

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

30 Schuyler Place
October 17, 2013

Morristown
New Jersey

Chairman Falkoski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

Chairman Falkoski stated that the Secretary of the Board provided public notice of this meeting in a legal notice dated January 29, 2013.

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Joseph Falkoski, Chairman	Christine Marion, Planning Director
Steve Rattner, Vice-Chair	Deena Leary, Department Director
Isobel Olcott, Secretary	Anthony Soriano, Supervising Planner
Steve Hammond, County Engineer	Greg Perry, Supervising Planner
Ted Eppel	Joe Barilla, Senior Planner
Everton Scott	Virginia Michelin, Principal Environmental Planner
Ed McCarthy (arrived 8:04)	W. Randall Bush, Esq., First Assistant County Counsel
Stephen Jones, Alt #1 (arrived 8:15)	Christopher Vitz, Assistant County Engineer
	Rene Axelrod, Recording Secretary

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Ms. Olcott moved approval of the minutes of the September 19, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eppel and was approved by roll call vote.

VOTE	Aye	Nay	Abs.
Ted Eppel	x		
Ann Grossi	-		
Steve Hammond	x		
Thomas Mastrangelo	-		
Ed McCarthy	x		
Isobel Olcott	x		
Steve Rattner	x		
Everton Scott	x		
Joseph Falkoski, Chair	x		
John Cesaro, (F. Alt)	-		
Stephen Jones, (Alt.1)	-		
Nita Galate, (Alt. 2)	-		

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board accepted the Director's Report for September 2013, which will be placed on file.

REPORT OF FUNDS RECEIVED

Funds received for September 2013 totaled \$3,135.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Marion informed the Board that she will be attending a New Jersey County Planners Association meeting on Friday, October 18, 2013. She stated that there will be a presentation by the New Jersey Office of Information Technology called Planning for Broadband describing the role broadband now plays in county planning, infrastructure development and sustainability in New Jersey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environment and Watershed

Wastewater Management Plan – Ms. Marion stated that staff has completed the draft Chatham Township's chapter and the County-wide summary of the Wastewater Management Plan so that the township project to combine its wastewater treatment plants is consistent with the plan and can be approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. The plan is going through the DEP review process and was submitted to the Highlands Council for its consistency review. The Highlands Council stated it would not comment on Chatham Township's Wastewater Management Plan since it is not in the Highlands, but would comment on the county summary.

Ms. Marion also reported that a draft of the proposed Wastewater Management Amendment Procedures was sent to the Environmental and Watershed Committee and that she consulted with Mr. Eppel with regard to these procedures. Ms. Michelin reported that the procedures concern the process by which WMP amendments are internally reviewed by staff and the Board. She stated the procedures will also provide guidance to the DEP and to applicants concerning the WMP amendment process. The procedures will provide the Board with a process by which to provide input to the Board of Chosen Freeholders, which will eventually be required to issue consent resolutions pertaining to amendments. Ms. Marion asked for the Board's approval to use these procedures, and Mr. Eppel moved their approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Olcott and was approved by voice vote.

Watershed Activities - Ms. Marion reported that the Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet will meet on October 30, 2013, for the election of new officers. She stated that the Cabinet will also be searching for a new Executive Director. She asked the Board to let her know if they knew anyone interested in the position.

Ms. Marion stated she attended the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee meeting where the Committee Facilitator, Mr. Art Vespignani, gave a presentation on a watershed map that Ms. Michelin helped create to show various projects/monitoring sites. The map will be used

as an educational tool at various forums and events. The Watershed Committee was impressed by the map and Mr. Vespignani had expressed his appreciation to Virginia and the County for assisting in this effort. Ms. Marion also thanked Ms. Michelin for her work on this project.

Land Subdivision and Zoning

Developments Reviewed – Mr. Rattner stated that the Committee met and reviewed nine applications. The Kids-R-Kids application in Montville Township proposes the development of a 17,690 square foot two-story daycare facility. The County is reviewing stormwater management and driveway sight distances. The Dowel-Sylvan application is adding 67 parking spaces to an office building located at the Prudential Complex on Littleton Road and Route 202 in Parsippany-Troy Hills Township. The VolleyBarn application in Long Hill Township is proposing an indoor volleyball training facility on a brownfield site. The project will require approvals by the DEP. Mr. Rattner stated the most significant project received was the Kensington Square at Randolph site plan application for 105 townhouses on 17.5 acres with driveway connections to Old Shunpike Road and Brookside Road. He noted that County Engineering will be reviewing stormwater management connected with this project. The Seneca Heights application, a residential development at Hillside Avenue in Roxbury Township, proposes to add a four unit residential structure to a 3.83 acres site which already has two other multi-unit residential buildings. He noted that County Engineering will need to review access, drainage and road improvements.

Ms. Olcott made a motion to approve the Report of Actions Taken on Development Plans for September 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eppel and approved by roll call vote.

