

New Jersey

Year 2020

President

Walter Lane
Somerset County



County Planners Association

Trea

Ranae Fehr
Atlantic County

Secretary

Francesca Giarratana
Hudson County

President Emeritus

Michael Lysicatos
Passaic County

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NJCPA Regular Meeting
October 16, 2020 at 11:00 am
VIA Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions: President Walter Lane called the meeting to order at 11:00AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by a Roll Call by Secretary Francesca Giarratana.

2. Business:

Executive Committee Report: President Lane gave the report:

- Waiting for partner to finalize the long-term recovery paper
 - Adding graphics and logos
- Health grant available via State
 - Must attend webinar to apply
- VMT Pilot Program for a mileage-based user fee.
 - Look at flyer for all details
 - Expanding to anyone who wants to participate
 - GPS-based
 - Maps out how many miles traveled
- Walter lane suggests a special November meeting for county planners on November 20th for a round table discussion land development issues if there's interest
 - How to handle land development review fees
 - Share what counties are doing
 - Andrew Levechia suggests County Engineers Associations from Burlington were interested in this topic
 - Hudson County engineer's association would be interested in this discussion

Meeting Minutes: Adoption of June and July minutes by Francesca Giarratana.

a. June:

- Linda Brennen said in comments: motions are not named; Kaitlin Bundy's name is misspelled
 - Katelyn Katzer makes a motion to approve the minutes with the revisions.
- A motion was made by Adam Bradford and seconded by Walter Lane to approve the minutes.
- Minutes were approved with no objections or abstentions.

a. July:

- Linda Brennen said in comments:
 - Water quality control plan should be management plan.
 - Mark R is Mark Remsa
- Francesca will reach out to her after the meeting to make those changes and send out a new draft

Treasurer's Report: Ranae Fehr provided the Treasurer's Report and the report was displayed on the meeting screen by Francesca. There were no comments or questions. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Report. Report was approved with no objections or abstentions.

- Almost the same as last month

- Only real change is we received dues from one County this month
- Still have 7 Counties with Membership fees outstanding: Total \$1,050

3. Panel Discussion: Charge EVC: Developing the Electric Vehicle Market in New Jersey, presented by Pamela Frank

Charge EVC is a non-profit organization and the coalition is formed by a diverse group of stakeholders. The mission is to accelerate and expand EV adoption in NJ and develop and promote programs and policies

- It conducts research recently developed a report in conjunction with the Mayor of Jersey City.
- Charge EVC conducts advocacy and education, does not do installation.

Various conditions of note:

- In the matter of 20 years households with automobiles went from 10% of HH in 1910 to 60% in 1930
- In NJ, the majority of GHG emissions come from transportation followed by electricity generation, commercial and industrial, residential, highly warming gases, waste management and land clearing.
- Transportation offers a fairly easy way to reduce GHG compared to switching out power generation when it's been built and existed for 20- 30 years.
- Chicken and egg dynamic between manufacturers and companies that build the charging infrastructure.

Comments during discussion:

- People do not buy cars based on facts. They drive about 40 miles per day, yet they buy based on their peak needs. Charging infrastructure is needed to help people get over the range anxiety.
- We must change the way utilities rates are structured to make the private sector interested and attracted to it.
- When you charge in a charging station, whoever owns the charging station has to pay the electric bill and the electric bill has both energy components and demand components.
- The issue is right now when utilization is low those fixed charge components will overwhelm the volume charge components, so we must find a way to make this operation profitable.
- Some EV charger stations are having trouble on the local level of getting approval. Recommendation is to not call it a zoning issue but instead make the charging stations almost like a mandatory requirement like the handicapped spaces. Localities should not increase the parking requirements, but instead require that at least two spaces be designated for EV charging stations.
 - NJ is after California for being one of the worst states to get charging stations approved – it is estimated of about 400 days to get approval.

Walter Lane suggested a special meeting for this in more detail because.

5. Panel Discussion: Trails Planning

Camden County's Connectivity to Circuit Lane DVRCP Initiative- Andrew Levecchia, Planning Director, PP/AICP:

In 2017, the County performed a Trail Feasibility Study that told us exactly what we would need to do to build out the Link trail system.

- Goals of the Camden County Link:
 - Build early momentum for Camden County's bicycling and trail network
 - Not challenging
 - Many individuals were impressed with the idea
 - Locate the trail to attract economic development
 - Create a commuting alternative
 - Connect Open Space
 - Give individuals access to see what they're paying for

The route will Create links to and from other trails and connect to downtown commercial areas. The 12ft wide asphalt is appropriate for handicap accessibility. It will connect to road systems and will include uses for all modes of recreational and commuting travel.

Trail is 33 miles long (begins in City of Camden to Atlantic County) and passes through 17 towns. Expected to have a \$19.5M per year impact to Camden County's local economy through tourist spending; support a total of \$9.8M in

economic output. Trail will generate 114 jobs along the route, adding \$4.2M in labor income to County; inject \$963,000 in local taxes annually.

Brandee Chapman (NJDEP) advises to engage adjacent homeowners on the process and to alter landscaping (lighting) about fear of crime – Andrew Levecchia does not believe it is a safety issue.

New Jersey Trails Program- Brandee Chapman, State Trails Coordinator, Green Acres Program, NJDEP/ Co-Chair:

The NJ Trails Plan: First Plan was developed in 1982 and updated in 1996 and again in 2009 (11 years out of date). Last time was done through a consultant with NJDEP.

