

RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
(REMOTELY)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021
3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Thomas J. Faggione, Chairman
Michael Amo, Katie Bonelli, Barry J. Cheney, Kevin W. Hines, James M. Kulisek,
Michael D. Paduch, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, Legislator
Paul Ruskiewicz, Legislator
Kathy Stegenga, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Harold J. Porr, III, Deputy County Executive
Alan Sorensen, ACIP, Commissioner of Planning
Jonathan Drapkin, President & CEO, Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress, Inc.
Joshua Weiss, Ph.D., President, Negotiation Works, Inc.

Mr. Faggione opened the meeting at 3:36 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present.

Mr. Faggione moved up the update on the Diversity Intervention Initiative due to technical difficulties with Mr. Sorensen joining the meeting.

On the agenda was an update on the Diversity Intervention Initiative.

Mr. Weiss updated the committee with their progress on the conflict resolution in Orange County. They began with two projects with the first being the wells in the Town of Woodbury between the Town of Woodbury and the village of Kiryas Joel; however, he could not go into a great deal of detail as they are in the middle of the problem-solving process. The parties have been identified and initial sessions have been held individually with each party along with two-day training on the problem-solving process they are planning to embark upon. They have been willing participants and they are moving to schedule their first facilitated session for them to begin grappling with the issue in question. They are on track and the commitment has been great. Regarding the second project, they have tried for several months to find a narrow issue they could work on in the city of Newburgh and they thought they had identified a project after numerous conversations with various constituents. Unfortunately, the city of Newburgh has changed the city manager which has put a brake on the process they were pursuing. As they looked at the project, they were unsure if they could even meet the timeline in question, but they have been cultivating other ideas in case something happened they could have other options. They are looking at an alternative that has come up and there is a good chance it could happen; however, he cannot elaborate on it as they are still working through it, but he would like to come back in July with a full update.

Mr. Weiss suggested a one hour Lunch and Learn session to legislators in July that would highlight the process and facilitation. In addition, if the second project in the city of Newburgh does not come to fruition, it may give them an opportunity to think about any other possible projects that could be suitable for such a process. The training would focus on helping people to understand the barriers of handling conflicts successfully and then share a problem sharing process that engenders creative solutions to difficult problems.

Mr. Paduch moved to approve SEQRA and applications for Inclusion of Lands in Consolidated Orange County Agricultural District No. 1, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Mr. Sorensen explained that this is the annual review of Agricultural District No. 1 and five properties being recommended for inclusion in Agricultural District No. 1. The Orange County Legislature held a public hearing on June 3, 2021 and it was reviewed at the Education and Economic Development committee on June 14, 2021 and now before the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations committee today. The five properties are Chester Agricultural Center, LLC on 12.1 acres in the village of Chester; Cotter property on 13.5 acres in the Town of Cornwall; Atlantic Fibre Optic, LLC on 2 acres in the Town of Goshen and two properties owned by the Yurchuk family with one parcel on 4.6 acres and the other on 17.8 acres that adjacent to each other in the Town of Goshen.

Mr. Faggione asked for clarification that the parcels passed at the Education and Economic Development committee meeting on Monday. Mr. Sorensen replied yes.

Mr. Paduch asked about the Cotter property and possible park usage and the objection by the town and the outcome. Mr. Sorensen replied that they requested inclusion into the agricultural district; however, he was unaware of the Town of Cornwall opposing the inclusion of this property. They have been informed that the property owners have cleared the property for agricultural purposes and a letter was submitted by the property owners that if the county was interested in purchasing the property for a public park they would be interested in discussing it. However, as far as he knows there has been no follow up and he can only speak to the merits of their initial application for which the Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board recommended the parcel be included. While the parcel is in close proximity to the proposed Schunnemunk Trail it is not directly adjacent.

Mr. Paduch asked if this property passed unanimously at the Education and Economic Development committee meeting on Monday. Mr. Sorensen replied yes.

Mr. Hines commented that the Town of Cornwall supports the inclusion of this property to Agricultural District No. 1. and he was pleased to see that the Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board changed their stance and are now recommending the property be included. In his opinion, this property would not be usable for the trail as they would have to purchase significantly more property to have it connect.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.