VOTE	Aye	Nay	Abs.
Ted Eppel	x		
Ann Grossi	-		
Steve Hammond	x		
Thomas Mastrangelo	-		
Ed McCarthy	x		
Isobel Olcott	x		
Steve Rattner	x		
Everton Scott	x		
Joseph Falkoski, Chair	x		
John Cesaro, (F. Alt)	-		
Stephen Jones, (Alt.1)	-		
Nita Galate, (Alt. 2)	-		

Legislative and Municipal

Recent Legislation - Mr. Soriano highlighted three bills introduced by the Legislature in the past month. The first bill, S2991, would extend the Right to Farm Act to include commercial beekeepers. The second bill, S3005, would authorize certain municipalities and rural electric cooperatives to establish a municipal shared services energy authority. Finally, he reported on the introduction of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR162 that proposes to amend the State Constitution to require participation of New Jersey in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Master Plan & Land Use Ordinance Monthly Report - Mr. Soriano reported there were no master plan amendments since the last Planning Board meeting. He then summarized the September 2013 Zoning Ordinance Report, reporting that there were eight proposed ordinances, six adopted ordinances and one tabled ordinance for a total of 15 ordinances received. He noted a proposed ordinance from the Township of Mount Olive which would amend the land use regulations to allow the Township to grant certain exemptions from Highlands standards in the Highlands Preservation Area. He stated that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Highlands Council and the Township was required to grant the Township this authority.

COAH and Status of Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Funds – Mr. Soriano reported that on September 26, 2013, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled against the COAH affordable housing “Growth Share” methodology for calculating Third Round obligations. The Court found that the methodology violates the Fair Housing Act and instructed COAH to adopt new rules for determining local third round affordable housing obligations within five months.

The Planning Board took a short break to honor the County Engineer, Mr. Steve Hammond, as this was his last Planning Board Meeting before his retirement effective November 30, 2013.

Long Range Planning

2013 State of the County Report – Mr. Soriano acknowledged the various staff members who contributed to the 2013 State of the County Report, and proceeded to give a PowerPoint presentation summarizing its contents. He presented highlights from each of the nine chapters included in the report, including related trends and issues. Ms. Olcott made a motion to approve the 2013 State of the County Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eppel and it was approved by roll call vote. The report will be posted on the Department’s website.

VOTE	Aye	Nay	Abs.
Ted Eppel	x		
Ann Grossi	-		
Steve Hammond	x		
Thomas Mastrangelo	-		
Ed McCarthy	x		
Isobel Olcott	x		
Steve Rattner	x		
Everton Scott	x		
Joseph Falkoski, Chair	x		
John Cesaro, (F. Alt)	-		
Stephen Jones, (Alt.1)	-		
Nita Galate, (Alt. 2)	-		

LAISON REPORTS

Lake Hopatcong Commission

Mr. McCarthy stated he did not attend the last meeting of the Commission. He reported that NJDEP completed its lake drawdown, which occurs every five years. He stated that he will attend the next meeting and have more to report.

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board/ Musconetcong River Management Council

Mr. Rattner gave a report on several activities and issues concerning the Lake Board. The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board was unable to borrow a weed harvester from Lake Hopatcong. The Canal Society declined to allow local residents to use a beach in Stanhope. The State is allowing a five month drawdown of the lake from October 15, 2013 to March 15, 2013, noting that usually only a three month drawdown is permitted. This extended drawdown period may allow greater eradication of the water chestnut and provide a better opportunity for general lake maintenance. The Musconetcong River Management Council also met this month and it has been confirmed that the water chestnut has spread into the Musconetcong River.

Morris County Open Space Trust/Flood Mitigation Committee

Mr. Eppel reported that there have been almost 18,000 acres of open space preserved by the Trust Fund to date. He stated that there are grants now being processed that will bring the total preserved in 2013 to a total of 417.12 acres.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS RECEIVED

Ms. Marion reported on two letters. The first is a notice from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding Picatinny Arsenal and the renewal of a permit for an Explosive Waste Incinerator and issuance of a permit for Hazardous Waste Storage and Treatment. Ms. Marion stated that the public comment period ends November 2, 2013.

Ms. Marion stated she received a copy of correspondence from Dave Dech, Planning Director of Warren County to Mary K. Murphy from North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority regarding freight rail service and the need to provide improvements to allow the larger containers to move through the region.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Ms. Marion had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Morris County Planning Board Secure Website – Ms. Marion asked the Board if there were any problems in using the secure Website to access meeting materials. Chairman Falkoski stated he discovered that sign-in was case sensitive, but otherwise had no problem accessing the meeting materials. The Board approved the posting of future meeting materials to the secure website, combined with an email notification that the information has been posted.

LEGAL UPDATE

Mr. Bush stated he would report to the Board on the ongoing litigation at the December meeting.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Hammond stated how much he enjoyed working with the Planning Board. He introduced Chris Vitz who will be replacing him as Engineer on the Board and noted that Ms. Leary will now be the Director of Planning and Public Works.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., Mr. Hammond moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Scott seconded, and all approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Marion, P.P./AICP
Planning Director

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