

New Jersey

Year 2020

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Somerset County



County Planners Association

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NJCPA Regular Meeting
February 21, 2020 at 11:00 am
Thompson Park Visitors Center (Beech Room), Lincroft, NJ

Meeting Minutes

Member Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Frances Brown	Atlantic	Harriet Honigfeld	Monmouth
Ranae Fehr	Atlantic	Thomas D'Amico	Somerset
Ken Aloisio	Bergen	Andras Holzmann	Somerset
Tom Stanilnes	Burlington	Laurette Kratina	Somerset
Francesca Giarratana	Hudson	Walt Lane	Somerset
Laurie Sobel	Middlesex	Kamal Saleh	Union
George Ververides	Middlesex	Thomas D'Amico	Somerset
Linda Brennan	Monmouth	Andras Holzmann	Somerset

Other Agencies/Guests:

Gerry Scharfenberger	Monmouth County
Lois Goldman	NJTPA
Donna Renderio	OPRA
David Hojsak	FEMA Region 2

1. Welcome and Introductions: President Walter Lane called the meeting to order at 11:17AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by attendee introductions.

2. Business

A. Executive Committee Report: President Lane gave the report on the items that were discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting on February 7, 2020.

- a. Census Roundtable Discussion: It was hosted on January 31, 2020. It was very well-attended by the Counties and there were topics covered by Sustainable Jersey, the NJ State Complete Count Commission, and the Census staff from the NJ Department of State.
- b. Letter to NJDEP regarding Wastewater Planning Issues: The letter has been sent. There will be a meeting to discuss the wastewater management planning process with Assistant Commissioner Michele Putnam and Director Bruce Friedman on Tuesday, February 25th at 1pm.
- c. APA-NJ Conference Session: There was good crowd and we plan to submit for sessions for other upcoming conferences in order to elevate the stature of County Planning and the profession of planning.

d. NJ Association of Counties Conference- Session Proposal: It has been accepted and is titled, “The Value of County Planning from Freeholder’s Perspective”. It will be similar to the model of the NJ APA Regional Planning session, but there will be an elected official to accompany to planner panelist.

B. Meeting Minutes - Draft minutes from the December 6, 2019 meeting were distributed for review by Ranae Fehr. There were no comments or questions. A motion was made by Kamal Saleh and seconded by Ken Aloisio to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved with Harriet Honigfeld abstaining.

Linda Brennan asked for any updates to the County Planner Directory and the new version will be posted on the website by March.

C. Treasurer’s Report: Ranae Fehr relayed the report to the group and there were no questions. A few important points as discussed by the Treasurer and the President:

- At the October meeting, a proposed change to the Association fees was introduced: to increase the annual County membership fees to \$300 and to eliminate attendee meeting fees.
- It was explained that based on past year finances, this annual membership fee should cover the average meeting expenses.
- The change will be introduced again for a vote at the March meeting.
- The CPA now also has access to a deposit-only debit card.
- The permanent address for the CPA will be in Somerset County so that it will streamline the process for payment in future years.

A motion was made by Linda Brennan and seconded by Kamal Saleh to approve the treasurer’s Report. The report was approved.

3. Agency / Partner Updates (NJTPA, OPA, NJDEP, NJAC, RPA etc.):

Gerry Scharfenberger spoke about Bill #2371 which sets a new standard for food waste generators, which he believes will hurt the Counties that have landfills for energy. As it stands, it is unclear if it will impact households or just large businesses. He is proposing the Counties be exempt from this new bill in his proposed amendment. He requested a letter of support from the CPA to support the amendment he proposed.

There was a discussion about single-use plastics and plant-based plastics and President acknowledged that it can be a topic of discussion for future meetings

Lois Goldman mentioned that the Together North Jersey Forum will take place in March (the same day as the scheduled CPA meeting).

A. Andrea Friedman, Bureau of Mobile Sources, NJDEP: This was an introduction to the Electric Vehicles initiative at the state and solicit feedback on how to implement. For example, zoning may need to be revised to allow for charger infrastructure.

