



Committee on Parks, Planning & Economic Development

~MINUTES~

Monday, March 18, 2019

10:02 AM

Committee Chair: Michael Kaplowitz

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

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CALL TO ORDER

Meeting jointly with Budget & Appropriations and Public Works

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael Kaplowitz	Chair	Present	
Margaret A Cunzio	D3 Legislator	Present	
Damon Maher	D10 Legislator	Present	
Catherine Parker	D7 Legislator (Majority Leader)	Present	
MaryJane Shimsky	D12 Legislator (Majority Whip)	Present	
David J. Tubiolo	D14 Legislator	Present	
Benjamin Boykin	D5 Legislator (Chairman)	Present	

Others In Attendance: BOL: MaryJane Shimsky, Kitley Covill, Catherine Borgia, Greg Casciato, Ellen Hendrickx, Alessandra Restiano, Beth LoBello CE: Steve Bass, Copper Crane DES: John Cullen, Neil Caputo PARKS: Kathleen O'Connor, Peter Tartaglia, Ken Uhle DPW: Bud Nicoletti, Robert Abbamont

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Monday, February 25, 2019 at 10:30 AM

On motion of Legislator Cunzio seconded by Legislator Boykin the minutes were approved 7-0.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **ACT-2019-44 Act – BOND ACT (Amended)-RMS01-Merestead Site Development-Buildings:**

An amended BOND ACT authorizing the issuance of TWO MILLION FIFTY THOUSAND (\$2,050,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project RMS01 - Merestead Site Development/Buildings.

Joint with B&A and PW.

Guests: Commissioner O'Connor, Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia and Ken Uhle from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Deputy Commissioner Nicoletti, Department of Public Works

Commissioner O'Connor, Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia and Ken Uhle from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Deputy Commissioner Nicoletti, Department of Public Works came before the Committee to discuss item #11698 - (Amended) RMS01-Merestead Site

Development-Buildings. This is a capital project in the amount of \$2,580,000 which includes \$530,000 previously authorized bonds, that will finance the construction and construction administration for the restoration of the Merestead main house envelope which includes the roof walls, exterior windows. The work will ensure that the interior conditioned space is protected from the unconditioned exterior environment. Merestead is a 130 acre home of William and Frances Sloane, donated to the County by Margaret Sloane Patterson and Dr. Robert Patterson. The home is to be used as a park for public outdoor recreation and scenic enjoyment. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but the Department explained that the house has begun to deteriorate and requires capital investment to protect this historic resource. The design is currently complete and construction is estimated to take nine months.

Commissioner O'Connor and Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia explained that the trust and will have a lot of restrictions, and they are currently seeking court proceeding to lift some of those restrictions. There is a lot of items in the house that can be disposed of or sold, specifically lots of artwork that can be sold. The Department explained that property, which has parkland and trails has been maintained by the County and is used by the community. The main house although has two full time staff (that is paid by the trust) is deteriorating and needs to be rehabilitated. Legislator Shimsky asked if the rehabilitation will fall under the guidelines of energy efficiency; Deputy Commissioner Nicoletti said yes, the roof will be insulated and windows and doors will be custom to include energy efficiency measures. It was discussed that because the house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, work needs to follow the Department of Interior standards.

As with of these properties that are given to the County, the cost of maintenance and rehabilitation become a major factor. Legislator Covill discussed that there is \$4.5 million in the trust, once the restrictions are lifted, and the artwork can be sold, the monies could then be used to offset the cost of the project. She discussed that they are working to find other paths of revenue to be used; ideas of refurbishing the farmhouse and subdividing the land for farming and concerts are all on the table at this time.

On motion of Legislator Cunzio and seconded by Legislator Tubiolo this item was approved with a vote of 7 to 0.

RESULT: SIGNED BY COMMITTEE

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

1. **(ID # 11696) Communication – HON. MICHAEL B. KAPLOWITZ: Correspondence re: moratorium on natural gas connections:**

Forwarding correspondence from the Town of New Castle regarding feedback and recommendations in regards to the Con Ed moratorium on natural gas connections.

With a motion by Legislator Cunzio and seconded by Legislator Shimsky the item below was received & filed with a vote of 7 to 0.

RESULT: RECEIVED AND FILED
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2. **(ID # 11677) Communication – HON. MARGARET A. CUNZIO: NYSAC News Article - "Marijuana Legalization in NYS: What to Watch":**

Forwarding a NYSAC News article entitled, "Marijuana Legalization in NYS: What to Watch."

With a motion by Legislator Cunzio and seconded by Legislator Shimsky the item below was received & filed with a vote of 7 to 0.

RESULT:	RECEIVED AND FILED
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ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Cunzio seconded by Legislator Parker the Committee adjourned at 10:47 AM.