

HUNTERDON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
Draft Minutes – April 5th, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Hoffmann, Andy Borkin, Page Stiger, Ken Novak, Phil Greiner, Richard Dodds, Richard Dalrymple, Tom Matthews, Suzanne Lagay

ABSENT: Matt Holt, Dana Desiderio

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Bogen, Marc Saluk, Carrie Fellows, Adam Bradford, Bill Millette, Melanie Mason, Mary Evers, Shana Taylor - County Counsel

Chair Carol Hoffmann read the Open Public Meetings Act notice and called the meeting to order at 8:15 A.M.

<p><i>"This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been provided by prominently posting and maintaining so posted throughout the year in the Office of the County Clerk, Hall of Records, Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements, and by mailing on or before January 12, 2018 to The Hunterdon Democrat, The Express Times, Courier News, The Trenton Times, Star Ledger, and TAPinto, newspapers designated by the Hunterdon County Planning Board to receive such notices. Notice has also been posted on-line in the Hunterdon County News"</i></p>
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MINUTES OF THE April 5th, 2018 MEETING:

Motion to approve Andy Borkin, Page Stiger, second-motion carried.

FREEHOLDER REPORT: Freeholder Lagay reported that the budget is very close to being finalized. The County is tracking Economic Development very closely. The Freeholder stated that she would like to attend future PB meetings on a regular basis. Today she will be focusing on getting up to speed concerning the issues the Planning Board are addressing. There was a general discussion concerning the County's stance concerning the PennEast Pipeline situation. Freeholder Lagay said that the County is against eminent domain for condemnation of public lands that are purchased with public tax money. Shana mentioned that oral arguments are taking place today in Federal Court in Trenton today that she will be present for. Carol mentioned that the Board is happy with the BOCF stand concerning the pipeline. Richard said that PennEast has not served the Township yet for any of the properties acquired with Green Acres funding. All the other farm easements they have been served.

STAFF UPDATES:

Economic Development: Marc discussed the 78/22 Coalition which met for the first time last week. Bethlehem, Union, Clinton Town, Clinton Township, Lebanon Borough and Readington were the municipalities represented at the meeting. The purpose of the Coalition is to address economic development issues that are common to all of their municipalities and how the County can lend resources to the effort in order to regionalize economic development in the area. They had a very productive first meeting. A focus of their discussion concerned the streamlining of local ordinances. Hopefully the next meeting will include Franklin and Tewksbury Townships as participants

Farmland Update: Melanie said that the CADB had a public hearing concerning the County's ADA map last month. The Committee voted to continue hearing into the next meeting further discuss the ADA delineation updates. Melanie and Adam have been working with CADB members and the munis in order to update the ADA's to their satisfaction. A lot of the municipalities did request any changes. The CADB will vote on approval of the ADA map at their next meeting. .

Melanie has received 3 applications for the May funding round so far. It's a little slow right now, but the submission date can be pushed back if additional applications come in later. There are potentially 10 farms that could close by the end of the year. Eight farms have already been given final approval.

Melanie has also been working with SADC to organize a Right to Farm Outreach meeting. She hopes to host one at a CADB meeting in the evening. She would also like to set up a daytime meeting in the Northern part of the County.

Marc introduced Mary Evers to the Board. Mary started work as a staff member in the Economic Development division on March 26th. The Board members introduced themselves to Mary.

Planning Issues: Adam said he is currently working on NJTPA Access management issues concerning intersection and freight issues. FAST ACT is driving the need to look at these issues. Adam currently sits on several NJTPA committees looking at truck routes on our local and state roadways. Adam met with a County Engineer yesterday to identify County and State road intersections. NJTPA had identified 8 intersections and the County came up with an additional 12 intersections. Adam will review the NJDOT crash data and assign scores to the intersections. Adam will be attending upcoming NJTPA, RTAC and PPC meeting.

Open Space: Bill said that he has been updating the Open Space Plan based on feedback from our Non-profit partners. Once those updates are completed, the Plan will be available for introduction by the Planning Board. The Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant application was just closed. Five applications were received which included repeat applicants who large scale restoration needs. The Freeholders just approved Open Space Acquisition Grants for a patchwork of properties around Round Mountain in Readington Township, adding 14 more acres. With the acquisition, the public can now hike through the property. In Kingwood Township the County added 58 acres to the southern side of Horseshoe Bend Park. Also acquired additional property adjacent to the Higgins Property in East Amwell Township along the Sourlands. Another 400 acres were added to the current 600 acres already preserved in the Somerset County Park. NJCF worked on the completion of this deal which also opened up an opportunity to add another 111 acres to increase the parks acreage in that area to 1100 acres.

Cultural & Heritage: Carrie said that the next local arts program grant applications through NJSCA are due for submission by April 6th. They will be submitted after a final read through. There are 2 new commissioners that have joined the County Historical Commission. . Tom Lamberts, a resident of Annandale, is a fulltime faculty member at the Parsons School in NYC and a visual artist. Hari Park works at the Matheny School in Peapack-Gladstone which has a very robust arts program. Her job is to find professional artists to work as facilitators with their clients. She has a lot of experience with accessibility issues also. Our ADA accessibility plan just received a "Good" rating from the State Council of the Arts which is an 'amazing' score for a County. Carrie said that the assumption is that the County budget appropriated for the Special Projects Grants will be the same as last year (\$22,500). The 2018 historical essays contest for the third and fourth graders are due on Friday. They will be looking at revising the program next year in response to feedback from the teachers. The next big push is the Hunterdon County Community Day which will be held on June 2nd by the Chamber of Commerce. County C&H will be the non-profit arts and heritage coordinator. Community partners can register through County C&H and by doing so they don't have to pay a booth fee.

Freeholder Lagay asked about the composition of the C&H Commission that seems to be weighted more towards the arts side. Carrie responded that several members represent both the arts and history but they are looking for the next member to be involved with history. The Commission is now working on a 3 year Strategic Plan which will be a complete overhaul of the current Plan. They are hoping to partner with Sustainable Frenchtown which has turned into a project for CreativeHunterdon.org and they are doing some amazing work with the arts in the Borough.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Carol said that they met last month to discuss breakfast talks. It was suggested that we go to the Freeholders and ask about topics that could be used. We are having another meeting this morning to discuss further.

DRC Committee: Ken summarized the applications which are on today's DRC agenda which include a proposed Wawa in Raritan Township and a proposed wireless communications facility within the historical Zion Lutheran Church in Tewksbury.

DRC Meetings: April 5: Carol, Andy
April 19: Phil, Ken

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Staff Activity Report: The March report was included in the packet. Ken said that he attended a New Jersey Future Redevelopment Forum on March 9th in New Brunswick. Ken summarized the information he gathered at the event seminars. Ken mentioned that NJTPA approved the 2019 STP Work Plan. Now needs approval from NJDOT and FHA.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS: Andy Borkin asked if Liberty Village had been sold. Phil said that he was not aware of the closing of the property. Andy also inquired about the Cust redevelopment site in Flemington. Phil said that most of the local approvals have been completed and there will be a 3rd party review of the financial agreement. Last local approval needed will be from the Borough Planning Board.

There was no further business to be brought before the Board. Page Stiger made a motion to adjourn, Richard Dalrymple seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 3rd, 2018, 8:15AM

Susan Pena for Secretary, Ken Novak