

**Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit Committee
Committee Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: March 3, 2020 – 6:15 PM
LOCATION: K.L. Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Brian Cahill
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Lynn Archer, Thomas Corcoran, James Delaune, Herbert Litts, III, Mary Beth Maio, and Abe Uchitelle
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators John Gavaris and Laura Petit; Deputy County Executives Evelyn Wright and John Milgram; Dennis Doyle, Director Department of Planning; Sajaa Ahmed, Director of Public Transportation, Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT); Robert Burhans, Past Board President, Lisa Cline, Executive Director and Jim Sperry Board President, Hudson River Maritime Museum (HMRR); Bill Merchant, Deputy Director D&H Canal Historical Society; Kathy Nolan, Catskill Mountainkeeper; Kevin Smith, Woodstock Land Conservancy/UCTAC; Amanda Sisenstein, Friends of Kingston Transit Riders; Anne Ames; Connor Gillis Ulster County Board of Realtors; Tim Guinee, Hudson Valley Climate Reality Project.

Chairman Cahill called the meeting to order at 6:15 and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: Motion to Amended and Approve the Minutes of February 4, 2019

Motion Made By: Legislator Delaune
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: Legislator Uchitelle noted that he was absent at the February 4 meeting and asked for the minutes to be amended to reflect that.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved as Amended**

Presentations

D&H Canal Historical Society

Chairman Cahill invited Bill Merchant from the D&H Canal Historical Society to update the committee on their work. Mr. Merchant shared the Winter 2019 issue of *"The Canaler"* Newsletter featuring the Year in Review and other details of their educational programs and historic preservation efforts. He thanked the Legislature for their continued support and shared information about how these funds will be used to develop exhibits and features along the D&H exteriors and 5 Locks Walk.

Hudson River Maritime Museum

Chairman Cahill invited Robert Burhans, Past Board President of HRMM to bring the committee up to date on the Museum's programs. He described several of their programs including ship building and sailing classes. The museum rescued thousands of items from an extensive steamboat collection in danger of demolition when the building that housed them was being demolished. He described how the legislative funding and support will be used to leverage other funds and enhance their capital programs.

Proposed Ulster County Housing Advisory Committee and Study

Chairman Cahill invited Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright to describe County Executive Pat Ryan's proposed Ulster County Housing Advisory Committee and Study. The Executive and his staff share the legislature's sense of urgency around the county's housing crisis. In consultation with Legislative Chairman Donaldson and Chairman Cahill and other legislative leaders, they plan to use the County resources to undertake the study, action planning and program implementation.

The proposal for the 7-member committee includes a representative from a housing organization, a housings development company or architect, a real estate company, a business community member, a representative from a local municipality, an at-large community member and a legislator. They believe working together they can convene the committee, undertake the study and action planning process more nimbly and efficiently than a legislative advisory committee could alone.

Legislator Delaune asked that the categories of housing needs include farms and farm worker housing.

Legislator Uchitelle suggested looking at successful practices in other counties for ideas and inspiration.

Chairman Cahill felt the opportunity to partner with the Executive will bring the depth and breadth of county resources to address this effort.

Legislator Archer said communication would be critical to the success of this process. She asked for assurances that the County Executive would follow-up and make regular reports to this legislative committee.

Legislator Petit asked for the Executive to provide staff for the committee and that minutes of the committee to be posted online so Legislators and the public can follow the progress of the committee.

Chairman Cahill acknowledged that clearly more is need but noted Ulster County has several successful housing programs that need to be recognize. He asked Ulster County Planning Director to make a presentation a next month's meeting to give the committee some background and update on current ongoing efforts.

