

# ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## *Minutes –August 3, 2011*

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

### **The Executive Committee Did Not Meet**

Mr. Wilkin called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Leibowitz to read the roll call.

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** R. Pecora, J. Katz, P. Hakim, J. Konior, K. Lovelett, L. Biggin, M. Calimano, H. Grant, T. Wilkin, M. Baden, F. Greitzer, P. Economos, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, A. Yuran, R. Elwell, M. Maclary, S. Cahill, D. Doyle, R. Leibowitz **Absent:** T. Marion, G. Matichuk **Excused:** T. Hokanson, E. Hooper, R. Kinnin, V. Dwyer, S. Finkle

Mr. Maclary introduced himself as the new member from Village of Saugerties.

- 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES - The July 6, 2011 Minutes were approved.**  
**Motion by Mr. Baden, seconded by Mr. Katz. Ms. Biggin and Mr. Calimano abstained.**

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT - 2011**

Mr. Doyle stated we have just completed a contract for a Transit Development Plan; so we will begin spending money from the Fees for Professional Services. Mr. Doyle stated that we have not hired a new Sr. Transportation Planner, but will be scheduling interviews soon. He added that we are waiting on the Federal budget to see how the MPO funding goes. As we stand now, we have a substantial amount of Federal funding to spend that will remain with the MPO for at least 24 months. The size of the urbanized area determined in the new Federal Transportation Bill currently under consideration may decide if we will have an MPO in the future or not. Mr. Doyle stated that we have a Request for Proposal (RFP) out for a local Waterfront Revitalization Plan - \$100,000 grant (50% state funded – 50% county match in staff time). We have a model update required due to air quality maintenance efforts. Our county may, within 2012, be categorized as non-attainment and have to prepare a regional air quality model. We also have funding to do DPW bridgework to analyze the county's DPW bridge transportation crew's efficiency. Mr. Doyle stated we also have a line item in the UPWP to do work for an intermodal center study in the New Paltz Village area.

Mr. Budziak asked about the money spent in our budget for the redistricting effort. Mr. Doyle stated that the money spent was for software. We have \$35,000 left for reapportionment administration, which may be sent back to the general fund. Mr. Doyle offered the redistricting software to the City of Kingston for their up-coming reapportionment. He added that the software license is valid until next March, our staff that is very familiar with the software and we would like to extend our administrative assistance to the city.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **5. COMMUNITY REPORT**

Mr. Holmquist stated that his community will be hosting "Festival of the Voice" on Thursday through Sunday. His community is also going to begin floodplain dredging in September. The dredging will be done in 3 steps. Mr. Doyle added that the community will also be doing a Flood Resiliency Study, as a condition of one of the permits, to identify structures and areas of concern during flooding. The CWC program through Cornell and Soil and Water Conservation District is paying for that study. Mr. Doyle added that DEP, DEC and FEMA have come to an agreement on what flood studies look like for the mountain communities, and except for the NYC watershed area, have new flood maps. There will be an enhanced level of analysis for the watershed area, which will be paid for by DEP.

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

Ms. Cahill said the Alderman at Large has released the names of individuals who are to be appointed to the steering committee (16 members chosen out of 50 interested persons) for Kingston's Comprehensive Plan. The city bonded \$100,000 for a consultant to be engaged and should begin in the next 3 weeks.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Doyle stated that the department has been writing support letters for City of Kingston, two for Kingston Land Trust and one for Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. He clarified that the letters were written as support from the department's standpoint and not from the Board.

Mr. Doyle announced that Census data is out that includes age, ethnicity, housing data etc. Now available on our website. Cornell has also made summaries available.

Ms. Elwell stated they will need a support letter for a Greenway application grant for signage for the expanded trail if the board would like to offer support. **Mr. Katz made a motion to write a support letter for the grant written from the Board, which was seconded by Ms. Pecora. Ms. Elwell abstained. All were in favor.**

Mr. Doyle made note of the item that states "NYSDOT consents to the Town of Rosendale Planning Board to serve as lead agency for Hudson River Valley Resort Project" (DEC has already been the lead agency on the project for about 3 years.) The Ashokan working group put a report of the 2011-2012 action program. Virginia Craft serves on this group and reviews all the applications that come in for funding and she helps to make recommendations. We have been doing work on issues dealing with Wayfinding and Tourism in that area as well. Mr. Doyle also made note of the NYSERDA information that was included in this evening's packet that was a handout at a workshop that Mr. Kinnin attended. Mr. Doyle asked the Board how many of their town's have gone through energy efficiency work. Central Hudson's "Saving Central" lighting program is being offered to municipalities. Central Hudson does the audits and if you use their local contractor the cost to the community is zero. He added that if your community has not done it then you should.

Mr. Doyle stated that we have included *Supreme Court Decision re: Town of Shawangunk Planning Board – Cellco/Verizon Wireless (also the UCPB Referral #2009-205/206)*. Mr. Watkins stated he was not in favor of the location of the cell tower, his board reviewed the county's comments, which they did not agree with, and voted against. But since they did not have a majority vote Cellco took them to court over their decision. The court agreed with the local board on the basis of wording used in the UCPB comments. Mr. Doyle stated that in his opinion we need to be more specific in our recommendations and he added that he will have a discussion with staff. Mr. Watkins stated that other locations were looked at and the court did see a report on their findings, but the report was not sent to the county. After the board discussed the matter Mr. Doyle summarized that with this type of submittal, where a required modification requests more analysis; we should also ask for a re-submittal of the project.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Ag Additions/Legislature Update

Mr. Doyle stated that the Legislature has passed the recommendations as submitted by the Ag & Farmland Protection Board and sent the on to Ag and Markets for the Commissioner to certify. The Wine parcels in New Paltz and the Hurley horse boarding parcel were not included.

### b. Visitability Update

Mr. Doyle informed the board that the Onondaga statute deals strictly with new public buildings and affordable housing that Onondaga County subsidizes. Local law at State level has been referred to committee at house & senate levels. We do not have a statute with respect to visitability.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### a. **NYS Dept Environmental Conservation (DEC) Wetlands Mapping Update – Southern Ulster County**

Mr. Doyle stated that DEC has completed some wetland mapping in Southern Ulster and Orange county and have discovered 23,000 additional acres of wetlands. DEC made presentations to some local municipal governments. We were told they cannot release the mapping as they have to notify the landowners by certified mail, but don't have the money for postage. Mr. Doyle added that since presentations have been made we would like a copy of the presentation. He stated that he thinks it can be FOIL'd. What we would like is for them to give our Board a presentation. Mr. Doyle said we are waiting for answers. Mr. Doyle stated that they are non-regulatory as far as DEC wetlands, but we suspect they will use the maps for permitting purposes. Mr. Doyle stated he believes there is a reason for the DEC not to release the maps. Landowners, if they are sophisticated enough can erase the wetlands by mowing the vegetation. Mr. Wilkin stated that New Paltz may increase their wetlands by 1,300 acres. This mapping effort includes lands of the Walkkill River Watershed.

Mr. Doyle stated that we have been asked by town of Rosendale to help with drafting of a planned development district that relates to the Canopy project and overall zoning of the town. We have used the town's language as well as language from the Towns of Ulster and Rochester.

### b. **Letters of Support – See Communications**

### c. **Census Data Release – Summary File 1 – See Communications**

Detailed Profiles for the County, Municipal and CDP levels. Available on our website at: <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/pannounce.html> and <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/census2010.html>

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

e. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm. Motion by Mr. Katz, Seconded by Mr. Watkins. All were in favor.