

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, PLANNING & TRANSIT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – MAY 27, 2008
MEETING HELD AT: UCAT – ONE DANNY CIRCLE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Hector Rodriguez – Chair
Gary Bischoff
Peter M. Loughran
Mary F. Sheeley
Wayne Harris
Cathy Terizzi

EXCUSED:

Joseph P. Roberti, Jr. – Deputy Chair

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Thomas Beeble, UCAT
Jane Carroll, UCAT
Dennis Doyle, Director, U.C. Planning
Toni Hokanson, Supervisor Town of New Paltz
Lance Matteson, UCDC
Ben Olsen – student at SUNY New Paltz
Cynthia Ruiz, UCAT
Nancy Schaef, Dept of Employment
Pat Sheehan

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The previous meetings minutes were approved. Motion by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Bischoff.

CYNTHIA RUIZ – UCAT

Thomas Beeble was recognized by Legislator Rodriguez for 10 years of service and he was given a certificate.

Mr. Beeble said a few words to the committee. Ms. Ruiz commended Mr. Beeble for his good attitude and work ethic.

Action Items:

1. Request for New Paltz Chamber of Commerce Garden Tour – Sunday, July 13th
Approved
2. **Resolution for New Paltz Shuttle expansion** – Ms. Ruiz would like permission to start the service and hire drivers. A signed agreement between the County and Town of New Paltz will state that New Paltz will be paying the local share of the expense. She added that the Town and Village of New Paltz with SUNY New Paltz will be paying for half of the local share of the buses as well (approx \$11,000). Supervisor Hokanson has stated that Town of New Paltz will be Lead Agency. Ms. Ruiz has been working with

Mayor Dungan and Supervisor Hokanson for this shuttle. Mr. Olson, a student at SUNY New Paltz has been quite involved in the process as well. Supervisor Hokanson stated that Ben Olsen deserves a lot of credit for this.

Legislator Sheeley arrived 6:42 pm
Legislator Loughran arrived at 6:43

Motion to Approve Resolution made by Legislator Rodriguez, seconded by Legislator Sheeley.

Informational

Ms. Ruiz stated she needs a new fuel storage tank, AVL software and the need to finish and improve the UCAT building. She informed the Committee of her process for determining the next year's budget. She will propose a resolution for next month for the purchase of those projects mentioned with this year's federal revenues.

Legislator Sheeley asked if how the funds are spent was limited. Ms. Ruiz answered they must be used for transportation related capital expenses. Mr. Doyle stated from a policy perspective this Committee needs to realize that Transit will play a more important role as gas prices go up. Ms. Ruiz stated that ridership was up 35% since last year.

Ms. Hokanson thanked Legislator Rodriguez for moving Ms. Ruiz to the top of the roster and expressed her support of the resolution for the Ulster County Open Space Plan and her wish to stay involved in the future. Ms. Hokanson is also the Chair of the Ulster County Planning Board.

NANCY SCHAEF – OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Informational:

Ms. Schaeff stated she has actively been looking for sources of income for the budget to provide better services for persons with disabilities to get back into the work force. She described criteria for eligibility. Monies are currently due from the Federal Department of Labor for a Disability Program Navigator position.

Ms. Schaeff informed the Committee that Dept of Social Services has for past 20 yrs turned over TANF money to OET who has contracted out the program to the YMCA. This year the program administrators at the Y are no longer there, so OET will be doing the program in house and hiring approximately 90-100 TANF eligible seasonal youth workers to do the work.

Ms. Schaeff stated they held a very successful youth conference in Rosendale in April. The need for a linkage within the county due to many various programs from all over County has become evident. She stated a Youth Workforce Coordinator would be helpful and they are looking into the feasibility of such a position. Legislator Rodriguez stated that he would anticipate hearing OEF's budget expanding for 2009.

Ms. Schaeff stated there have been discussions amongst different department heads for utilization of the Trudy Resnick Center in Ellenville. She would like to provide a staff person one or two days a week for employment and training counseling for that area.

DENNIS DOYLE – PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Action Items

1. Resolution – AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ASSURANCES FOR HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM FUNDING TO THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) FOR OPEN SPACE PLANNING

Mr. Doyle stated this was a joint sponsored resolution with the Environmental Committee to allow the Chairman to apply for a grant to develop a natural resource inventory GIS component, which is a recommendation of the UC Open Space Plan. He stated that we have had substantial discussions with DOE Coordinator, Amanda LaValle and she is willing to look at mapping water and sewer areas for economic purposes to help define priority growth areas. We also have had policy discussions with the Dept of Environment regarding GIS mapping.

Motion to approve by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Sheeley.