Resolutions for the March 17, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 8: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Requiring That Property Owners Of Multi-Family Dwellings Residential Rental Properties Located In Ulster County With Six Or More Units Have An Office In Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, April 14, 2020 At 6:00 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution would schedule a public hearing on Proposed Local Law 1 of 2020 on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 8**
Motion By: Chairman Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: Legislator Archer said she discussed her concerns with Legislator Petit, sponsor of Resolution No. 8. Legislator Archer's concerns center around municipal home rule. She pointed out that rental housing issues vary dramatically from town to town, city to rural areas, and a law that worked in one community might not work at all in another. She suggested she and Legislator Petit meet with the Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors to see how local municipalities are addressing these issues.

Legislator Corcoran questioned why the proposed law applied to multi-family dwellings of 6 units or more. He explained the State requirements for biennial inspections of multi-family dwellings of 3 or more units. He is both the building inspector and fire inspector for his town and has contact information for any landlords in his municipality this state law applies to. The committee discussed how he handles tenant complaints and emergencies.

The committee discussed the overriding goal of making housing safe for tenants, how to empower tenants, how municipalities can set standards within their own zoning code and other ways to hold landlords responsible.

Motion No. 3: Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 8
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: Legislator Petit, sponsor of Resolution No. 8 agreed to postpone in order to meet with Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Postponed**

Resolution No. 9: Establishing A Special Committee To Define Ulster County Housing Needs

Resolution Summary: This resolution would establish a Special 7-member committee to develop an Affordable Housing Master Plan and associated county policies.

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 9**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: The committee had a brief discussion that proposed Ulster County Housing Advisory Committee and Study would make this a duplication of effort.

Legislator Petit, sponsor of Resolution No. 9 agreed to postponing.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Postponed**

Resolution No. 99: Reestablishing The Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee – Ulster County Legislature

Resolution Summary: The resolution reestablishes the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee and appoints members through December 31, 2021.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 99**
Motion By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: The committee discussed some language in the resolution they felt was confusing.

Motion No. 6: Motion to amend Resolution No. 99 by removing the 1st, 5th and 8th “Whereas”

Motion By: Legislator Archer

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Amended**

Motion No. 7: **To Approve Resolution No. 99 as amended**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Approved as Amended**

Resolution No. 104: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Shared Services Agreement With The City Of Kingston For Economic Development Services – Department Of Economic Development

Resolution Summary: Authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement, and any amendments thereto, with the City of Kingston for performance by the County of Economic Development services, which shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, business retention and expansion services, support for startups and new business formation, and attraction of new businesses, for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 104**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: Legislator Archer was expecting additional information to be available to the committee tonight regarding the Shared Services Committee that reviews and recommends intermunicipal

agreements. She wanted to know who is on the committee, how the process to identify projects works and what other projects were or are being considered.

The members did not want to delay approval of Resolution No. 104 but asked that the information be provided before the March 10, 2020 Caucus meetings.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

Resolution No. 105: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Disbursement Agreement With The New York State Urban Development Corporation, D/B/A Empire State Development

Resolution Summary: Authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute the Grant Disbursement Agreement and any amendments thereto, with the New York State Urban Development Corporation, d/b/a Empire State Development to conduct outreach for the 2020 Census

Motion No. 9: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 105**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

Resolution No. 106: Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Urban Development Corporation, D/B/A Empire State Development – Ulster County Planning Department

Resolution Summary: Amends the that the 2020 Ulster County Budget to reflect the \$277,430 from the Empire State Development Grant to conduct outreach for the 2020 Census.

Motion No. 10: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 106**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

Resolution No. 107: Reappointing Member And Alternate Member To The Ulster County Planning Board – City Of Kingston

Resolution Summary: Reappointing Giovanni Gagliardi as a member and Suzanne Cahill as an alternate to the Ulster County Planning Board representing the City of Kingston.

Motion No. 11: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 107**
Motion By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Delaune

Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

Resolution No. 108: Appointing Alternate Member To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town Of Ulster

Resolution Summary: Appointing Dan Furman as an alternate to the Ulster County Planning Board representing the Town of Ulster

Motion No. 12: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 108**
Motion By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Approved

Resolution No. 109: Reappointing Member To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town of Wawarsing

Resolution Summary: Reappointing Victor Markowitz as a member of the Ulster County Planning Board representing the Town of Wawarsing.

