora, J. Katz, J. Konior, T. Hokanson, H. Grant, T. Wilkin, M. Baden, F. Greitzer, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, A. Yuran, R. Elwell, V. Dwyer, D. Doyle, B. Samuelson **Absent:** P. Hakim, T. Marion, L. Biggin, P. Economos, G. Matichuk, E. Hooper **Excused:** K. Lovelett, S. Ricci, R. Kinnin, S. Finkle
Guests: Charles Wortmann - Pine Craft Self Storage

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Baden to approve the May minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Konior. Mr. Doyle stated that members do not have to be present at the previous meeting in order to vote on those minutes. *Robert's Rules of Order* states that if you've read and understand the minutes then you can vote on them. There were no abstentions. The May minutes passed.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT - 2011

Mr. Doyle stated that we are still in the process of signing a contract for Transportation work. We are currently canvassing for a new Transportation Planner, which we will probably fill at a Senior level to save on expenses. We have about 13 applications, of which 8 or 9 qualify. Interviews should begin in a couple weeks. Mr. Budziak asked if the lack of staff has affected the work. Mr. Doyle responded that the office is extremely busy but, because of the contractual issues, it isn't overwhelming. Mr. Doyle stated the office has been doing a substantial amount of grant work for arts and cultural institutions. He added that the county has just sent out the budget packets for next year's budget to begin work on.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. COMMUNITY REPORT

Ms. Hokanson stated that New Paltz has begun holding public hearings on their draft report on government efficiency. Mr. Doyle asked if the discussion entailed going coterminous versus elimination. Ms. Hokanson stated that dissolution has been taken off by the committee despite her objections. They have found out that state aid is not available if you go coterminous, so dissolution will need to return for discussion.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Doyle suggested that the Board attend the Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress Housing Conference on Monday June 13th. Mr. Doyle stated that we now have certification that the superfund site at Rotron has been cleaned up. Mr. Doyle brought up an article in the "Planning and Environmental Law" bulletin regarding lots not approved for building on subdivision maps. The case of Walmart in Wawarsing's Environmental Impact Statement was also reviewed in the publication. Ms. Pecora and Ms. Hokanson remarked that the Wawarsing case was also listed in the "Towns and Topics" publication from the Association of Towns. Mr. Watkins mentioned a website called Law of the Land that has interesting articles. Mr. Doyle offered to forward the Law of the Land link to the Board.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. CDBG Application - \$750,000 for Housing Rehabilitation (Single Family Owner-Occupied) RUPCO is sub-recipient. Mr. Doyle stated that UC has submitted the application for housing rehab with

RUPCO as sub-recipient. It has been authorized for submittal by the Legislature. If we are funded, it will be the fifth housing rehab grant that we will receive. Mr. Doyle added that the Town of Saugerties has also applied for a housing rehab Grant.

- b. Ulster County is working with UCDC & IDA in pursuing a small business micro-enterprise grant using CDBG funds on an open continuing round. Mr. Doyle stated the county will ask for \$200,000 in a micro enterprise fund. We are currently having discussions with the grant source. It would be administered between UCDC & IDA as sub-recipients. Discussions have been held on Ellenville and other areas that have Main Street Grants as being targeted for funding. Micro enterprise funds are very difficult to administer and require much staff time. We will integrate the Development Corps outreach, the expertise from the Small Business Development Center, as well as Ulster County One Stop. Mr. Doyle gave out a flyer for a business services workshop being held in several locations around Ulster County on June 14th & 15th.
- c. Ag District Inclusions going to Public Hearing
Mr. Doyle stated that there will be a public hearing on June 21st at the Legislature meeting. We have considered 23 applications for inclusion – all but 2 were recommended by the Farmland Protection Board for inclusion. Those 2 applications include a horse boarding operation in Hurley, which was adjacent to a residential district and appeared to be applying to avoid restrictions in zoning in order to be able to house more horses. The Wine application in New Paltz to operate a winery was neither approved nor disapproved (no majority vote). The Legislature can choose to ignore or accept the recommendations of the Board. In the past, the Legislature has accepted all of the recommendations of the Farmland Protection Board, except for the Wine application. Mr. Doyle stated that every year we are adding 400-500 acres of farmland. We are losing some of the larger farms, but the smaller niche farms are growing. Ms. Elwell informed the Board that the Farmland Protection Board recently approved the New Paltz Farmland Protection Plan.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Village of Saugerties recommending a new UCPB member – Raymond (Mike) Maclary (Suzanne Frederick resigned)**
Mr. Doyle stated we have a new member being recommended and we will begin the process once we receive his paperwork.
- b. **UCPB Response to Town of Gardiner Planning Board concerns/requests regarding Memorandum of Agreement (Exception Agreement)**
Mr. Katz stated the letter from the Town of Gardiner Planning Board should have been included. Mr. Doyle stated that we have no issue with including the original letter.
Ms. Pecora made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting. Seconded by Ms. Hokanson. Mr. Katz abstained.

Mr. Doyle stated that we will scan the letter and post it on our website.

Mr. Doyle informed the board that Mr. Leibowitz was not at the meeting this evening as he and his wife had a baby boy on May 24th. He added that Mr. Leibowitz was invited by the County Executive to attend a signing ceremony held this week for the local law that was passed to reduce the size of the Legislature. Mr. Leibowitz was recognized for his substantial effort working with the Commission on the redistricting plan.

- c. Environmental Notice Bulletin & Grant Opportunities
Mr. Doyle made note of the Watershed Funding Assistance for the Hudson River Estuaries, small grants for up to \$10,000, due June 17th. Non-profits and municipalities are eligible. Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants are also available. Both are due in June.

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that we are going to see a significant rollback in assistance from the federal government and state, likely on the transportation planning side. The new transportation bill significantly cuts transportation funding. It changes the direction of how MPOs operate. The federal government is heading towards creating two tiers of transportation agencies designated by population (Tier 1 = 1 million or more & Tier 2 = 200,000 or more. Areas with less population would have to combine or request to be kept whole and be funded separately.) There are 597 MPOs nationwide, approximately 300 of those would lose their status due to this change. The head of the Transportation Committee would like to focus transportation dollars on more metropolitan areas and leave smaller areas to fend for themselves. Mr. Doyle urged board members to reach out to federal officials to keep small MPOs. If our funding is not continued we would lose approx \$450,000 per year of revenue, 2 planners (or more) and within a 24 month time frame we would transfer the functions of the MPO.

d. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

The June 1, 2011 zoning and meeting minutes were approved at the July 6, 2011 meeting.