

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Minutes – Wednesday, January 5, 2022

The Ulster County Planning Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

There Executive Committee Did Not Meet

REMOTE MEETING ONLY

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INVITED TO LISTEN IN

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Chairman Brown called the meeting to order and Mr. Doyle read the roll call.

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** Ms. Pecora, Mr. Gidaly, Ms. Mance, Mr. Konior, Mr. Mccarthy, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Lanzetta, Ms. Gotto, Mr. Boggess, Mr. Wilkin, Mr. Baden, Mr. Brown, Ms. Welton, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Almquist, Mr. Markowitz, Mr. Rudikoff, Mr. Travers, Mr. Murray, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Gagliardi, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Leibowitz and Mr. Samuelson **Excused:** Mr. Cohen
Guests: Tim Weidemann-Director, UC Dept Economic Development, Justin Rider-Attorney for Cresco Labs, Sabrina Noah-Sr. VP Cresco Labs, Marcia Maxwell, Christian Ficara, Bill Mennenga, Johanna Winer-Alternate Member Village of Ellenville, Erin Enouen-Alternate Member Town of Rochester

- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. McLaughlin asked to correct the December minutes to reflect that it was he who seconded the motion to carryover the nominations for officers to this month.

The December minutes were approved as amended. Motion made by Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Baden. All were in favor

- 3. EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

None to report

- 4. COMMUNITY REPORTS**

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the Village of Saugerties is beginning to study parking relative to Air BNBs.

Mr. Baden thanked Mr. Doyle and the Transportation Council as the Town of Rochester applied for and was awarded a Bridge NY grant for \$1.999 million for the replacement of the Mill Hook Rd bridge. Mr. Baden also noted another report involving other municipalities as the Open Space Institute has applied for a \$500,000 study of the O&W corridor down to Port Jervis, under Consolidated Funding grant program. OSI are adding an additional \$350,000 to study how to better serve the community.

Ms. Lanzetta stated the Town of Marlborough did a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan a couple years ago through NYS Department of State. She noted this is an opportunity for Hudson River towns to look at their waterfronts and how to guide development of their communities. She stated that Marlborough followed through with the entire plan, and thanks in part to UC Planning, received \$500,000 toward Milton Landing Park.

- 5. PLANNING BOARD REPORTS**

- a. Chairperson Report – No Report

b. Committee Reports

- Nominating Committee – Election of 2022 Officers
Ms. Pecora stated the Committee has a proposed slate of officers for 2022: Drew Boggess for Chairman, Mike Baden for Vice Chair and Cindy Lanzetta for Secretary.

Ms. Pecora thanked the committee for their effort.

Motion to accept slate of officers as nominated made by Mr. McLaughlin, 2nd by Ms. Welton.

Mr. McLaughlin added he wanted to thank Jere Brown for serving as Chair.

All were in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Brown thanked the committee and everyone who worked with him this past year. Ms. Pecora offered her thanks to Mr. Brown.

Mr. Baden extended his thanks to Mr. Gagliardi for serving as Secretary and for sharing his expertise all along. Mr. Gagliardi wished the Board well and stated he will continue working for Brooks & Brooks remotely from Florida. The Board wished Gio the best of luck.

6. PLANNING DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Financial Report

Mr. Doyle stated we are starting the year new, so we are in good shape. He noted there are significant funds in the Professional Services line and we will be doing an Ag Farmland Protection Plan this year. There is also money for website development and a substantial amount for UCTC work. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that a Sr. Planner position has been added to the office budget to focus on housing work.

b. Environmental Notice Bulletin & Grant Opportunities

Mr. Doyle stated that a Broadband grant is available, and we are looking at what the County can do to move broadband into underserved areas. Mr. McLaughlin asked if federal funding was still available, and if so, could the County bring attention to Emergency Broadband assistance. Mr. Doyle stated that funding was still available, and we can let elected officials know.

Mr. Baden noted that Congressman Delgato posted on Facebook that people who qualify can get discounted broadband rates through the infrastructure federal money.

c. Communications

No member comment

d. Director/Staff Reports

Mr. Samuelson informed the Board that the County was awarded \$800,000 from NYS Office of Homes and Community Renewal for a housing rehab program to be done with RUPCo. He added that we are currently winding down other housing work in February. Mr. Doyle stated that conversations are being had with the Legislature as most of this new funding will go to fix major systems in homes for low and moderate-income families with a limit of \$30,000 per home. We have requested another \$500,000 to do energy audits/improvements. Mr. Doyle added

that we are trying to work out an internship or shadowing program, so a portion can be used as training for green jobs. He noted we are working with BOCES, Citizens for Local Power's Green Jobs Academy and Rupco's Home Squad.

7. SPECIAL TOPICS DISCUSSION

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that the Kingston Midtown Linear Park has been delayed. Paving is finished and other work is done except for the stair towers to the roads overhead. There is difficulty getting steel for the underpasses, so the contract has been extended to June.

Mr. Doyle stated the Kingston to Hurley trail has acquired right-of-way following the initiation of an eminent domain proceeding. He added we are hoping to begin construction on the trail in late spring/early summer.

Mr. Doyle stated we continue to look at trail systems in Shandaken to see if we get an award from the TAP program, are working with IS on broadband availability and are involved in the construction of the Public Safety tower in Town of Saugerties. He added that we are also assisting DPW and Emergency Management in site selection for a Government Operations Center.

Mr. Doyle stated a Unified Planning Work Program is being put together for the UCTC. It needs to be done by early February. He added that we hope to return to doing traffic counts this year.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if there were any updates on 44/55 and 208 intersection incident. Mr. Doyle answered that we do not have information on that crash.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Weideman, Director of the UC Department of Economic Development, thanked staff, Mr. Doyle and the Board for their work. He wanted to introduce the Cresco proposal and explain the importance of such a project. Mr. Weidemann stated he first met representatives and toured the site about one year ago. The proposed project is located at the former Schrade/Hydro site that sat dormant for so long. The project is part of a \$3 billion per year industry in NYS that is generating approximately 60,000 jobs. He added this is an opportunity to have a multistate operator here in Ulster County.

9. ZONING REFERRALS - *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

Chairman Brown asked to modify the zoning agenda in order to review the projects in Rosendale and Wawarsing first. Motion to approve this modification was made by Mr. Baden and seconded by Mr. McLaughlin. All were in favor.

Sabrina Noah, Sr. Vice President for Public Affairs at Cresco Labs, gave a brief presentation and stated she was appreciative of the Board's support.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM. All were in favor.