Discussion: Mr. Doyle stated this is one component of the Plan. We had a \$10,000 grant but it was assigned to the Environmental Management Council, which we were asked to give up and reapply for. The Department of Environment will be applying for approximately \$30,000. Mr. Doyle stated there is a great deal of differentiation between other counties as far as Open Space funding. Orange and Dutchess have both frozen their open space funds but they have the authority within the bonding resolutions – they both have large recreation budgets and maintain trail systems. One of our Plan's recommendations is to consider adding a recreation department budget.

Informational:

Ag Farmland Protection Board's Recommendations for Additions to agricultural districts 2008
Mr. Doyle stated that we get numerous requests to add parcels to districts every year. The recommendation for the Legislature to consider for 2008 is for 20 parcels comprising 833 acres. He stated that we have added about 1000 acres per year for the last 4 years. Most parcels either already receive agricultural exemption or can receive it so therefore this does not affect the local tax base or local zoning. The recommendation was unanimous to include all of the parcels on the list. Legislator Rodriguez added that we will be hearing from various communities at the July Public Hearing with regard to one parcel in particular. Mr. Doyle clarified what was needed in order to qualify for an ag district. He offered to send out a position paper that was prepared for the Town of New Paltz on the topic. Mr. Doyle offered to have discussions on Right to Farm Laws with anyone interested.

LANCE MATTESON - UCDC

Mr. Matteson handed out the UCDC Annual Report. The report names board members and staff and the mission and vision of the organization. He stated that his staff is up to five full-time plus one part timer.

Informational:

Mr. Matteson stated they are working on key strategic projects. Gillette Creamery and Tech City Prism are moving forward. TSEC project with the County also moving forward have

received a check for \$130,000 (out of \$200,000) from the County and have cut a check for TSEC. There was a short discussion on the Tech City property.

Mr. Matteson stated that revolving Loans have had a number of projects and a lot of activity. Legislator Sheeley stated that she has heard criticism from Town of Wawarsing as they have not made any loans in several years and she asked if the applications for loans from Wawarsing have come in and are being turned down. Mr. Matteson stated he did not have all the details, but there was one loan in the past couple months and he believes another is currently being processed.

Mr. Matteson stated the Shovel Ready project in Saugerties on Kings Highway is poised for implementation and we also ready to reimburse another shovel ready project for Lloyd.

In the bigger scheme of things the ones with scale:

- o Tech City – has areas to build on - over 100 acres & buildings
- o Hydro Schrade in Wawarsing - 75 acres + buildings
- o City of Kingston Industrial Park (site work costly)
- o Winston Farm site is a great Greenfield site of significant scale

Mr. Matteson stated local issues, historic, taxes, sanitary, landfill location, and casino location are moving to neutral. Time is now right to move the property forward. Consensus at the end of meeting with owners and representatives from Saugerties was a master plan process with a technology park with a green focus that includes preservation, public access, possible mixed-use housing, etc. Mr. Doyle suggested the owners and town of Saugerties write a letter to UCDC stating they were ready for such a project. Mr. Matteson stated that the timing was perfect; HVEDC looking for sites with scale and they will begin to do some concept plans for the site. Mr. Matteson stated he submitted Winston Farm because it is the most competitive site. We need to give the market choices. Legislator Bischoff discussed the assets of the Winston Farm Site: Water at site, fiber optics at site, but sewer is a problem. Mr. Matteson stated the owners understand the need to think this through. Legislator Sheeley stated there is a property with 116 acres in the Town of Wawarsing, on both sides of Route 209, where the owners would entertain any viable ideas. Mr. Matteson said the best strategy is to aggressively push the best site or sites.

Mr. Matteson stated he and Patrick Sheehan went to the Cooperstown Conference last week where economic developers met from around the state. He personally invited Dan Gunderson, Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development in Albany, to come to Ulster County.

Mr. Matteson reported on the San Diego Solar 2008 Conference.

Mr. Doyle stated that Legislator Loughran and Legislator Rodriguez will receive e-mails regarding the Catskill Mountain Railroad and its eligibility for Transportation Enhancement funds. Conversations with NYSDOT as to eligibility are ongoing. Mr. Doyle has not seen an application from the Railroad as yet. Mr. Doyle will circulate the necessary resolution.

Mr. Doyle announced that Pattern for Progress will be hosting a conference at Marist College on June 11th regarding affordable housing. Mr. Doyle has been asked to sit on a panel discussing issues regarding fair share housing.

Mr. Doyle has also been asked by the Southern Ulster Chamber to serve on a panel to discuss the state of the County.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. Motion made by Legislator Sheeley, seconded by Legislator Loughran.

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