

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Minutes –October 7, 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 Melinda Beuf, Rich Praetorius, Mark Watkins and Tom Wilkin

Chairperson Hokanson called the Board to order at 7:30 PM and asked Mr. Leibowitz to read the roll call.

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

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The September Minutes were approved. Motion made by Mr. Martorana, seconded by Ms. Pecora. Ms. Biggin abstained.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that the current budget can meet our end of year needs. There may be money leftover in Transportation as contracts span multiple years. The Draft 2010 County Budget includes positions being cut and layoffs. Our budget line for Fees for Professional Services has been reduced. Staff will be repurposed, as necessary, to do work for which we have previously hired consultants. Mr. Doyle stated we are looking forward to a very challenging 2010. Mr. Doyle stated the Board has a copy of the 2010-2015 Proposed Capital Program in their packets.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - No Public Comment

5. COMMUNITY REPORT

Mr. Martorana urged everyone to visit the Walkway over the Hudson. Mr. Doyle commented that he had been to the Walkway on Saturday. Mr. Doyle stated that we are helping Lloyd find funding for a trail connection to the Walkway. As of Friday we had ARRA money for a connection, but the designs need to be completed by Lloyd by November 2nd, he added that he wasn't sure that was possible. We have been in contact with Lloyd's Supervisor. The County is one of 2 in NYS to get approval on our energy grant. The grant matches energy audits on county buildings, solar on the New Paltz Salt Storage shed & a solar retrofit on various County properties. Ulster County is looking into acquisition of hybrid vehicles. Vehicle maintenance administration will be moved from Purchasing to UCAT as of January 1st. Mr. Finkle stated he was at a meeting at Watkins Glen and the natural gas business is very popular in the western part of the state. He added that there is an opportunity in Ulster County outside the watershed. Mr. Doyle stated we have had some discussions with DEC on the subject we are not expecting to see natural gas leases here – yet.

6. COMMUNICATIONS – Handed out Separately

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Training Scheduled - October 19th – Economic Development Toolbox

Mr. Doyle stated we have been working with the UCDC Committee for Balanced Growth on scheduling training opportunities for a wider audience. Scheduled presenters for this seminar will be: Lance Mattison, March Gallagher and Steve Finkle. There will be an overview of agencies and the tools used in Economic Development. There will also be an update on Ulster Tomorrow. UCDC is also looking to do another seminar in early December.

b. **Training – Thursday, November 12th - Using Technology in Planning**

Mr. Doyle stated we will hold this seminar at Ulster Community College. Presenters will be from our Information Services Department (GIS), Transportation Consultants (micro-simulations) & we are having discussions with AVR in order to show how visualization works. We see this as a good opportunity to look at ways to use communications and community surveys. FTP sites, Google groups, survey monkey, etc. We also would like to look at ways to share files at a local level in order to be more productive.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. **New FEMA Flood Maps In Effect**

Mr. Doyle asked the Board if they knew that their municipality needed to pass a local law by the end of September or their community was no longer eligible for Flood Insurance. We received a communication that 11 communities had not passed their laws in time. We reached out to the municipalities and as of October 1st the Town of Rochester was the only community that had not completed all of the steps necessary. Mr. Doyle commented that State agencies seem to be bypassing the County and dealing with the local municipalities directly. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that according to The National Flood Insurance Protection Act it is the lending institution's responsibility to determine whether or not Flood Insurance is required. He urged board members to alert their communities not to issue Flood Insurance Letters as the risk is too high, simply tell the lending institution that it is up to them according to the law.

Burt Samuelson gave some background information on the "map modernization" and gave a presentation to the Board on the new maps. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that UC maps were done using LIDAR. There is no longer a question as to whether a property is in or out of the flood zone. Mr. Doyle mentioned that some of the changes affect Main Street in the Town of Rosendale and the Kingston Plaza in the City of Kingston..

b. **Requests for Support Letters for Grants**

◆ **Local NYS Dept of State**

Esopus Creek Management Plan – requested from Dept of Environment working with NYCDEP and Cornell Coop – looks at access and best management practices.

Motion to approve support letter made by Mr. Finkle, seconded by Ms. Beuf.

◆ **Parks Department**

Kingston Area to use Carnegie as a Education Center. EPF Grant under National Heritage.

Motion to approve support letter made by Ms. Elwell, seconded by Mr. Finkle.

Mr. Finkle asked if Manna Jo Greene, representing Clearwater, had asked for a support letter to look at the Lower Rondout. **Motion to approve support letter made by Mr. Konior seconded by Mr. Watkins.**

Mr. Martorana asked Mr. Doyle for an update about having the governance meeting. Mr. Doyle said he was trying to find a date amidst the upcoming holidays and seminars and is working on getting a moderator and we do still plan on having it in the future.

c. **Referral Committee Report**

Mr. Leibowitz informed the Board that the Referral Committee has been meeting for the past several months to discuss ways of helping expedite and organize a referral process. We have already implemented one of the changes in the way we do our presentations.

Other changes include:

- ◆ Prioritize Agenda by Staff Recommendations
- ◆ Final Action Reports – include more information to get better information returned
- ◆ Standardize language – create a series of policy briefs on County Impact topics
- ◆ Create a new Web Page
- ◆ Will post Contact information for Referral Responses on Web

Mr. Doyle offered that if anyone wanted to help write the Policy Briefs we will gratefully accept contributions. Mr. Praetorius suggested asking the Town Attorneys for input on Public vs. Private Stormwater or Stormwater Districts. He added that part of it has been taken away from the engineers. Mr. Doyle stated we would accept help from anyone offering to assist in writing one of the topics. Mr. Doyle asked if anyone had digital photos to help illustrate any of the issues. It was requested that the list in the presentation be made available to the Board.

d. Tentative Capital Program 2010-2015 (f)

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that a copy of the above and page C-29 of the Charter regarding the duties of the Planning Board was included in their packets. The Charter language states that the UCPB is responsible to review and make recommendations on all Capital Projects contained in the program and the priority of the projects in the first year. Mr. Doyle stated the Legislature will be considering the Capital Program in December, we should have comments prepared by our November meeting. Mr. Doyle urged members to look at the Tentative Capital Program and make comments on if they are meeting the County's physical capital needs and if there are any additions you would like to see. Please e-mail in your comments under the subject "Capital Program" – staff will coordinate responses. Also in the Capital Program, the County Planning Director has requested a program addition for Open Space Preservation and Recreation of \$50,000 for the first year. We would only use this to leverage money to help municipalities and non-profit groups.

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that an analysis for the Capital Facility needs for the County has been completed but is not included in the handout.

- e. Environmental Notice Bulletin – *No Member comment*
- f. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm. All were in favor.