

# ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## *Minutes –September 2, 2009*

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

### The Referral Review Process Committee Met

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

**1. ROLL CALL - Present:** R. Pecora, M. Beuf, P. Hakim, D. Martorana, T. Natale, T. Hokanson, R. Oakes, T. Wilkin, S. Hudson, F. Grietzer, R. Praetorius, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, A. Yuran, R. Elwell, R. Pritchard, D. Doyle, R. Leibowitz.

**Absent:** J. Konior, L. Biggin, G. Matichuk, TJ Briggs, M. Lockwood, S. Finkle.

**Guests:** Michael Badin

### **2. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mr. Budziak asked to have the Zoning Minutes corrected for Referral #2009-152 (Kennedy Chicken) to reflect that he abstained from voting. The August minutes were approved as amended. Motion by Ms. Pecora, seconded by Mr. Hudson. Mr. Praetorius, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Natale. abstained.

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Doyle explained to the Board that this is a challenging budget year. The budget has gone through the initial process. Mr. Doyle stated that we may have funding left over in our Fees for Professional Services line at the end of the year, due in part to the inability to move to contract, and also due to the Director of UCAT leaving. We have \$100,000 for a Transit Development Study of transit routes for all of Ulster County. However, until the Transit Director has been replaced, we do not want to start a Transit Development Study. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that an interim Director has been appointed and he has been appointed as Deputy Director for UCAT. He added that he is participating in the search for the new Transit Director.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment

### **5. COMMUNITY REPORT**

Mr. Natale stated that Marbletown has done a ground breaking ceremony for their new bluestone sidewalk. Mr. Wilkin informed the board that Dennis visited Plattekill and gave information and described options for moratoria. He added that it broke down some barriers and he felt it was very helpful. Mr. Martorana stated that Dennis & Rob came to Lloyd and sat down with the Supervisor and Building Inspector and discussed the new zoning ordinance, which was being reviewed by our Board this evening. Mr. Doyle stated he enjoys meeting with the local municipalities and feels we bring a different perspective and it is worthwhile. He added that he couldn't do it without the input of our Board.

### **6. COMMUNICATIONS – Handed out separately**

Mr. Doyle went over the highlights and mentioned training opportunities listed.

### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

#### a. Broadband Update

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that March Gallagher has been working with IITS, a private company, to put together an application for ARRA funding in order to get wireless broadband services to underserved areas of the County. The proposal covers parts of Hurley, Rochester,

Marbletown, Denning, Hardenburgh and Wawarsing. The Supervisors of these townships are very pleased with this effort.

- b. Mr. Doyle updated the board on current grants:
- ◆ \$50,000 grant from CWC to do Main Street work in 3 hamlets;
  - ◆ \$60,000 grant from DOS for regional Main Street applications – We have a contract with an economist to put “numbers” to Main Street;
  - ◆ \$100,000 awarded from DOS grant to work with Rivertowns on visualizing density;
  - ◆ \$49,000 from Greenway for priority growth areas & establish centers;
  - ◆ CDBG \$300,000 for farmworker housing & \$450,000 for housing rehab –will be implemented by Cornell & Rupco respectively;
  - ◆ \$90,000 I587 corridor contract in process of signing contract with consulting firm from CT;
  - ◆ \$30,000 consulting firm contract for intermodal center work (Uptown Kingston Parking Garage);
  - ◆ Invited by Dept of State & Div HCR to make UC a pilot county for State Main St Program in partnership with UCDC & RUPCO;
  - ◆ Working with CWC, the Highway Dept and Department of Environment through DED for \$100,000 on stormwater, repurpose an existing \$50,000 grant on driveways with the Dept of Environment.

Mr. Doyle stated there is little time left to do any other grant work as some grants require a 50% match, which is billed in staff time. We have had discussions as to where to go next, core responsibilities, internal coordination, etc. Mr. Doyle added that the transportation side has approximately \$400,000 worth of revenue in Fees for Professional Services plus staff work. Mr. Doyle stated that we have been adding coordinating functions with other departments and the Planning Director and the Board have a responsibility to report to the County Exec on Capital Programs.

