



Committee on Planning, Economic Development & Energy

~MINUTES~

Monday, February 10, 2020

2:30 PM

Committee Chair: Catherine Parker

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Catherine Parker	Chair	Present	
Nancy Barr	D6 Legislator	Present	
Catherine Borgia	D9 Legislator	Present	
Margaret A Cunzio	D3 Legislator (Minority Leader)	Present	
Damon Maher	D10 Legislator	Absent	
Colin Smith	D1 Legislator	Present	
David J. Tubiolo	D14 Legislator (Minority Whip)	Absent	
Ruth Walter	D15 Legislator	Present	

Other: BOL: Kitley Covill, James Silverberg, Brandon Lloyd

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Update on Stormwater Reconnaissance Plan

David Kvinge, Director of Environmental Planning at Westchester County Department of Planning

Director Kvinge began by stating that in 2011 Westchester County adopted a Stormwater Management Law, which created a program where the County would provide up to 50% of funding assistance for project costs to municipalities for locally proposed flood mitigation projects. In regards to current projects, he mentioned that the Board of Legislators adopted a bond act in 2019 for a flood mitigation project to reconstruct a Hillside Avenue Bridge in the Village of Mamroneck, and that that project is currently moving along.

Director Kvinge stated that the Planning Department would like to reconstitute the Stormwater Advisory Board, as there has been a lack of interest from municipalities in the

program, and they would like to encourage more participation from municipalities going forward. In addition, he stated that going forward, they are looking to work more with municipalities on physical flood mitigation programs and assist them with other projects to reduce flooding and risks in smaller communities.

Legislator Cunzio asked if the BOL had received updated flood mitigation maps from FEMA. Director Kvinge replied that they haven't received an updated map yet, as FEMA is currently finishing the coastal updates on their maps. He added that the county's flood maps were last completed in 2007, however, with Hurricane Sandy and Irene FEMA issued revised advisory coastal flood maps for different municipalities in the county. She asked if the municipalities have been aware that these maps are available and if they've been notified by these changes. Director Kvinge answered that they notified all the municipalities of the impacts of the advisory maps, and that none of the municipalities have formally adopted them.

Chair Parker asked if the Planning Department still reached out to municipalities once or twice a year regarding the Stormwater Reconnaissance Plan. Director Kvinge replied that they had reached out in 2019, and typically reach out to local municipalities in the spring. He said this involves giving them a summary of what is in reconnaissance plan for their municipality and asking them to submit additional flood problems or problem areas where they've experienced a lot of flood risk.

Chair Parker asked if Director Kvinge could send the Board of Legislators an updated list and map of ongoing flood projects that have been funded to date and are underway. Director Kvinge replied that he would be able to send it to the BOL.

Legislator Smith asked when the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan will be finalized. Director Kvinge replied that the Planning Department and the Office of Emergency Management are aiming to finalize that this year.

Chair Parker asked if the BOL could receive an updated list of appointees to the Stormwater Advisory Board. He replied that once they meet with the administration they will contact the BOL to review the list.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **RES-2020-15 Resolution – ENV RES-Convey Residual Parcel-Ferris Avenue, White Plains:**

AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTION determining that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment from the proposed conveyance of 0.36 acres of County owned property in the City of White Plains for a purchase price of \$260,000 to 280 Ferris Avenue, LLC.

Joint with Legislation & Budget & Appropriations and Planning,

Guests: Gary Friedman, Director of Real Estate and Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney

This item was inadvertently left off the agenda for the joint meeting an hour before with the Committees on Legislation and Budget & Appropriations, so it was voted out in this meeting.

In the joint meeting earlier, Gary Friedman, Tami Altschiller, and James Carpinello, Senior Assistant County Attorney, discussed this item with the committee. They advised that the County is selling this vacant property to the owner of the property next door. The property was appraised at \$200,000, and will be sold for \$260,000. The city of White Plains has a right of first refusal, but the 90-day period passed without a response. There is only commercial property in this area, and there is a gas line under the property, so it could only be used for a parking lot, and is not appropriate for affordable housing.

Legislator Covill asked the Law Department to find out who is behind the LLC that wants to purchase the property, so we know who we are selling to. Legislator Walter asked where the money from the sale of the property would go, and Ms. Altschiller advised that all proceeds from the sale of County property goes into the General Fund. Henry Neale, Chairman of the Westchester County Parks Board, advised the committee that the Parks Board approves of the sale, but the proceeds should be set aside in a segregated fund and dedicated specifically for park purposes.

Moved by Legislator Borgia and seconded by Legislator Smith, this item was approved with a vote of 6-0.

RESULT: SIGNED BY COMMITTEE

2. **ACT-2020-15 Act – Convey Residual Parcel-Ferris Avenue, White Plains:**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to convey 0.36 acres of County owned property in the City of White Plains for a purchase price of TWO HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND (\$260,000) DOLLARS to 280 Ferris Avenue, LLC.

Joint with Budget & Appropriations and Planning, Economic Development & Energy

Guests: Gary Friedman, Director of Real Estate and Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney

Moved by Legislator Borgia and seconded by Legislator Smith, this item was approved with a vote of 6-0.

RESULT: SIGNED BY COMMITTEE

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Smith and seconded by Legislator Walter, the committee adjourned at 3:10 PM.