

**Dutchess County Planning Board
MINUTES – February 14, 2024**

Present

Dale Culver
Peter Doro
Edith Greenwood
Hans Klingzahn
J. Patrick Lambert
James Nelson
Chris Pantano
Jill Way

Absent

Gary Baright
James Fedorchak
Ken Migliorelli
J. Randall Williams

Chris Baiano, *Assistant County Executive*
Jennifer Coccozza, *Staff*
Emily Dozier, *Staff*
Devin Rigolino, *Staff*
Ian Wickstead, *Staff*
Eoin Wrafter, *Staff*

Hans Klingzahn called the meeting to order.

Nomination and Election of Officers

Eoin Wrafter announced that three nominations had been received to reappoint Hans Klingzahn as Chairman and James Nelson as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Board. Chris Pantano made a motion to approve the nominations and Dale Culver seconded the motion. With no nays or abstentions, the motion passed.

Review/Consider Adoption of Revised By-Laws:

There were no proposed changes to the by-laws by Planning Department staff or Planning Board members.

However, since a few members asked about having the option to attend the meetings virtually, Eoin Wrafter briefly discussed the NYS Open Meetings Law, to which the Planning Board is subject. Eoin explained that the Open Meetings Law requires that we meet in a public forum and that the Planning Board is subject to the Open Meetings Law because it acts as an advisory group to the Partnership for Manageable Growth program, and their recommendations are acted upon by the County Executive. Virtual participation would only be allowable if a Legislative resolution was passed that stipulated how to conduct such meetings. In that case, it would still be limited to those members whose circumstances do not permit them to attend in person. At present, members may only observe the meeting remotely if a quorum is already established at the in-person, public meeting.

Approve Minutes from the November 8, 2023 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from November 8, 2023, was made by Pat Lambert and seconded by Peter Doro. With no nays, the motion passed, and the minutes were adopted.

Presentation: Natural Resource Inventory

Devin Rigolino, Environmental Program Director, Department of Planning & Development, presented an update on the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), which is a catalog of all the natural resources within the County. The NRI is being updated as an interactive mapper and website. Devin went through the draft versions of the website and mapper, explaining their features, how to use them to the Planning Board and that the NRI website and mapper will link to the Dutchess County website and GIS applications. He noted that municipal boards and councils will be able to use the information in both the website and the mapper to make planning decisions. But it could be used by anyone, including schools. He also noted that some data sets on the website are linked to their original sources so they will be updated as often as the source of the information is updated. Other data, including the narratives, will be updated as necessary or as new information becomes available.

Links to the draft versions of the website and mapper will be sent to Planning Board members for their feedback and members will be notified when the final versions of both sites are launched.

Partnership for Manageable Growth (PMG) Updates:

Eoin explained that nine existing projects were recommended and have been awarded. Five of the projects are expected to close this year and the other four are expected to close in 2025. Some of the projects that will close next year are seeking other funding sources so they can move forward. In addition, we have reached out to the major land trusts regarding pending projects to determine if there is a need for or interest in a round of funding. Currently, we do not anticipate a round of funding in 2024.

Commissioner's Update:

James Fedorchak, former County Attorney, has been appointed to the Board by the County Executive. Phil DeRosa has resigned from the board since he will be moving out of the area. So, there is still one vacancy on the Board to be filled by a Legislative appointee.

Since our last meeting, the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets has approved our new Agricultural Districts. Since the Agricultural Priority Areas can't be updated if they are not associated with an updated Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, we are considering the creation of an Agricultural Priority Report that's separate from the Plan. If that moves forward, Eoin will request that the Planning Board review some of the criteria and provide feedback.

The Planning Department has responded to fewer referrals than it has in prior years since there have been fewer projects. However, there have been several larger projects.

Correspondence

The Planning Board did not receive any correspondence.

Announcements

James Nelson mentioned that the City of Poughkeepsie has applied for housing assistance through NYS and asked if they are qualified to do so. Eoin responded that communities may apply to the State's Pro-Housing Communities program, which is open to communities within the state that have zoning authority. Being an approved Pro-Housing Community means additional points and

consideration in different state-funded programs. There are sets of criteria, such as the number of building permits issued, including the number of new units created which the state evaluates for entry into the program.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2024.

Dale Culver made a motion to adjourn; Jill seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charonique Roberts