Ms. Elwell informed the Board that the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail Association is under pressure to get trail planning done. Currently negotiating with a trail planner. OSI & Walkkill Valley Land Trust have just closed on a purchase of a right of way with the County. This stretches from the New Paltz/Rosendale town line to the Town of Ulster/City of Kingston town line. When completed, the trail will be 23.5 continuous miles of trail. She added that the trestle over the Rondout would be the biggest impediment. The remainder of the trail is in passable condition. Ms. Elwell was at a meeting with Tim Allred, representatives from Rosendale and the trail planners for Canopy (Williams Lake). There is a connection from the trail in Rosendale into the Mohonk Preserve. Ms. Elwell stated that piece of the County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is really coming together. Ms. Hokanson stated that Southern Ulster Alliance applying for a Greenway grant to do the design work to connect the trail in Lloyd to the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail in New Paltz.

**Mr. Doyle segued into a request to write a support letter from the Southern Ulster Alliance with respect to the grant and he asked for the Board’s approval. Motion to approve by Mr. Martorana, seconded by Ms. Pecora. Motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.**

Mr. Budziak asked for an update on the Ulster Tomorrow project. Mr. Hakim said that UCDC has a couple initiatives moving the strategies forward and added that an Economic Development bulletin might be a good idea regarding inventory strategies that have been closed out and strategies that are still on-going. Mr. Hakim stated UCDC has formed Balanced Growth Committee and are completing a rate-ables study that shows the correlation between commercial and residential assessed valuations and tax amounts on a town-by-town and countywide basis. Mr. Hakim stated that Ms. Gallagher was instrumental in putting the data together and they have another person working on the graphics. Mr. Budziak stated it is important to share the successes to show where the project is going. Ms. Beuf stated that she and Ms. Gallagher put together a report for the

Economic Development Committee that could be shared with our Board. Mr. Doyle suggested making a template and adding graphics to their monthly report. Ms. Hokanson stated it would be good to get this type of report out to the public also. Mr. Hakim asked if an economic educational series could be endorsed for training credit.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Upcoming Seminars

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that he is scheduling Fall seminars. There will be one at the Catskill Center coming up. Mr. Doyle stated we could schedule one in October or November. We are looking at a couple ideas for in-house trainings: Technology-GIS and pictometry work, would involve the IS Staff, also How to Review Your Zoning Statute (transportation, affordable housing, commercial development, economic development). Would involve staff and outreach to consultants to participate. He also invited the Board make suggestions.

The Board suggested doing the Technology seminar sometime in October. Mr. Doyle stated he would also like schedule a meeting on Understanding the Affordable Housing Report, which may be done as a breakfast meeting or maybe an evening meeting. The information will be presented by Jeff Carr of EPR in Vermont.

Mr. Doyle stated we are also doing a coordinated public relations campaign with the Housing Consortium, which is being funded and managed through our office. We have a sponsor for the website and have purchased a URL called - Give Housing a Voice. We also have sponsor's for some of the campaigns.

Mr. Martorana asked about the Board Retreat – Mr. Doyle suggested sometime after the October Board Meeting.

### b. Board – Required Training Status & Membership

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that we have a list of members whose appointments are expiring in December. We will be sending out letters to all of the chief elected officials. He added that we may try doing shorter appointments for some people in order to stagger the expiration dates. Mr. Doyle stated if members do not have the required training, the Legislature is precluded from reappointment. He added that we grant 15 minutes of training for every Board meeting. Mr. Doyle also reminded the Board that if members are not reappointed they still serve until they are replaced. Mr. Hakim asked about other trainings and wanted to know if Mr. Doyle would approve a seminar put on by UCDC. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that if anyone runs into trouble meeting the requirements or Boards at the local level need extra training Staff will come to the municipalities and that time will count.

c. Environmental Notice Bulletin – *No Member Comment*

d. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:17p.m.