

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
Minutes - March 4, 2015

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

The Executive Committee Met at 6:30PM

Chairman Baden called the meeting to order at 7:34PM and asked Mr. Leibowitz to read the roll call.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** R. Pecora, D. Whitaker, P. Brooks, K. Lovelett, M. Calimano, D. Boggess, T. Wilkin, M. Baden, P. Andreassen, K. Holmquist, F. Almquist, V. Markowitz, M. Rudikoff, M. Weitman, G. Swanzey, D. Doyle, R. Leibowitz **Absent:** R. Sokolov, H. Baker, M. Watkins, R. Kinnin **Excused:** M. Vaia, J. Konior, J. Brown, E. Cafaro
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
The February Minutes were approved as amended. Motion by Ms. Pecora, seconded by Mr. Calimano. All were in favor.
3. **FINANCIAL REPORT**
Mr. Doyle stated that all was well. County is in good fiscal shape as well, however reauthorization of sales tax will be necessary. Mr. Baden noted that he had paper copies of the mileage forms and reminded members to sign both pages and turn them in at the April meeting.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
No Public Comment
5. **COMMUNITY REPORT**
Mr. Brooks stated the Town of Lloyd library will be voting to build a new library. He mentioned that Zumtobel, one of Lloyd’s largest employers, is rumored to be closing. Mr. Doyle stated the IDA just gave Zumtobel funding for training purposes and added that they also received a substantial CFA grant. Mr. Doyle stated he would ask the Economic Development division to follow-up on this rumor.

Mr. Wilkin asked if the County voted against the pipeline. Mr. Doyle confirmed that the UC Legislature voted to oppose the Pilgrim Pipeline. He added that the City of Kingston did as well.

Mr. Almquist stated that Niagara bottling company did not give an official reason for leaving the proposed Town of Ulster site, but he believed it was due to the group speaking in opposition to the project. Mr. Doyle stated he believed that Niagara was not worried about the environmental review, but because the Start-up NY money was hung up. He added that there was also some concern about the amount of available water.

Mr. Calimano stated that OSI purchased more farmland in New Paltz. This will give them the ability to build rail trail on their own property with connections from the bridge all the way to Butterville Road and the Mohonk Preserve.
6. **COMMUNICATIONS**
Mr. Doyle stated read through the items listed on the agenda: statement from DEC and the training opportunities from Cornell and Orange County Planning. He also made note of a transportation grant announced on page 2 of the “Grants Announcements” handout regarding the TIGER program.
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
Mr. Doyle mentioned the Community Risk & Resiliency Act (CRRRA) – found in a recent *NYS Law & Practice Report*. He noted that CRRRA requires 3 acts by DEC:
 1. Establish sea level rise projections;

2. Create climate change data sets & risk analysis for quantifying future risks, and;
3. Draft model laws to enable municipalities to include in their planning process.

Mr. Doyle stated that we are seeing more hard data and policy coming out addressing climate change, including where to build, how to build back and how to build stormwater systems. He added that the law puts teeth into doing this.

Mr. Doyle informed the board that we are involved in Open Space work with County Executive. We are also involved with looking at the shovel ready statute. The statute provides for infrastructure investment for expansions. We have spent up to \$500,000 for infrastructure in Lloyd, Marlboro, Saugerties and Kingston. We are looking to do a call for projects this summer and are writing priorities now. We have been discussing using the local development corporation to expand the things we can fund.

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that we are trying a new way of working on our Bridge replacement program. We had success working with a Technical advisory committee in New Paltz regarding expanding shoulders on S Putt Corners Rd. The County Executive asked us to set up a committee to replace Carmine Liberta bridge in New Paltz. Mr. Doyle added that we have worked with the Chamber and Supervisor to set up the committee. The kick off meeting is set for March 11th at the New Paltz Community Center.

Mr. Baden stated we have 11 vacant alternate member positions and he asked the board to go to their town boards to request an alternate if they do not already have one. Mr. Swanzey has had a conversation with the Mayor about finding a replacement for the other City of Kingston member who is not eligible for reappointment. He added that the Mayor is interested in finding someone.

Mr. Baden stated the executive committee would like recommendations for topics for a training session possibly in April.

8. SPECIAL TOPICS DISCUSSION

Mr. Doyle stated the move in date for the Sophie Finn/SUNY Ulster project should be in August. The project should finish on time and on budget. Mr. Doyle stated we have been negotiating with DEP to use the lands on the reservoir for trail use and are close to an agreement. He noted that we have issued an RFP for the Hudson Valley Rail Trail for \$1.6 million federal project with a \$400,000 local match. NYSDOT will pick up in Lloyd from South St to Town of New Paltz and the Wawarsing rail trail needs to cross the department of corrections land and we have an agreement with docs now for an easement, which would allow the trail to make the connection.

Mr. Doyle informed the board that Wawarsing Walmart requested a new driveway permit for access to a county road and the county required Walmart put in a sidewalk along Route 209. The firehouse had objections to the sidewalk going in front of their building as a safety hazard. We have now changed the sidewalk location to repairing sidewalks in Napanoch that were in poor condition. We have asked Walmart to widen the shoulder of the road instead. Walmart's attorney indicated a willingness to fund both.

Mr. Doyle stated that work on the rail trail for Kingston that will connect to the Hurley rail trail should begin by the end of March.

Mr. Wilkin asked about the Colony Farm. Mr. Doyle stated there have been conversations with the Friends of Colony Farm about a grant to study the farm to see if it could be used as an agri-tourism business. He added that we have had conversations with the Farmland Protection Board as well.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Mr. Doyle informed the board that the window to apply for the 2015 Agriculture Additions runs from March 1-30. There is no minimum acreage required to be added, but it needs to be viable agricultural land that provides a benefit to a district. Mr. Doyle added that we are seeing more and more startup farmers applying. Mr. Doyle stated that we are also reviewing Ag District 2, which is in the Wallkill Valley up to New Paltz. Mr. Doyle stated the Farmland Protection board has made recommendations to the Legislature to remove certain parcels that have been subdivided since that district was last reviewed eight years ago. The call for public hearing is scheduled for next week. Mr. Wilkin asked when this would be officially done. Mr. Doyle answered that it won't be finished until the end of the year at the earliest, because it has a 300-day review period and then needs to be certified by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

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

10. ZONING REFERRALS – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm