

**Dutchess County Planning Board
MINUTES – November 18, 2020**

Present

Ryan Arket
Gary Baright
Colleen Cruikshank
Phil DeRosa
Michael Dupree
Edith Greenwood
Hans Klingzahn
J. Patrick Lambert
James Nelson
Warren T. Smith
Rick Wilhelm
Randall Williams

Absent

Jill Way

Linda Fakhoury, *County Attorney Liaison*
Ed Hauser, *County Legislative Liaison*
Ron Hicks, *Assistant County Executive, Staff*
Brad Barclay, *Staff*
Jennifer Coccozza, *Staff*
Emily Dozier, *Staff*
Shelby Frangk, *Staff*
Heather LaVarnway, *Staff*
Lynn Schara, *Staff*
Dylan Tuttle, *Staff*
Eoin Wrafter, *Staff*

Hans Klingzahn, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM. The secretary did a roll call, then department staff announced their attendance.

The Chairman then read the following statement:

I have confirmed that tonight's meeting has been convened in accordance with the Governor's March 13, 2020 Executive Order 202.1, which suspends certain provisions of the Open Meetings Law to allow a municipal Board to convene a meeting via videoconferencing. In accordance with the Executive Order, the public has been provided with the ability to view tonight's meeting. I have done a roll call of the Board Members and there is a quorum present for this meeting.

A motion to approve without change the minutes from July 8, 2020, was made by Michael Dupree, and seconded by Patrick Lambert. Phil DeRosa abstained, and all others were in favor, so the motion to adopt the minutes was carried.

Status/Outlook of Development

Assistant County Executive, Ron Hicks, gave a presentation on the status and outlook of development in Dutchess County. He began with an update concerning COVID-19 and its impact on economic indicators. He also gave an overview of major projects, including the construction of several housing units, mostly in the City of Poughkeepsie. He also provided updates on some of the larger projects, such as the hotel at the Culinary Institute of America, the new Vassar Brothers Hospital building and Amazon's interest in the former IBM's west campus site.

In response to some questions about housing and labor market trends, Ron indicated that the impact of the pandemic on our county is yet to be fully determined and it is too early to understand how housing and the labor market will be impacted.

Partnership for Manageable Growth Updates

Brad Barclay provided an update on the status of Partnership for Manageable Growth (PMG) projects. We just closed on the Jordan Lane Farm and we have three more farms with Ag & Markets funding awarded (Glendale, Lopane, and Dutchess Views) that we hope to close on in the first half of 2021.

Five projects from last year (four farmland, one open space) were awarded funds based on the board's recommendations. Of these, Seven Wells has the private funding needed to proceed. Brittney Hollow Farm should be moving ahead soon because their support funding is in place from Scenic Hudson and Town of Red Hook. Dutchess Land Conservancy is assisting the other three with their New York State Ag & Markets applications. Despite the efforts on the part of Scenic Hudson, the owner of Scholdorff Farm withdrew their application due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 impact.

There is a balance of \$670,000 left and we may solicit applications in the first quarter of 2021, with some possible changes to the program that might include a new urban open space project category.

RAMP Update

Jen Coccozza updated the board on the status of our Referrals and Major Projects (RAMP) application. RaMP is an online portal for municipalities to notify us of a referral they are submitting. After beta testing the app with a few municipalities for about 18-24 months, we are currently providing the necessary trainings to have all municipalities using the application by January of 2021.

Housing Initiative

In our proposed 2021 budget is a new initiative focusing on housing and homelessness, including a new proposed Deputy Commissioner position in the department. The position will address community challenges regarding affordable housing and homelessness and will work across departments and with different partners outside county government to address transitional housing and wraparound services, as well as the move into more permanent housing. The department will be looking at housing in general and will be tasked with completing a housing needs assessment at the town and city level.

Commissioner's Update

Eoin welcomed our two newest board members, Ryan Arket and Phil DeRosa, who were appointed by the Legislature. Nine of our current members' terms are expiring at the end of 2020, so

reappointments will need to be made. Eoin proposed that our annual reorganizational meeting be held in February instead of January to allow the Legislature to approve the appointment of 2021 board member terms. With no objections from the board, Eoin stated that he would notify the board of the date once it is determined.

To date, the department has responded to 292 referrals, which is 73% of our year's projection. The planners did a fantastic job when they had to transition to electronic communications and remote work, and they continued the process moving. Our average response time was just 14 days, which is quite an achievement for our planners during this challenging time.

The end of the current IMA term is approaching at the end of this year, so new agreements are being executed with all the municipalities. So far, only four agreements are outstanding.

The 2020 Census is complete, and Dutchess County had a 67% response rate. While we had hoped that rate would be higher, we ranked 13 out of 62 counties in New York State for the highest response rate which is a significant improvement over 2010.

The Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank was approved by Empire State Development in August. A board is starting to be organized and will look at policies to be adopted going forward.

Correspondence

A letter from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) was shared with the board nominating the Wethersfield project for the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Warren Temple Smith commented that he was delighted to see this.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Michael Dupree and Randall Williams seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Schara