

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Monday, November 29, 2021

Committee Chair Surman called the committee to order at 5:40 pm

PRESENT:           9       BOLNER, CAVACCINI, EDWARDS, HAUSER, KEARNEY,  
METZGER, MUNN, PULVER, and SURMAN

ABSENT:            3       CASWELL, PAGE, and ZERNIKE

PRESENT/LATE:    0

QUORUM PRESENT

Committee Chair Surman entertained a motion from the floor, which was seconded and carried, to allow the public to address the Committee on agenda items.

No one else wishing to speak Committee Chair Surman entertained a motion from the floor, which was seconded and carried, and the regular order of business was resumed.

**2021189** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,515,505 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE ACQUISITION OF PARCELS OF LAND, OR RIGHTS OR INTERESTS IN SUCH LAND, FOR PASSIVE PARK PURPOSES AND THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY

On motion by Majority Leader Bolner, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Metzger, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Legislators Caswell, Zernike, and Assistant Minority Leader Page being absent.

**2021210** REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

On motion by Majority Leader Bolner, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Metzger, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Legislators Caswell, Zernike, and Assistant Minority Leader Page being absent.

**2021211 CONSENTING TO THE ISSUANCE BY THE DUTCHESS COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER AUTHORITY OF ITS SERVICE AGREEMENT REVENUE NOTES AND BONDS**

On motion by Majority Leader Bolner, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Metzger, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Legislators Caswell, Zernike, and Assistant Minority Leader Page being absent.

**2021212 AUTHORIZING ALLOCATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (“ARP”) FUNDS AS THEY PERTAIN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND AMENDING THE 2021 ADOPTED COUNTY BUDGET**

Majority Leader Bolner, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Metzger, moved the foregoing resolution. Discussion proceeded as follows:

Minority Leader Edwards requested how many agencies were served by the ARP funds in this resolution. Commissioner Wrafter’s response attached.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Legislators Caswell, Zernike, and Assistant Minority Leader Page being absent.

**2021213 DECLARING DUTCHESS COUNTY AS LEAD AGENCY AND ADOPTING NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE RUNWAY SAFETY AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT THE HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT**

On motion by Majority Leader Bolner, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Metzger, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Legislators Caswell, Zernike, and Assistant Minority Leader Page being absent.

**2021214 ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE QUIET COVE RIVERFRONT PARK PHASE 4 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

On motion by Majority Leader Bolner, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Metzger, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Legislators Caswell, Zernike, and Assistant Minority Leader Page being absent.

**2021215 ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE DUTCHESS URBAN TRAIL PROJECT LOCATED IN THE TOWN AND CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE**

On motion by Majority Leader Bolner, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Metzger, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Legislators Caswell, Zernike, and Assistant Minority Leader Page being absent.

**2021216 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENT TO PARTIALLY  
FUND THE PURCHASE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON PROPERTY  
KNOWN AS THE SEVEN WELLS PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF DOVER,  
DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AND REALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

On motion by Majority Leader Bolner, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Metzger, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Legislators Caswell, Zernike, and Assistant Minority Leader Page being absent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## Wager, Leigh

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**From:** Wrafter, Eoin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:30 PM  
**To:** Wager, Leigh  
**Cc:** Baiano, Chris  
**Subject:** Follow up to Legislator Edwards questions regarding Resolution No. 2021212

Leigh,

Below please find the follow up I promised to Legislator Edwards regarding Resolution No. 2021212:

The \$150,000 will be directed to Dutchess Tourism Incorporated to address the negative economic impact of the COVID-19, specifically this funding will be utilized for hospitality workforce development training. This training will elevate worker skills, boost interest in climbing the career ladder to higher-paying hospitality jobs, and reduce employers' onboarding time and expense. Interacting with these trained hospitality workers will also enhance visitors' experiences in our destination prompting increased visitor spending, good publicity, and the likelihood of return trips.

Two of the main components are:

- Visitor Engagement Champion Training Program - Developed in partnership with Visitor Engagement Academy. It is a certificate program focused on visitor service and engagement. The program includes 8 scenario-based modules that provide frontline workers with realistic practice in handling the most prevalent situations in the tourism and hospitality industries today. The initial Modules cover:
  - Engagement (elevated service)
  - Sustainability (managing over-tourism)
  - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (recognizing personal bias)
  - Accessibility (creating resources to communicate)
  - Crisis & Safety (harassment de-escalation, trafficking, emergencies)
  - Economic Development (attracting new business/residents)

This entry-level training is available in English and Spanish. And is expected to be conducted for 500 participants.

- Certified Tourism Ambassador Training Program - Developed in partnership with the Tourism Ambassador Institute <https://ctanetwork.com/>, which is a nationally-recognized professional certification. This program would also be promoted to high school, BOCES, and Dutchess Community College students looking to earn this nationally recognized certification that would give them tools to be successful in their first jobs as well as speed their opportunities for growth to higher levels of responsibility and increased wages.
  - Funding will subsidize CTA participation costs for 400 people.
- Marketing, outreach, and promotion are also included to create awareness and increase participation.

If you have any other questions, please let me know.

Eoin

**Eoin Wrafter, AICP  
Commissioner  
Dutchess County Planning and Development**