

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Committee Chair D'Aquanni called the committee to order.

PRESENT: 11 ATKINS, D'AQUANNI, GORMAN, HOUSE, HOUSTON,
 KAUL, LAWLER, PAGE, PAOLONI, POLASEK, and TRUITT

ABSENT: 1 VALDÉS SMITH

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

Presentations and Reports

None.

Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items

Laurie Sandow, City of Poughkeepsie, spoke in opposition to Resolution 2024125.

Mary Reynolds, City of Poughkeepsie, spoke in opposition to Resolution 2024125.

Chair D'Aquanni then called for a vote on Resolution 2024125.

Legislator Munn called a point of order, stating we were in the public comment period and haven't started reading the resolutions.

Chair D'Aquanni recognized the point of order and then asked the Clerk to read the first resolution.

Resolutions considered out of numerical order will be placed in numerical order for fluidity

2024125 ADOPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORMS AND
DECLARATION OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE DUTCHESS COUNTY CONSOLIDATED
TWO-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM PROJECT

Majority Leader Houston moved the foregoing resolution, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Polasek. Discussion on resolution No. 2024125 proceeded as follows:

Legislator Kaul questioned Commissioner Smith regarding, Harmony Hill in Holmes and 25 Highland Street in Millerton, which were listed as housing endangered species. She asked if someone could speak to the measures that were taken to mitigate harm. Assistant County Executive Baiano's response attached hereto.

Commissioner Smith stated the sites were existing structures and would follow up with her. Legislator Kaul then questioned the proposed site at College Hill. Stating that the answer to Question Number 12 was incorrect.

Commissioner Smith answered that he would work with the consultant and make sure it was appropriate.

Assistant Minority Atkins, duly seconded by Legislator Kaul, made a motion to move the foregoing resolution to August.

Roll call vote on the foregoing resolution proceeded as follows:

AYES: 4 ATKINS, LAWLER, KAUL, and PAGE

NAYS: 7 D'AQUANNI, GORMAN, HOUSE, HOUSTON, PAOLONI, POLASEK, and TRUITT

ABSENT: 1 VALDÉS SMITH

Motion to postpone defeated.

Assistant Minority Leader Atkins questioned Legislative Counsel Lindars what could happen being that the document indicated "no" twice and then later it was found that it was a historic site?

Legislative Counsel Lindars replied there would have been an environmental review done within the county. Generally, if there was an error on the SEQRA review, it would be required to either have an amendment or leave the action challengeable under a faulty SEQRA.

Legislator Kaul asked if finding a faulty SEQRA would further delay this project?

Legislative Counsel Lindars responded that if they could do the amendment, it would not, but if somebody challenged the entire project to stop the project, then this would be an avenue by which you could challenge the determination. He added The Part 1's were generally created off an EAF Mapper from the DEC website. He further stated the information generated on them was from the DEC and self-generated.

At this time, Chair D'Aquanni entertained a motion from the floor, which was seconded and carried, for a Republican Caucus.

At this time Chair D'Aquanni entertained a motion from the floor, which was seconded and carried, to resume the regular order of business.

Chairman Truitt, duly seconded by Legislator Lawler, made a motion to postpone the foregoing resolution to the August meeting.

Resolution No. 2024125 was unanimously postponed to the August meeting with Minority Leader Valdés Smith being absent.

2024126 PROPERTY OWNER REQUESTS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN DUTCHESS
COUNTY'S CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 21

On motion by Majority Leader Houston, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Polasek, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Minority Leader Valdés Smith being absent.

2024127 ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION WITH RESPECT TO LANDOWNER
REQUESTS TO INCLUDE THEIR PROPERTY WITHIN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 21

On motion by Majority Leader Houston, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Polasek, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Minority Leader Valdés Smith being absent.

2024128 AMENDING THE 2024 ADOPTED COUNTY BUDGET AS IT PERTAINS TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

On motion by Majority Leader Houston, duly seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Polasek, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Environment Committee with Minority Leader Valdés Smith being absent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Belmonte, Michele

From: Baiano, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 5:21 PM
To: Wager, Leigh; Kaul, Lisa
Cc: Phillips, Laura; Belmonte, Michele; Traudt, Benjamin
Subject: Radio Tower site question

Good evening,

Legislator Kaul posed a question during the Environmental Committee regarding the area of two tower sites, Harmony Hill in Holmes and 25 Highland Street in Millerton, which were listed as being in an area that housed endangered species, and asked what measures will be taken to mitigate any potential harm.

The two subject sites in question have an existing radio tower structures that will be used to support the antennas eliminating the need to erect a new tower and therefore there will not be a need for ground disturbance to erect a tower. Likewise, the radio equipment will be placed in an existing building so excavation and foundation construction are not required. A generator and associated fuel tank will be installed, however these will both be placed in the developed and open area of the facility which will greatly minimize the need for ground disturbances.

Regards,
Chris

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