

**Dutchess County Planning Board  
MINUTES – September 13, 2023**

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**Present**

Gary Baright  
Dale Culver  
Phil DeRosa  
Edith Greenwood  
Hans Klingzahn  
J. Patrick Lambert  
Ken Migliorelli  
Chris Pantano  
Rick Wilhelm  
Randall Williams

**Absent**

James Nelson  
Jill Way

Ed Hauser, *County Legislative Liaison*  
Linda Fakhoury, *County Attorney Liaison*  
Jen Coccozza, *Staff*  
Mark DeBald, *Staff*  
Clayton Gurnett, *Staff*  
Heather LaVarnway, *Staff*  
Devin Rigolino, *Staff*  
Ian Wickstead, *Staff*  
Eoin Wrafter, *Staff*

Hans Klingzahn called the meeting to order, and a roll call was taken.

Approve Minutes from April 12, 2023 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from April 12, 2023, without changes was made by Dale Culver and seconded by Phil DeRosa.

With no nays, the motion passed, and the minutes were adopted.

Planning Department Project Updates:

Staff members from the Department of Planning and Development briefly presented the following updates to the Planning Board:

Devin Rigolino, Senior GIS Project Coordinator, presented an update on the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). The NRI is a catalog of all the natural resources within the County. The last time the NRI was completed was in 2010 and some of the data is still relevant. However, the information and the format of the NRI will be updated. Special attention will be given to updating the climate chapter since interest in that area has increased significantly. In addition, it will be more accessible since it will be presented as an interactive website and mapping application instead of as a pdf document. Completing the NRI will also help the County earn points towards the Climate Smart Communities Silver Certification, which we will apply for next summer. Devin also briefly demonstrated the staging

version of the new NRI website for the board and explained some of the features. The website will be live by the end of November. A tutorial of how to use the features will also be made available to members of the Planning Board in the near future.

After the presentation, discussion ensued about how and where climate and precipitation data is collected, how often the NRI will be updated, and how much data is currently available. Devin explained that the information in the NRI will reflect whatever data are available and that some of the precipitation data are from weather stations located in Millbrook. Furthermore, data sets that are linked to direct sources are updated as often as the source of the information is updated. Other data sets and the narratives will likely be updated as new information becomes available.

Mark DeBald, Transportation Program Administrator, reminded the board that the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the County. The DCTC is responsible for setting local transportation policies and priorities and for prioritizing the programming of federal funds. A recommended best practice for MPOs is to look at resiliency and complete a vulnerability assessment of their transportation systems. Resilient Ways Forward, the DCTC's assessment, focuses on the impact of climate change on our transportation system, which includes roads, bridges, sidewalks, bus routes, airports, etc. Goals of the study are to understand climate change and its impact on the county; identify where hazards might have the most impact; and, better prepare our system to handle them. The study focuses on six climate hazards that are most relevant to Dutchess County. The study is an online product (see website at [ResilientWaysForward.com](https://ResilientWaysForward.com)). The study is about halfway complete. Step one, data collection and analysis, is done and the climate change summary report is posted on the website. The first phase of step two, which involves looking at infrastructure and services, is also complete; a table that illustrates how various transportation assets may be impacted by climate hazards was shared with the board. Mark also shared a screenshot of the [interactive mapping survey](#), which allows the public to share information about how climate hazards have affected their ability to travel. The results of the survey will be used in the analysis as well. The second phase of step two takes a deeper look at the exposure and criticality for our most at risk assets and services. Phase two will also calculate a vulnerability score for assets to help prioritize recommendations. All were encouraged to review and share the website and the mapping survey. The study should wrap up in spring 2024.

After the presentation, there was a brief discussion about how the vulnerability assessment can be used for planning purposes. Mark explained that "the findings and recommendations of the assessment can be used at the state, county, and local level, as well as by MTA to apply for federal funding for projects that improve resiliency. In addition, local highway superintendents could use the results to help with their capital programming.

Eoin Wrafter shared that the Department of Emergency Response is updating a third document called the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan, the NRI, and the Vulnerability Assessment use some of the same data so the departments are ensuring that the reports inform each other rather than duplicate efforts. Municipalities will learn more about the Hazard Mitigation Plan and receive requests for information in the near future.

Commissioner's Update:

Eoin reported that Devin Rigolino and Dylan Tuttle, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Development, have been working with Dutchess County OCIS on a new zoning application. The zoning application is a mapping application that shows all the zoning in the County. Eoin briefly demonstrated the new zoning application for the board. It will be accessible from the GIS page of the Dutchess County website when it is live. A formal demonstration of the website will be presented at a future meeting.

Partnership for Manageable Growth (PMG) Updates:

There are ten pending projects that have been awarded. Bennett Park is scheduled to close on September 21<sup>st</sup>. We hope to close on Obercreek, Meadowland, and Cedar Ridge in December. We also hope to close Domin Farm, Hahn Farm, Heritage Acres, Primrose Hill, Plan Bee Brewery, and Sinon Farm in 2024. However, there is a concern that land value prices may increase to the point that they exceed the amount requested on their applications. Furthermore, the funding plan for Cedar Ridge has changed slightly. Since much of it is forested, it will be split into two easements. The County will fund the majority of one of the easements and partially fund the other. However, the cost of the two easements still adds up to the same approved and recommended amount.

Funding for PMG has been proposed in the 2024 capital program, but whether there will be a round of applications in 2024 will be determined by the new County administration early next year. Eoin suggests reserving the remaining funds in case costs or land values increase on the pending projects to the point that they must request an increase in county funding. In that case, the board could approve the requests to help the projects move forward.

Commissioner's Update

Eoin informed the board about the NYS Pro-Housing Communities program and shared FAQs with the members. Municipalities can apply for certification based on their efforts to promote housing growth and address housing shortages. Certified communities would get preference when applying for discretionary funding.

The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) is in the process of an 8-year review of the agricultural districts in the county, over 5,000 parcels have been reviewed. The AFPB recommends to the Legislature the removal of about 2,800 acres of non-agriculturally viable land from the agricultural districts. In addition to modifying some parcels, the AFPB also recommends that the four agricultural districts in the county be consolidated into one district. The Legislature has adopted the a public comment period from September 20<sup>th</sup> through October 20<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing, which is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>. Letters to all landowners and municipalities will be mailed by the end of this week. Eoin also shared an agricultural district viewer which showed all the parcels and proposed changes with the board. It will help communities consider the impact, if any, a new development may have on nearby or adjacent agricultural districts.

Lastly, Eoin announced that there is one vacancy on the planning board for a village member which must be appointed by the Legislature. Moreover, eight planning board members have terms expiring at the end of 2023. Eoin asked them to let him know if they would like to remain on the board.

Correspondence

The members of the Planning Board received correspondence from Friends of Cider Mill regarding their annual cider tasting.

Announcements

Patrick Lambert complimented the Planning Department on the quality of their products, and the data they produce.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on November 8, 2023.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Charonique Roberts