

SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

MINUTES

May 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Michael Cecchini at 4:05 p.m. The meeting is held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-2 of 1975, as amended. Present were:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Cecchini
Dr. John Ford
Michael Francis
Walter Cramp, County Engineer
Rich Vohden, Freeholder Member
John Risko, Engineering Alternate

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Daniel Conkling, 2nd Alternate

STAFF PRESENT:

Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Alice Brees, Principal Planner
Neal Leitner, Senior Planner
Tom Drabic, Transportation Planner
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT:

None

MINUTES

A motion was made by Michael Francis to approve the Minutes of April 2, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Walter Cramp. All were in favor with an abstention from John Ford.

SITE PLAN/SUBDIVISION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORTS

A motion was made by Michael Francis to approve the Development Review Committee Report for April 2, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Rich Vohden and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rich Vohden to approve the Development Review Committee Report for April 16, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by John Ford and carried unanimously.

APPEALS AND WAIVER REQUESTS

A. RESOLUTION FOR QARMOUT AMENDED SUBDIVISION, FILE SCPB 39/11, ROUTE 641, VERNON TWP.:

A motion was made by Michael Francis to memorialize the Resolution for the Qarmout Amended Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Walter Cramp. A vote was taken. Results were as follows: Michael Cecchini-Yes; Michael Francis-Yes; and Walter Cramp-Yes. Motion carried.

B. RESOLUTION FOR 13 NEWTON, LLC SITE PLAN, FILE SCPB 14(PSP)08/11, ROUTE 519, FRANKFORD TWP. AND BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH:

A motion was made by Michael Francis to memorialize the Resolution for the 13 Newton, LLC Site Plan. The motion was seconded by Walter Cramp. A vote was taken. Results were as follows: Michael Cecchini-Yes; John Ford-Yes; Michael Francis-Yes; and Walter Cramp-Yes. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Eric Snyder reported that the State Planning Commission did not act on the draft State Plan on April 5 because the State administration had comments on the draft and it was held past the deadline when they could hear it. They now have to re-advertise for one more public hearing and adopt it sometime between the next 30 and 60 days.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT:

Tom Drabic said in June 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) joined with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency to create an Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities. It then created the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, which supports metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate transportation, economic/workforce development, infrastructure, housing and land use plans.

In November 2011, a group consisting of the Rutgers Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Agency (NJTPA), NJ Transit, the State Office for Planning Advocacy and others were successful in receiving a \$5 million dollar grant from HUD. This is to create the North Jersey Sustainable Communities Consortium and guide the development of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD.) This Plan will be fully consistent with the New Jersey State Strategic Plan.

The County of Sussex will benefit from this regional planning effort in a number of ways, including an initial \$10,000.00 grant to help offset staff time required to participate in the development of the RPSD, as well as the potential for significantly larger Capacity Enhancement grants to help with additional County planning efforts. There will also be a Local Demonstration Project component of the RPSD, which Sussex County will participate in and benefit from.

Tom gave a breakdown of the budget: \$5M in HUD funds; \$3,174,038 in matching funds from Rutgers Bloustein School of Planning, the NJTPA and a number of other state organizations that are providing in-kind staff services; and \$1,844,948 in leveraged federal funds. He added that participation in this regional planning effort will require no financial commitment from the County and will have minimal impact on existing staff resources.

Tom said it is important to note that this Regional Plan for Sustainable Development will go forward whether or not the County decides to join this consortium. It is important for Sussex County to be part of the consortium rather than have the other agencies develop the plan for us without our direct input. Also, as a member of the consortium, the County will have the ability to apply for optional Capacity Grant Programs, for anywhere from \$50,000.00-\$100,000.00 for additional planning work.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Michael Francis to recommend to the Freeholders that the County join the North Jersey Sustainable Communities Consortium and become a member of the Consortium Steering Committee. The motion was seconded by John Ford. A roll-call vote was taken. The results are as follow: Michael Cecchini-Yes; John Ford-Yes; Michael Francis-Yes; Walter Cramp-Abstain; and Rich Vohden-Abstain. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OPEN TO PUBLIC

None

ADJOURNMENT

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Francis. The motion was seconded by John Ford and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.