

APPEALS AND WAIVER REQUESTS

None

DIVISION REPORT

A. PLANNING DIVISION WEB APPLICATIONS:

Autumn Sylvester said she wanted to demonstrate to the Planning Board how the Planning Division is leveraging the County's existing investment in technology to increase public awareness and participation. She said the Planning Division staff has individually worked on web-based applications. She said Alice Brees has worked on a map of proposed residential development which is on the County's website under the Planning Division section.

Alice Brees pointed out a section of the PowerPoint slide and said it showed subdivisions for single family homes which are being proposed. There may be some local approvals that are about to expire this year, since the Permit Extension Act was not continued by the NJ Legislature. The map includes County Planning applications that were received and processed since 2006. By clicking on "the flag" you can get information on the number of proposed housing units as well as the applicant's name.

The application also shows multi-family housing, such as proposed apartments and townhouses, which tend to be in the sewer service areas. This is where we're seeing future growth in the County. She said she will continue to update this map. The application is easy to use and works off of an Excel spreadsheet; when the spreadsheet is updated, the map changes.

Ms. Sylvester said the County has a "Four Seasons of Agriculture" brochure. The County wanted to make it more dynamic to allow for the addition of new participants or changes before a reprinting. She demonstrated how, by clicking on a farm, it will show a picture of the barn and the products they sell. Clicking on the "details" icon will provide more information such as the location, hours of operation and an email address. There is also a link to the farm's website. The application is mobile-phone friendly. Ms. Sylvester also said there are plans to expand the application for the different seasons. In the fall, it will be oriented towards pick your own pumpkins, apples, harvest festivals, etc. and in the winter, for winter activities such as cut your own Christmas trees, etc. The application allows a farm to be featured in multiple categories, whereas the brochure was limited to one.

Tom Drabic worked on the map application relating to the 2015 road and bridge projects. It shows all of the road and bridge projects for the State, County and Municipalities. She showed the project on the map for the resurfacing of Route 206. It showed that the State is the jurisdiction, the year, what the improvement is, where the funds come from, the total cost and the exact geographic location. Mr. Drabic said this will be updated for 2016 as the State puts their information together for the State Transportation Improvement Program for 2016. He said some of that information will be contingent upon the renewal of the State Transportation Trust Fund which expires

at the end of June. As the County and Municipalities adopt their budgets, the updated project information will be included and the County will update this website with 2016 information.

Walter Cramp said this will be useful in coordination between State, County and local projects. Bill Koppenaal said this application is also dynamic and works off the Excel Spreadsheet. As Mr. Drabic gets information, he can update Excel and it creates real time updates on the website. Autumn said the Planning Division has been working with Dan Freed and Dave Kunz on this project. Michael Francis asked if the Ag. application listed the Farmers Markets. Ms. Sylvester said she will look into it and if they aren't listed, she will include them.

Andy Borisuk talked about the loss of population in the County and how it relates to property taxes. Michael Francis said the County should look to see what other Counties are doing. They are using redevelopment tools and PILOT projects and it gives them a competitive edge. Investors and businesses will go to the Counties that give them an incentive. Carl Lazzaro said it is a good tool if it is used wisely. A five year program is good; a 20-30 year program is ludicrous. Tom Drabic said areas that are growing, such as Jersey City and Hoboken, have good access to transit. Hunterdon County is very similar to Sussex County, is doing a Comprehensive Economic Development Study. He feels it would be worthwhile to look at it and see what recommendations come out of that.

George Graham said he would like to see the approval process streamlined, particularly on the County's end. Ms. Sylvester said now may be a good time to look into ways to streamline the process. Mr. Drabic talked about how many projects are held up at the State DEP level. Some rails projects have taken four to five years to get through the DEP process. George Graham said the County's corridors: Rt. 206, Rt. 23 and Rt. 15 are all vital corridors and there is no reason why the County can't grow. He said things don't always happen in a five year cycle; they happen in a longer cycle. This area is going to grow and if we don't make plans and do the right thing, then in five or ten years, when growth starts happening, we will be caught with old blighted areas. He said there's no reason to stop growing just because we're in a bad cycle. Mr. Borisuk said because of the Highlands Act and environmental regulations, there isn't much chance to grow. Mr. Graham said that is true to some extent but that there are still a lot of opportunities in existing locations. Carl Lazzaro talked about the Council on Affordable Housing and plans to move people out of the urban areas into the rural areas. Mr. Francis said it will be hard for any entity to do that if they see that the County and its municipalities. If we're not prepared for that, then we will fall victim to the bureaucracy in Trenton. If the County is prepared with areas of redevelopment and clearly defined plans at the municipal and County level, it will be much harder for people to interfere with them because they're documented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OPEN TO PUBLIC

None

ADJOURNMENT

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wolfgang Gstattenbauer. The motion was seconded by George Graham and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.