

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MORRIS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

Public Hearing on the Draft Land Use Element of the Morris County Master Plan

Meeting held via WebEx Videoconference

30 Schuyler Place
October 29, 2020

Morristown
New Jersey

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Isobel Olcott called the Special Meeting to order at 6:30PM for the purpose of a Public Hearing on the Draft Land Use Element of the County Master Plan.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

Ms. Olcott stated that Public Legal Notice of this hearing has been placed in the Daily Record dated September 22, 2020, on the Morris County Planning and Preservation Website, and that copies were transmitted to all County municipalities in according with the New Jersey County Planning Act.

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Steve Rattner, Chair (6:46PM)	Joe Barilla, Planning Director
Isobel Olcott, Vice Chair	Greg Perry, Supervising Planner
Ted Eppel	Anthony Soriano, Supervising Planner
Everton Scott	Mike DiGiulio, Senior Planner
Nita Galate	Kevin Sitlick, Senior Planner
Kaushik (Casey) Parikh, Alt. #1	Staci L. Santucci, Esq., County Counsel
Christopher Vitz, County Engineer	Mary Romance, Recording Secretary
Virginia Michelin, Principal Environmental Planner – WebEx Meeting Facilitator	

FLAG SALUTE – Those present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Statement Regarding Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law – Recording Secretary Mary Romance read a statement concerning virtual meetings as follows:

This meeting is being held remotely via WebEx and is being recorded. Members of the public who are not speaking must mute themselves by pressing the microphone button on WebEx or by pressing star (*) six on the telephone keypad or by another method as may be suggested by the Facilitator. You may un-mute yourself by pressing the microphone button on WebEx or by pressing star six on the telephone keypad a second time or by another method as may be suggested by the Facilitator.

Any member of the public attending remotely will be provided an opportunity to provide public comment of no greater than three minutes in duration during the public comment portion of the meeting as set forth on the agenda. This rule applies equally to written public comments submitted via email or through the mail. An alternative time limit may be established at the beginning of the public comment portion of the meeting, at the sole discretion of the Chairman or Acting Chairman.

During the Public Comment portion of our meeting, our Facilitator will ask whether any member of the public has a comment. Members of the public wishing to comment during the public portion of meetings or during a public hearing may press the “Raise Hand” button on WebEx or dial star three to raise their hand. The Facilitator will address members of the public by the name that is assigned by WebEx, i.e., such as “Caller One.”

The Facilitator will unmute the caller so they may then announce themselves. The commenter may then unmute themselves by pressing the microphone button on WebEx or by pressing star six on the telephone keypad or by another method suggested. Commenters must state their name and address for the record. At the conclusion of the comments, the commenter will be muted by the Facilitator. Once all members of the public who wish to make comment have been heard and all written comments have been read, any Board member or the Chairman or Acting Chairman may address any comments made.

CHAIRMAN’S OPENING STATEMENT – Ms. Olcott stated that the last Morris County Land Use Element was adopted in 1975. The new Land Use Plan Element describes current conditions related to countywide land use, including related demographics, the physical and regulatory environment, county activities related to land use and land use trends and issues. It provides a framework to help guide future county investment and relates the County Planning Board’s land use goals, objectives and recommendations for land use in Morris County. As pertains to local planning, the Element is intended to inform and assist local governments by providing a reference that they may consider in framing their own land use policies, plans and regulations.

She stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to obtain comments from the public on the draft Land Use Plan Element that will be considered by the Board along with any written comments received during the comment period.

Mr. Barilla stated that before continuation to the public comment portion of the meeting, the Board was to act on Resolution 2020-02 concerning remote meeting procedures and requirements during a declared state of emergency. Ms. Romance read the title of Resolution 2020-02: Establishing Remote Meeting Procedures and Requirements During Declared States of Emergency.

Ms. Olcott called for a motion on Resolution 2020-02. The motion was made by Mr. Shaw and seconded by Ms. Galate. The motion was approved:

ROLL CALL

VOTE	Aye	Nay	Abs.
Deborah Smith, Freeholder Dir.	-		
Stephen Shaw, Freeholder Liaison	X		
Thomas Mastrangelo, Freeholder Alternate	-		
Steve Rattner, Chair			
Isobel Olcott, Vice Chair	X		
Ted Eppel, Secretary	Y		
Christian Francioli	-		
Nita Galate	Y		
Everton Scott	Y		
Kaushik (Casey) Parikh, (Alt. 1)	Y		
Dennis Bull, (Alt #2)	-		
Christopher Vitz, County Engineer	Y		
Roslyn Khurdan, Engineering Alternate			

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Olcott then opened the meeting up for Public Comment on the Draft Morris County Master Plan Land Use Element (LUE). Mr. Barilla noted for the record that no written comments for this Public Hearing were received.

Chairman Rattner then opened the meeting for Public Comment.

While waiting for public comment, Mr. Shaw identified the LUE as a great resource and complimented the staff on their work in producing this document. Ms. Olcott added that she was pleased to see the document completed and commended the Board of Chosen Freeholders on their commitment to fulfilling the goals and aspirations spelled-out in the original 1975 document. She stated that the current document enhances these previous goals and aspirations and provides even more information, offering a true picture of the quality of life in Morris County at present.

While continuing to wait for public comment, Ms. Olcott reported that Morris County, with an 80% response rate to the 2020 Census, had the highest response rate in New Jersey and was among the top ten counties along the east coast as pertains to response rate. She then asked Mr. Shaw to provide an update on Freeholder activities.

Mr. Shaw reported that the Board continues to operate remotely, noting that the Capital Budget Committee is completing the upcoming budget cycle. He reported that the County College and County libraries are also operating mostly remotely. He reported that the County received some Cares Act funding from State, helping to cover various expenses. As pertains to land use, he reported that meetings on open space and trails grants will be held shortly. He reported that the Park Commission has been hard-hit through the loss of user-fee revenue losses and that the County is being financially cautious and conservative in its operations, reducing the capital budget and pausing the Courthouse Project. He noted the importance of County Human Services activities at this time, stating that adjustments have been made to address current need.

Mr. Rattner asked whether the State released funding to help address the extra County expenses being experienced and if there was an impact on staff. Mr. Shaw responded that the County has been reimbursed for expenses related to testing and the acquisition of personal protective equipment and that

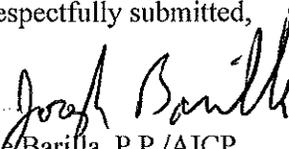
additional funding is expected from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but that the State funding cannot be used to cover revenue shortfalls, so there have been furloughs in the Park Commission and Library staff. Ms. Olcott thanked Mr. Shaw for his report.

Mr. Rattner asked about a recent Executive Order from the Governor's Office and Mr. Shaw reported that it concerned various protective steps that public and private offices should be taking. Mr. Rattner complimented staff on the Land Use Element and Mr. Barilla on his accomplishments in his relatively new position as Planning Director.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30PM, Mr. Barilla noted for the record that the Public Hearing on the Draft Land Use Element of the Morris County Master Plan was held between 6:30PM 7:30PM and that no public comment was received via WebEx, phone or written comment. At 7:31PM, Ms. Olcott moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Freeholder Shaw and approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Barilla, P.P./AICP
Planning Director

Original was signed and is on file at the office of the Morris County Planning Board.