

Planning Committee Meeting September 14, 2023 at 1pm at the Del. Co. Office. Bldg.

Present: Jeff Taggart
Allen Hinkley
Shelly Johnson-Bennett
Jessica Ulmer

Bill Layton
Nick Carbone
Jerry Vernold
Lillian Brown (the Reporter)

The meeting was opened at 1:10 pm by Chair Jeff Taggart.

Motion by Jerry Vernold to go into Executive Session to discuss ongoing negotiations with NYC at 1:10 pm, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried.

Shelly presented the Committee with correspondence regarding the lead agency request presented to the watershed partners for the long-term land acquisition plan. The correspondence from Special Council Kevin Young discussed an appeal to objections.

Motion by Bill Layton to come out of Executive Session at 1:52 pm, seconded by Allen Hinkley. All in favor. Motion carried.

The regular meeting resumed at 1:54pm.

Budget: Shelly handed out copies of the Planning's and WSA's proposed 2024 budgets and went over them with the Committee. Motion by Jerry Vernold to approve the Planning budget, seconded by Allen Hinkley. All in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Jerry Vernold to approve the WSA budget, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolutions: Shelly submitted a resolution for approval regarding the Appeal for Lead Agency that Kevin Young will be working on. Motion by Jerry Vernold to approve, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried. Another resolution was submitted to the Committee for approval regarding moving money left over from Planning's Personal Services account into the Equipment account to purchase new furniture for the new building and to purchase a new vehicle to replace the one that will no longer pass inspection. Motion by Jerry Vernold to approve, seconded by Allen Hinkley. All in favor. Motion carried. Another resolution was submitted to the Committee for approval regarding increasing WSA's Professional Services account to pay for legal fees associated with negotiations. Motion by Allen Hinkley to approve, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried. One more resolution was submitted to the Committee for approval to accept additional Intervenor funds that were applied for and awarded. Motion by Jerry Vernold to approve, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried.

Purchase Approvals: The Planning Department would like to purchase a new vehicle, a Chevy Equinox, through a current bid to replace the one vehicle that will no longer pass inspection. The Department would also like to purchase new furniture for the new building. Motion by Jerry Vernold to approve the purchases, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried.

Personnel: New Planner Trainee, Theresa Ferigno will be starting October 2nd. We are setting another interview up for the other open Planner Trainee position and we have received applications for the vacant Environmental Technician position.

Conference Requests: Sean Leddy would like to attend a training for continuing education for Landscape Architect. The training is online and will cost \$319. Motion by Jerry Vernold to approve, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Info Officer: WBNG did an interview with Shelly regarding the Soldiers Monument; however, the County is still waiting for the results of the coring that was done on the structural integrity of the monument.

Project Updates: Shelly updated the Committee on the Clean Path project. Shelly reported that she reviewed an article for the Reporter on the LAP lead agency and sent comments back for inclusion.

Buyouts: Structures were built on the Mill Street property in Fleischmanns by the neighboring property owners. Kent addressed the issue and the structures were taken down. We will continue to monitor the property. Shelly received a request from Sidney Center to use two of the buyout vacant lots for parking for the tractor parade. Motion by Bill Layton to approve, seconded by Allen Hinkley. All in favor. Motion carried. We have spent \$24,300 on mowing this year and would like to extend the contract with the mowing company for the 2024 season. Motion by Jerry Vernold to approve, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried. There are eight homes left for demolition. Planning received a complaint about bats being displaced because of the demolitions. GOSR is not requiring the historic preservation of historic features due to storage issues; however, we do need to do a display to memorialize the houses and we need to put up cast iron signs. We are still having issues with Elations regarding the sub-contractors. Shelly reported the numbers of spent and reimbursed monies. GOSR is saying that six properties are not eligible for full reimbursement because they were not up to date on their flood insurance at the time of purchase; however, that was not a requirement at the time of purchase as well as GOSR knew at the time of purchase that the flood insurance was not up to date. Eileen is looking into this.

Grants: The Snowmobile Grant application was submitted September 1st. The legal ad was placed in the local papers for the RFPs for the County Comp Plan and the Housing Study. Shelly met with Amy Warner on Tuesday regarding the Fleischmanns Railroad grant award. We will be having a structural assessment done on the railroad building. We will be requesting reimbursement for the IRT from ARC and the O'Connor Foundation and the Community Foundation once we have received all of the invoices. The CFA grant awards will be announced in December.

WSA: We continue to attend WAC meetings to make sure we are all on the same page. We are continuing to work on SAP and LAP. CWC has asked that we look at the new State Legislature on wetlands before agreeing to revised easement language. Elections need to be done for the CWT Board. We need two new members. We have not received invoices for the past two years for CWT. Nick will look into that. CWC is working with SUNY Buffalo on a Community Sustainability Study Scope. We are continuing with FAD negotiations. The next meeting is September 20th in Arkville. The Easement language has been revised. The Lead Agency appeal has been prepared and is ready to be submitted.

Climate Change Initiatives: Spencer is working on maps to use NYC owned lands for renewable projects. The new easement language will allow renewable energy projects on NYC owned lands. There is new legislation regarding CPCLA and ST8 is working with the County on regional objectives.

Upper Delaware & FUDR: Need DEC approval on the Cadosia boat launch project. FUDR is seeking match for their 2021 grants and asked if we could provide match.

CCE: no update.

S&W: SMP project reviews. Contracting issues. SAP alternative.

AFPB: no update.

IT: The new fiber was installed into the new building yesterday. Josh is working on the moving plan with IT. There is an issue with the Adobe licenses; we purchased 12 and only have 6.

HMP: Meredith is finished and we are a quarter of the way through Franklin. Harpersfield is ready for publication.

Drone: On-going training. We are working on the procedures and policies. Josh did a flight for the senior picnic. Josh and James will be doing a flight at the Lordville Bridge.

DO: We are waiting for an invoice for IRT.

ST8: Broadband. Reviewing 2023 ARC applications. Jeff regretfully resigned from the ST8 board and recommended Allen Hinkley to take his place. Jeff will write a resignation letter and will give it to Tina. Motion by Jerry Vernold to recommend Allen Hinkley as the new ST8 representative, seconded by Bill Layton. All in favor. Motion carried. The next ST8 meeting is in October.

IRT: After action report is being done. We submitted a letter of interest for 2025. The ST8 Board voted to apply on behalf of Broome County.

Transportation Study: We reviewed the final draft. The conclusion was the same as the last study; however, there are many interesting alternatives in this study.

ED/IDA: Sean has been working with them and has entered into a LA contract with them.

DPW: Demos and moving schedule for both departments. There is a concern about parking at the new building. Sean will be working on an LA plan to address parking and landscaping.

LA Projects: Shelly updated the Committee on all of the LA projects Sean is working on.

Parks: Sean is looking into what a Parks Department or Division for the County would entail.

SUNY Delhi: no update.

TPAS Projects: Shelly updated the Committee on all of the TPAS projects.

State Climate Change Committee: Kent has been working on. ST8 is working on an application for State Initiatives.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08pm.