Almost half of NJ’s Green House Gases (GHGs) come from transportation and electric vehicles are about 80% cleaner than gasoline vehicles. The NJ Master Plan was made public in January which set the goal for 100% clean energy by 2050, which goes for all transportation systems.

NJ has a \$5,000 rebate bill for electric vehicles, which is the most generous incentive program in the country, and the state is aiming to have 330,00 EVs registered by 2025 with 400 public fast charging stations in 200 locations. There are also goals to have 1,000 Level 2 charging stations statewide and to increase the amount of charging stations at multi-dwellings and hotels.

NJDEP has about \$72.2M to electrify NJ fleets and they are offering \$6,000 rebates for charging stations in public places. An initial major project was to upgrade the NJ Transit Buses in Camden. There will be more NJDEP opportunities for the public sector in about 3 months.

The Local permitting process can constrain the opportunities for EV expansion – NJ’s process is about 3 times longer than the rest of the US. There are some BMPs that municipalities can elevate the issues of this process, such as: (1) Counting a charging station as an accessory use so it doesn’t count as a parking space; (2) streamline the permitting process with electronic submittal options and consistent review schedules (3) encourage inclusion in redevelopment plans (4) include Energy Elements in the Master Plan.

Two prime examples of local EV ordinances:

- North Brunswick has incorporated EVs into their zoning
- Middlesex has set up a collaborative process with the providers.

4. Presentation- State Plan Update – Donna A. Rendeiro, Executive Director, Office of Planning Advocacy

Donna Rendeiro provided updates on OPA:

- There are 4 additional members on the State Planning Commission, including Tom Wright from RPA, and are now only 3 from a quorum.
- The OPA has 3 new planners.
- Plan Endorsement has a June deadline, but may. The OPA is working with other project-based initiatives to make the process simpler, including working with Sustainable Jersey on overlapping activities, creating a marketing document for state partner agencies, and exploring potential grant opportunities with FEMA for resiliency planning.

Two major considerations for Plan Endorsement Adjustments:

- (1) Municipal Assessments- Condensing the guidelines to make the process less expensive- will send out a draft for review and comments. The new guidelines will be presented to the SPC in March.
- (2) Increase County Involvement: Allow for different options for Plan Endorsement, including single county, multiple counties, a county working with a municipality or municipalities, several municipalities, or another entity working with municipal partners. If a County is involved, there could be an abbreviated review process for a municipality.

The President thanked Donna for including the NJCPA on this and allowing for the opportunity to highlight County Planning.

There was further discussion about the prospect of a new State Plan, including:

- The need for a resiliency element
 - o Lois Goldman suggested looking into TNJ’s resiliency Tool Kit.
- How a major hurdle is the Infrastructure Needs Assessment
- The statute requirements of the state planning process is a major issue
- The need for better state department communication
- Integrate all current state and regional plans, such as the DOT’s Plan and NJTPAs Plans

5. Lunch

6. Presentation- Opportunity Zones and the 21st Century Redevelopment Program, John Costello, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning and Research, NJ Economic Development Authority: John provided an overview of the OZ program and how the EDA has been collaborating with other agencies to promote them. The EDA online tool for the OZs has an option for a customizable County profile.

A few notes on questions:

- How is success being tracked? The NJDEA is using MODIV data and illustrating trends by tracts.
 - o There also has been some outside tracking – Flemington, NJ is a good example.
- How are local businesses benefiting? There is a super limited business equity of OZ dollars currently and the communities really need to promote this on the local level. NJ is aiming to protect legacy businesses (in operation for over 10 years) and minority-owned businesses.

John also touched on the 21st Century Innovation Grant through the NJEDA which allow for planning for redevelopment for malls and office parks There will be a rolling application.

7. Committee Updates / News:

Transportation: Kamal Saleh provided Transportation updates on NJ Transit, NJDOT and Port Authority projects.

Environment and Open Space: Hard copies of an Open Space Committee report were provided to attendees and attached to these minutes.

The Executive Committee thanks the sub-committee Chairs for all their hard work and efforts.

8. Resolutions: No resolutions.

9. Updates/Necessary Business: None.

10. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Francesca Giarratana, AICP, PP on 4/30/20