

**Dutchess County Planning Board
DRAFT - MINUTES – September 9, 2015**

Present

Joel Diemond
Michael Dupree
Hans Hardisty
Edward Hauser
Hans Klingzahn
James Nelson
Warren Smith
Jill Way
John Weisman
Rick Wilhelm
Randall Williams
Jennifer Coccozza, *Staff*
Brian Kehoe, *Staff*
Lynn Schara, *Staff*
Anne-Marie Smith, *County Attorney Liaison*
Eoin Wrafter, *Staff*

Absent

Colleen Cruikshank
Jerry Hutchings, *Legislative Liaison*

Joel Diemond, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:36 PM. A motion to accept without change the minutes from our July 22, 2015, meeting was made by John Weisman and seconded by Hans Klingzahn. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted.

Commissioner's Update - Eoin Wrafter

The Department has completed 328 referrals through August, which is 85% of our projection for the year. 87% have been completed within 21 days (our target is 90%). While there does appear to be a slight increase in referrals, Eoin felt that may be due to resubmitted projects moving forward, as opposed to all new projects being initiated.

The MPO/Transportation Long-Range Plan is currently being updated, with a survey available on the department's webpage. All are invited to visit our website to complete the survey, as well as to encourage friends to do the same.

The 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & Home applications are now available for communities. They are due October 16, 2015.

Zoning for Solar Energy – The Dutchess County Planning Federation, with support from Planning & Development will be sponsoring a short course with Pace Land Use Law Center on Thursday, September 24, 2015, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Farm and Home Center. We will follow up with communities after the event to determine how we can provide further assistance with issues related to solar and zoning. As zoning for solar energy is an issue all communities are facing, Planning Board members are encouraged to attend this short course. Joel discussed the

long-term issue of grid damage and the potential impact of a solar flare (Germany suffered from such issues recently). It will need to be considered as solar options increase. Eoin noted that a lot of states have net metering constraints to protect the grid and prevent further expansion. Solar farms were just approved for Oakwood School and Millbrook School.

Partnership for Manageable Growth – Criteria Weighting

Application packets were released and sent out August 26th, with a submission deadline of October 30th.

Brian Kehoe presented an overview of the proposed criteria weighting spreadsheet, explaining that there were different criteria and weights for the three programs, Farmland Protection, Open Space, and Municipal Planning Grants. Brian encouraged the board to share their questions and comments, several changes were made to the criteria after discussions.

The third tab on the spreadsheet for the Municipal Planning Grants, does not have available funding at this time. After reviewing the weighting criteria, no changes were made.

Eoin informed the board that due to a change in funding guidelines, the County no longer requires that it be “last in” for funding, meaning the applicants would have had to secure the balance of funding prior to applying to the County. Funds that are awarded will come with a timeframe so that if other funding is unavailable, we have the ability to pull out and reallocate the funding for the future.

We have asked applicants to submit 14 copies of each application by 10/30/15. We will distribute them to the Board members at our November 4th meeting, along with the scoring sheets. At that time, Board members will be asked to complete their reviews and return them to us via email as an Excel file by November 25, 2015. At our January 2016 meeting, we will report out the data based on what was submitted by the Board. Site visits will be performed, likely in January/February; we may or may not need a presentation from applicants afterwards, we will determine that later. Eoin offered that comments can go on the scoring sheet, but specific questions about the application or project should be submitted with the scoring sheets so that we can route them to the applicants and gather the answers during the month of December.

Hans Klingzahn announced that the Dutchess County Planning Federation is looking for new members for the Board of Directors; there are currently three openings available. They meet roughly 2-3 times a year. He asked that anyone interested contact Jen Coccozza directly.

Joel reminded everyone that their membership on this board is an allowable substitute for Planning and Zoning Board training requirements, as per the former Planning Commissioner. A discussion took place regarding who has the final authority on determining what acceptable training for board members is. Eoin will look into this and have an answer for the board at the November meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2015.

With no new business proposed, Rick Wilhelm motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jim Nelson seconded. The meeting ended at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Schara