

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Minutes – March 2, 2011

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

The Executive Committee did not Meet

Chairman Wilkin called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and asked Mr. Leibowitz to read the roll call.

- 1. ROLL CALL - Present:** R. Pecora, J. Katz, P. Hakim, J. Konior, T. Marion, K. Lovelett, L. Biggin, T. Hokanson, H. Grant, T. Wilkin, M. Baden, F. Greitzer, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, A. Yuran, E. Hooper, R. Elwell, D. Doyle, R. Leibowitz **Absent:** G. Matichuk, S. Frederick **Excused:** R. Kinnin, S. Finkle **Guests:** S. Ricci-Alt for Marbletown, Thomas Smiley-Mohonk

Mr. Doyle asked if the new members from Marbletown would like to say anything to the board. Mr. Lovelett and Ms. Ricci introduced themselves and both gave some background information. Ms. Hooper, new member for Village of Ellenville also greeted the board and said it was nice to be back.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The January Minutes were approved. Motion by Ms. Elwell, seconded by Mr. Konior. Mr. Lovelett, Ms. Biggin and Ms. Hooper abstained. The rest were in favor.

A vote was taken on the Corrected February Minutes. Motion to approve the February Minutes as amended made by Ms. Elwell, seconded by Mr. Konior. The following abstained: Mr. Hakim, Mr. Lovelett, Ms. Biggin, Ms. Grant, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. Watkins and Ms. Hooper. **The February Minutes did not pass.**

3. FINANCIAL REPORT - 2011 – February (Corrected) & March (m)

Mr. Doyle informed the board that the financial reports are now more detailed than in the past. The financial report is produced one week before the meeting using the County's HTE system. Mr. Doyle noted that in the March report a new line item has been added in order to purchase software for the Reapportionment Committee. Approximately \$15,000 was transferred from the Fees for Professional Services Line for purchase and support of the software. Another budget item of note is \$395,000 in Planning Studies, which includes money needed for visualization and Greenway Compact work. As of last Tuesday the Transportation Council programmed federal dollars of around \$400,000 worth of studies in the State Fiscal Year. The Policy Committee will be considering their budget on March 24th. If it passes we may need to look for additional dollars. Mr. Doyle stated that he has had discussions with the budget office to move these type of programs from the operational budget to the capital budget.

Mr. Doyle asked the Board if they had any opinion on the new format of the financial report or receiving Agendas via e-mail. No Member Comment.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

5. COMMUNITY REPORT

Mr. Greitzer stated that the Planning Board Chairman from the Town of Rosendale asked their Town Attorney about board member's contact information. She stated that contact information was not required to be made available to the public. He added that the attorney asked for specific citations in law if anyone had other information.

Ms. Elwell stated there are new requirements for the disabled on multi use trails entitled "other motorized vehicles." She added that her trails group is looking to get more information.

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that Ag District inclusions began on March 1st and run through March 30th. We act as staff with Cornell Cooperative to service the Ag & Farmland Protection Board. Virginia Craft coordinates the work and she reviews between 16-25 applications each year. Mr. Doyle stated there is a lot of niche farming going on around the county that is not being captured by the Census. We are also seeing a shift in the demographics of farming. He stated that larger farming income is down 66% according to a 2007 report. Mr. Doyle added that we continue to see small operations added to the Ag District each year.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2010 Annual Report

Mr. Doyle stated that the Charter requires that the Board submit an Annual Report. Mr. Doyle submitted a draft version to the Legislature and County Executive on Tuesday to meet the Charter guidelines. He stated the Board has a working draft to consider and added that it can be amended. Mr. Doyle added that the Board has limited responsibilities which include referrals and Capital Programming. 220 referrals were reviewed in 2010, which is down slightly from 2009. A substantial number of the referrals came from New Paltz, Kingston and Gardiner. A copy of the 2010 organizational chart was also handed out to the Board. Mr. Doyle noted that the Board is responsible directly to the Legislature as appointing authority. Mr. Doyle is responsible to the Legislature and the County Executive and has a responsibility to the Transportation Council as host agency. **Motion to adopt the 2010 Annual Report as presented made by Ms. Hokanson, seconded by Mr. Watkins. All were in favor.**

b. Reminder – CDBG Applications

Mr. Doyle stated CDBG applications are due May 27th. They are an important source of money for public facilities, housing rehab and homeownership. The county is eligible for up to \$750,000 in funding. Communities are eligible for up to \$400,000 to \$500,000. Mr. Doyle stated communities should think about housing rehabilitation targeting severely sub-standard housing. The County would submit an application on behalf of the municipality and manage the work with RUPCO. The cost to the community would be zero. Mr. Doyle added this requires two public hearings and would need to be started immediately.

Mr. Doyle stated there is a new preservation company from the western part of the state called the MARK Project. We've asked them to coordinate with RUPCO and SHARP. MARK Project is considering submitting a Main Street application for Pine Hill. Mr. Doyle asked if anyone knew if their community would be submitting a Main Street Grant. Mr. Katz said Gardiner thought about it. Mr. Doyle offered to provide information to communities that would like to know more.

Mr. Budziak stated that Town of Ulster is thinking of beautifying the 9W corridor (retail district). Mr. Doyle stated 9W is a DOT street so there maybe enhancement project funding available (20% local match). He added that NYSDOT has its own landscaping program and added that they did a landscaping project along the Hurley Rail Trail on Route 209.

Mr. Doyle stated this might be the last significant CDBG funding available and encouraged the board to go back to their communities and apply.

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that the County has been having discussions with the DEP about water being released from the reservoir. The County filed a Notice of Intent to seek litigation against DEP. We have reached out to every known agency that had water quality work done to participate in the discussion. DEC has also decided to issue an enforcement action and they are seeking \$2.2 million in punitive damages. We have been successful in getting DEP to hold group discussions with all of the stake holders. DEP will begin doing assessments of water related damage from the period of October 2010 to January 2011. The Lower Esopus an inland waterway is eligible for local waterfront revitalization funds from DOS. The DEP has to manage all reservoir operations as if they affect downstream users. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that there has been an enormous amount of effort from our department and the Department of Environment.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Environmental Notice Bulletin –

Mr. Wilkin stated that the public comment period has been extended on the new Environmental Assessment Forms until April 8th. Mr. Doyle suggested taking Mr. Baden's comments and have the Board look at them at our April meeting on the 6th.

Trainings

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that we will be hosting a seminar on "Zoning Board of Appeals Overview" on March 30th at 7:00 PM at the New Paltz Community Center in New Paltz. A flyer will be sent to the Board.

Mr. Doyle stated that we are also discussing having a seminar on "Historic Preservation and Arts & Culture as Part of the Local Economy" sometime in May. Mr. Doyle stated we have not been offering trainings because there are so many being offered. He added that if board members are short training hours they can take a municipal online course for credit. Mr. Wilkin added that there were members who fell short of the training requirement listed in the annual report and suggested that if members had taken outside trainings to be sure to document them with the Planning Department.

b. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.