- New Plan: Delays with Covid; Outlines goals and strategic actions to help guide and coordinate the efforts of all those who plan, build, operate and maintain New Jersey's trails
- Can view executive summary on trails.nj.gov

NJ Trails Task Force: Developed in 2016. Mission is to develop a methodology for creating and maintaining statewide datasets of trails

- The goals of the taskforce have almost been met, including the development of attribute/schema standards
- The Taskforce is ready to move into an implementation phase for the development of a statewide trail GIS layer
- Currently accepting trail data in any format – email Tanya Nolte at Tanya@njconservation.org
- Goal is to have the RFQ posted by November
- Data Intake Progress – being prepared by DVRPC
 - More than 40 requests sent to federal/state/county/ regional planning/ non-profits groups
 - More than 4,300 miles of trail data already received, with more than half largely to schema
 - All counties represented with at least some coverage
 - Still working on obtaining datasets in the next week or 2

Essex-Hudson Greenway- Dene Lee, Senior Director of Northeast Land, Open Space Institute:

This project is a 9-mile linear park with areas at least 10 feet wide (unused rail line) from Montclair to Jersey City. NJ Transit used it for many years for trains to Hoboken – stopped in early 2000s.

Partnering with: The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition (NJBWC) is the only statewide advocacy organization for bicyclists and pedestrians and believes that a more rideable and walkable New Jersey means a more livable, equitable, and sustainable New Jersey. NJBWC officially adopted the Essex Hudson Greenway Project In 2014 and has been a leader in building the advocacy campaign to make it a reality.

In 2020, OSI reached a historic agreement to purchase the line from Norfolk Southern for a limited time for \$65M 9 miles of off-road connectivity through some of the densest communities in the nation.

Project Status:

- OSI negotiated a purchase and sale agreement (PSA) with Norfolk Southern (NS).
- PSA will expire in early 2021 but can be extended until early 2022 if we show demonstrated progress
- NS has secured official abandonment and railbank status from the federal government
- Engineering, survey and environmental studies are underway

Francesca Giarratana: The goal is to have the counties each own their own portion. The management and maintenance are still to be figured out but County ownership is the goal.

NJBWC is reaching out to communities now to inform them about what is going on.

Panel Presentation: Monmouth County Parks System – Regional Trail Planning: Paul Gleitz, PP/AICP, Principal Park Planner, Monmouth County Park System

38/53 municipalities participating in Monmouth County Open Space Plan

Action plan is connectivity. Improve trail access and bike and pedestrian access.

Henry Hudson Trail: 3-part project using TAP funding:

- First project will construct approximately 1,800 linear feet of paved trail from County Route 537 to Center Street in Freehold Borough
- Second project will construct 1.6 miles of asphalt trail from Highway 79 to Route 520 in Marlboro Township
- Third project will improve 25 trail crossings over local and county roads- Union Transportation Train:
 - Proposed Rail Trail
 - South Branch Right of Way
 - Manalapan Right of Way
 - Long Branch Right of Way

Final points:

- Brandee Chapman: looking to model a virtual summit that northeastern Pennsylvania had recently – their format was great. Going to talk about it more at the Trails Council meeting on November 4th.
- Walter Lane: New Jersey Planners Association would like to be a co-sponsor.
- Francesca Giarratana will share everyone’s slides.

State Partnership Agency’s Updates

Donna from OPA: On October 7th, the State Planning Commission updated the guidelines for plan endorsement to include requirements for Executive Order 89 Resiliency Planning and some equity issues. We realized that it is contrary to the goal of trying to reduce the effort on the part of the municipalities but a couple of things we are doing to offset that primarily: any of those requirements will be put into a PIA to be addressed after endorsement and over time. Unfortunately, we must add those things because they are part of executive orders, but we are continuing to look and there are several items that will continue to reduce the lift. That should be online shortly. We are working with the Highlands Council to have the State Planning Commission endorse the Highlands Master Plan and if all goes well we might have it at the pick at the end of the month and the SPC to approve it at the beginning of next month. We are looking forward to opening the rules in the first quarter. We have done a lot of cherry picking on the guidelines to make it easier and we’ve done a number of things that we were able to do within the rules that we could address through the guidelines but we are going to be looking to update the rules in the first quarter of next year. I am having some informal conversations with several stakeholders. I’ve spoken to New Jersey Future, New Jersey League of Municipalities, etc. I’d like to get everyone’s input during one of these meetings.

Walter Lane: I would be happy to set up a virtual work group to arrange for everyone’s input.

Gerry Scharfenberger: The environmental committee met last week and there were two bills – 1: A-27-85: requires climate change hazard vulnerability assessment – problem – unfunded mandate. The other A-27-70 pesticides that have an adverse impact on bee pollination – in favor of to a degree, problem with the bill is sometimes the cure is worse than the problem. Meeting with a scientist to go over alternatives – which there currently are not any. Both passed at the committee.

Allen Weston from NJ: there was a lot of interest in electric vehicles. I would like to strongly encourage those who are interested to get involved with the Clean Air Council. This is one of the issues we studied twice in the last few years. You can access all the reports on the Clean Air Council website

Committee Updates- None.

Resolutions- None.

Updates/Necessary Business- None.

Post regular meeting - Roundtable Discussion: Administration of County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Funds

Submitted by F. Giarratana, Secretary, on 2/10/21

Approved by the Board on 2/19/21