

**HUNTERDON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**  
**DRAFT Minutes – December 6th, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carol Hoffmann, Andy Borkin, Page Stiger, Richard Dodds, Phil Greiner, Dana Desiderio  
Tom Matthews, Freeholder Lagay

**ABSENT:** Freeholder Holt, Ken Novak, Richard Dalrymple

**STAFF PRESENT:** Barbara Vogel, Ken Bogen, Bill Millette,  
Adam Bradford, Susan Pena, Aaron Culton - County Counsel

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

*"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 September 25, 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"*

**Roll Call**

Freeholder Holt, Ken Novak and Richard Dalrymple were absent.

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1st, 2018 MEETING:**

Motion to approve Richard Dodds, Andy Borkin second -motion carried.

**STAFF UPDATES:**

Farmland Update:

Adam said that there are 6 applications for the 2018 Harvest Round. (Kingwood(3), Bethlehem(1), Alexandria(1), Delaware(1). There is one Right-To-Farm issue currently pending.

Transportation / Planning Issues:

Adam said that he had recently attended a TAC WebEx meeting concerning the Federal Map 21 measures which are the foundation for transportation issues ranging from traffic to resiliency. There are additional rules that have been added by NJTPA. These could have impacts on transportation within the County including the I-78 corridor.

Open Space:

Bill reported that there are 5 Historical preservation grant applications that will be submitted to the BOCF for approval at their next meeting. The Milford waterfront project continues to move forward and we are currently working on the appraisals of the properties.

The Freeholders have introduced a resolution to change the Open Space Trust percent allocation and how we deal with the Open Space Grants. Currently, the County has a Cooperative OS Grant program that is available to both Munis and Non-Profits as well as a Grant program that is just available for Non-Profit organizations. The funding levels are different for both programs. Having these 2 separate grant programs has resulted in some issues with application redundancy. Staff recommended that these 2 programs be combined. County funding limits would be set at 50% for the combined program and would allow the applications to be submitted throughout the year. The funding that is not allocated in the prior year would roll over to the following year and have that funding immediately available. There will be a limit on the amount that could be rolled over for a specific grant program. The Public Hearing for the allocation of the new percentages for 2019 will take place on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Courthouse. In addition, there will also be an additional \$1.5 million set aside for each grant program except the Historical Preservation grant which will receive \$200k. This will double the amount available to grant applicants. These amounts will help jump start the rollover allocation process.

Carol Hoffmann announced the opening of the Public Hearing for the County Strategic Park and Open Space Plan

**PUBLIC HEARING – COUNTY STRATEGIC AND OPEN SPACE PLAN (See Transcript)**

Carol Hoffmann continued the regular Planning Board meeting.

**Freeholder Update:** Freeholder Lagay thanked the BOCF for commissioning the Strategic OS Plan. She mentioned the public hearing coming up for the new Open Space grant allocations which will help make our grants more accessible and less

redundant. Also, the December 18<sup>th</sup> BOCF meeting will be Freeholder King's last meeting where they will recognize his service on the Board. The BOCF has started the Salary / Wage and Capital Budget review. Andy mentioned that Hunterdon County is ahead of the curve concerning land preservation.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Executive Committee:** Carol said that the Right to Farm Breakfast Talk was very well attended and quite successful. The presenters from SADC answered many questions and clarified RTF issues. Ken thanked the staff for the excellent job they did in organizing and leading the event. Ken also mentioned that a television news report of the event as well as a press release put together by Bob Hornby has been posted on the PB website.

Carol said that she received a resignation from the Planning Board from Richard Dalrymple. He will now be spending part of the year at a new home in Florida. The LDS subcommittee will be holding their first meeting after today's DRC meeting. Richard, Andy and Carol are the members of the subcommittee.

**DRC Committee:** Carol and Andy volunteered for today's DRC meeting. Dana and Andy volunteered for the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ken said that there are 5 applications and 1 waiver request on today's DRC Agenda.

**Supervisors Report:** Ken has requested an extension for The County Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) plan from NJDEP but they have not responded yet to his request. He also met with Raritan township to finalize their buildout and with NJDEP and Milford Borough to discuss ongoing issues with their adopted sewer service area. Ken attended a North Jersey RC&D Meeting at the Raritan Headwaters office. RC&D is currently working on 13 projects in Hunterdon. Their river friendly farm certification program was discussed. This program could be a potential topic at a Breakfast Talk next year.

Barbara discussed the availability of settlement funding through The Natural Resources Damages Trustees for the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site in South Plainfield. Funding will be available for the following types of restoration projects in any part of the Raritan Watershed, which includes a majority of Hunterdon County:

- Habitat Restoration such as wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains; aquatic connectivity and vegetation restoration; native fish conservation/enhancement and stream improvements, and
- Recreational Use such as trails, interpretive signage, small craft launched, docks/piers and ADA accessibility.

Four project ideas were submitted this week through Parks&Rec involving ADA accessible docks, a new sign-making machine and deer fencing for the Arboretum. The estimated total request is \$220,000. No review schedule or total amount of funding is available currently. Barbara said that the application is due by the end of the week.

Another potential source of funding option is being made available through GOHUNTERDON (formerly HART) which is providing \$300k in grants to schools and municipalities through the PSE&G foundation to perform environmental activities that would qualify them for Sustainable Jersey certification. The application deadline is February 15.

There was a discussion amongst Board members that this type of information is not being disseminated adequately to our Municipalities. Carol said that there is a limit to the number of contacts we can update and there are challenges involved with updating our Municipal contacts. Ken said that next year we will distribute municipal assignments to all PB members. Information sent to our Munis is usually funneled through the clerks, and the clerks are supposed to forward accordingly.

**Transportation Update:** Ken said that the he had nothing new to add to what Adam had already presented.

**Old Business/New Business:** Ken said that the nomination of PB officers will take place at the January Reorg meeting. Freeholder Lagay mentioned that the BOCF Reorg meeting will be taking place on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Ken recommended that the PB Reorg meeting take place on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to have the 2019 PB Reorg meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, Dana moved, Page seconded. All in favor.

Ken said that the draft 2019 PB meeting dates notice will be revised to reflect the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting date and asked the Board to review all the draft PB and DRC meeting dates which will be voted on at the January Reorg meeting.

Richard Dodds updated the Board on the status of the Penn East Pipeline project. He met yesterday with the mayor of Hopewell and a representative from Delaware Township at the Governor's office yesterday. Landowners that have agreed to a settlement have not heard back from Penn East yet. The district court has not made a pronouncement yet. Richard said he made it clear at the meeting that the #1 issue in Hunterdon is water quality.

In response to a question from Dana, Ken updated the Board on the members that are up for reappointment.

There was a continued discussion concerning information dissemination to Municipalities. Shana mentioned that the County uses a threefold approach – Newsletter, Email, listserv and the County website to get regular announcements out to the public. Phil said that Flemington has a professionally managed website that posts information within 1-2 hours. The information is vetted through the Borough clerk. County notices are received by the clerk and mayor and distributed to Council members. Individual Commission members do not receive the notices. Phil suggested Municipal Commission members can submit an email to the County to request specific information. There is also a Borough Facebook page.

Carol mentioned that in the past PB staff sent emails to Muni Clerks asking them for updated Committee Chair information after their annual reorg meetings.

### Public Comments:

Barbara Sachow (Raritan Township)- Would like points given to organic farms to receive priority for open space preservation. Should encourage organic farms.

There was no further business to be brought before the Board. Richard Dodds made a motion to adjourn the Planning Board meeting, Page seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 AM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** January 10th, 2019 at 8:15 AM

Susan Pena for Secretary, Ken Novak