

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
Minutes –September 3, 2008

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

The Referral Guide Committee Met

- 1. ROLL CALL Present:** R. Pecora, M. Beuf, H. Anderson, D. Martorana, L. Biggin, T. Hokanson, R. Oakes, T. Wilkin, S. Hudson, F. Greitzer, R. Praetorius, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, G. Matichuk, A. Yuran, E. Hooper, R. Elwell, R. Pritchard, D. Doyle, J. Schwartz, R. Leibowitz, B. Samuelson **Absent:** T. Natale, M. Lockwood **Excused:** S. Finkle **Guests:** Victor J. Melville, Joe Eriole
- 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES** Motion to approve the August minutes by Ms. Pecora, seconded by Mr. Anderson. Ms. Elwell abstained.
- 3. FINANCIAL REPORT**
Mr. Doyle informed the Board that the budget has been frozen.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment**
- 5. COMMUNITY REPORT**
Mr. Wilkin thanked Mr. Doyle for contacting Dean Palen and stated that he did receive a reply, though it wasn't clear. Ms. Beuf, Ms. Hokanson and Ms. Pecora also thanked Mr. Doyle. Mr. Martorana also expressed his thanks for the \$250,000 received from Senator Larkin for Town of Lloyd.
- 6. COMMUNICATIONS**
 - a. Catskill Center – Request for Support Letter – Town of Hunter's "Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway." Mr. Doyle informed the Board that a portion of this Byway lies within the Town of Saugerties and they have no objection to our Board sending a letter of support.
Motion to approve a support letter made by Mr. Martorana, seconded by Mr. Anderson.
 - b. NYSDEC - Positive Declaration Received for Canopy Development
Mr. Doyle made note of the above and stated he has not seen any comments.
 - c. Town of Gardiner Town Board – Lead Agency Request – Gardiner Sidewalks Project – Construct 2500 linear feet new concrete sidewalks and curb, new catch basins, drainage pipes, street trees and crosswalks along 44/55 from the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail to the Gardiner Town Hall.
Mr. Doyle stated this was part of a TIP project (Transportation Improvement Project).
 - d. Office of Community Renewal – Ulster County awarded \$750,000 NYS Community Dev. Block Grant
Mr. Doyle stated this grant is for a housing program. The contract will be run through our office and implemented by RUPCO.

Ms. Schwartz announced that the Hamlets of Milton and Port Ewen were both awarded Main Street Grants through the efforts of RUPCO. Mr. Doyle stated the main reason these communities received grants was due to the work of Ms. Schwartz and the UCPB Main Street Program.

Ms. Schwartz stated that she and Ms. Beuf will be presenting the UCPB's Regional Main Streets approach at the NY Planning Federation conference on Tuesday October 14th in Saratoga. Information on the conference will be made available to the Board.
 - e. NYS Housing Trust Fund Corp (HTFC) is making \$3,000,000 available through Residential Emergency Services to Offer Repairs for the Elderly (RESTORE) program.
Mr. Doyle made note of the above adding that it is for HVAC systems. Municipalities are eligible.

- f. Property considered for nomination by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to National & State Registers of Historic Places: Saugerties Public Library
Mr. Doyle made note of the above.
- g. “Rethinking Growth – the Economic Benefits of Conservation-Based Development” Conference Monday September 22nd from 4:00pm-9:00pm – Cablevision Bldg, Ferndale, NY - \$15 fee.
Mr. Doyle made note of the above. Mr. Leibowitz added that it is good for AICP credit as well and he will be attending.
- h. “Rethinking Upstate – Common Threads” – 2008 APA Upstate NY Conference – Oct 8-10th – RIT Inn & Conference Center - Rochester, NY. Fees: \$150-225 APA members, \$150-250 non-members
Mr. Doyle made note of the above.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 2008 Ag District Additions- 18 parcels (829 acres) - have been approved by Commissioner of Ag & Markets
Mr. Doyle made note of the above and added that it did not include the 2 winery parcels in New Paltz.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Greitzer stated he has been advised that if the Town Board refers anything to the Planning Board they need to recuse. He asked if another township refers something to his planning board to they need to recuse themselves as well. Mr. Doyle stated that his first answer would be yes. Mr. Doyle added that we have been wrestling with this issue for sometime and asked the board if they would like to ask for a change to the legislation. The original legislation provided for county planning boards was sponsored by the previous director of this board. It allowed for members to discuss projects to allow for local input, but not vote on them.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to support staff recommendations, which was seconded by Ms. Beuf. All were in favor. Mr. Doyle stated he would write the letter and submit it to the Chair to sign.

- b. Ulster Tomorrow – Recommendation to Legislature (f)
Mr. Doyle stated that the Ulster Tomorrow Plan has been sponsored by Ulster County Development Corp. With UCDC and the IDA, the UCPB have asked the Legislature to consider Ulster Tomorrow as a component of the Comprehensive Plan. The Legislature conducted public information hearings and the required public hearing. Under GML section 239d the Legislature is required to refer elements of a Comprehensive Plan to the County Planning Board. Mr. Doyle added that he received an official letter from Chairman Donaldson referring it to us. Ms. Schwartz stated that there have been few changes to the document from the version mailed to the Board last month. Mr. Doyle stated the plan is really a framework. He went over the effort that has gone into the making of Ulster Tomorrow. Mr. Doyle stated that the Plan matters because it is the future of Ulster County and because if it's adopted at the County level, it can direct the agencies to do things that are consistent with the plan and it controls the County's capital financing. Ms. Schwartz handed out an “Action Plan and Matrix” to the Board. She stated that there is nothing new in the plan - the layout is just what we have added to our work in the last year.

Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to ask the Board to support adoption of Ulster Tomorrow as an element of the Comprehensive plan as its economic component.

Mr. Martorana made a motion to support recommendations to the Legislature. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yuran.

Discussion

Mr. Doyle stated he would also like to recommend the Legislature consider amending the plan to charge the County Planning Board with the duty to help applicants through the permit process and help communities streamline that process. He added if the Legislature directs the Board do this it will make it easier to for us help applicants who come before our Board asking for approvals. Mr.

Martorana commented that this document shows that Ulster County is making a statement and is a huge step forward regardless of whether you agree with the document or not.

Mr. Martorana stated he wanted his motion to include the economic development that Mr. Doyle discussed.

Mr. Doyle stated that education is an important focus area of Ulster County. He added that the educational community should also be included in process.

Ms. Hokanson stated the recommendation from our board is to adopt the plan with the amendments. We have a motion by Mr. Martorana. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yuran. Ms. Beuf abstained.

- c. Mr. Leibowitz handed out a draft of the first part of the Referral Guide and asked the Board to give him written comments within two weeks. We are looking for editorial comments just from our Board at this time. Mr. Leibowitz added that a FAQ(frequently asked questions) section will be added.
- d. Environmental Notice Bulletin – No Member Comments
- e. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM. Motion by Mr. Greitzer, seconded by Ms. Beuf.