Motion No. 13: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 109

Motion By: Legislator Maio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Approved

Resolution No. 110: Supporting A Grant Application To The NYS Department Of Transportation To Apply, Accept And Administer Public Transportation Modernization And Enhancement Funding For Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Investment Program And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications Or Agreements To Accept Funding - Department Of Public Transportation (UCAT)

Resolution Summary: Supports Ulster County's application to NYSDOT for \$655,730 in NYS funding to upgrade and enhance public transportation in Ulster County and authorizes the County Executive to execute and required application s or agreements necessary to accept that funding.

Motion No. 14: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 110

Motion By: Legislator Maio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Approved

Resolution No. 111: Authorizing The Chair of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Customer Project Commitment With The New York Power Authority (NYPA) For The Implementation Of Electric Bus Charging Infrastructure Phase I And Amending The 2020-2025 Capital Program And Establishing Capital Project 568 - Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit)

Resolution Summary: Amends the 2020-2025 Capital Program and established Capital Project No. 530— Electric Bus Charging Infrastructure Project in the amount of \$256,606 for the installation of electric bus charging equipment.

Motion No. 15: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 111**
Motion By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

Resolution No. 133: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The D&H Canal Historical Society For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature

Resolution Summary: Authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement in the not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000.00, to offset costs associated with the design development processes for interpretive elements and exhibits on the exterior of the DePuy Canal House.

Motion No. 16: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 133**
Motion By: Legislator
Motion Seconded By: Legislator

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Abstaining: Legislator Litts
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Abstain: 1
Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

Resolution No. 134: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Hudson River Maritime Museum For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature

Resolution Summary: Authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement in the not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000.00, to fund a portion of the Consolidated Funding Application grant (Rondout Riverport Phase 2) to transform the Hudson River Maritime Museum campus into a green museum.

Motion No. 17: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 134**

Motion By: Legislator

Motion Seconded By: Legislator

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

New Business

Outreach for 2020 Census

Mr. Doyle thanked the committee for approving Resolution Nos. 105 and 106 to begin outreach for the 2020 Census. He described the roll out of county outreach efforts, public service announcements and mailings. He asked Legislators to act as “Ambassadors” to encourage participation in the Census.

The committee briefly discussed the importance of the census and how it impacts federal funding and other programs.

Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA)

Chairman Cahill shared the UCIDA Legal Notice regarding a public hearing to review the agency’s Uniform Tax Exemption Policy and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Matrix. The public hearing is on March 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM, in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall, 420 Broadway, Kingston, NY. The complete notice was emailed to all legislators earlier in the week.

Old Business

Otis Street Update

Chairman Cahill believes the GPS mapping issue with Otis Street has been resolved so on-line mapping tools direct drivers seeking County Family Court and other County offices to the entrance of Development Court on Albany/Ulster Ave. rather than directing them to Otis Street, a dead-end residential street with no access to Development Court. Additionally, Ulster County Department of Transportation worked with the local highway department to install signs at the end of Otis street.

Public Comment

Amanda Sisenstein asked the Chairman to consider moving public comment to the beginning of the meeting so the committee could hear and consider these comments before voting.

She commended the County Executive's proposed housing committee but suggested the legislature form a separate committee rather than only working with the Executive's office. She asked the committee to be open to the need to go beyond the work of the proposed housing committee.

She pointed out that local building inspectors enforce building codes and laws but they don't write the laws. She emphasized the need for a law regarding absent-t landlords. She believes some local building departments are understaffed and may not have the resources to address tenant concerns.

She discussed issues with saying the Pledge of Allegiance and felt it is a First Amendment right not to stand or say the Pledge.

Chairman Cahill asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By:	Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Maio
No. of Votes in Favor:	7
No. of Votes Against:	0
Time:	7:38 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: April 14, 2020