

# Visioning Committee of the Upper Delaware River Corridor

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Creating an atmosphere of creative collaboration and regional thinking in order to strengthen and preserve the Upper Delaware Corridor

## Report of the Visioning Committee meeting at the Sullivan County Legislature March 11, 2005

The explanation of the Comprehensive Plan and the role it plays in a town's future will a major priority of the Committee during the spring and summer of 2005. The Committee will attempt to reach local municipal officials and residents along the Delaware River Corridor with the essentials of a comprehensive plan.

A meeting has been arranged by the Committee for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 1 at the Tusten Town Hall in Narrowsburg which will be hosted by the Sullivan County Commissioner of Planning William Pammer and Pike County Director of Planning Mike Mrozinski. Officials from all the towns along both sides of the river valley have been invited, over 200 in all. Committee members are urged to attend if they possibly can.

### **Plan for the April 1 meeting**

The plan is to have the two planners give an overview of the comprehensive plan and get feed back from officials on how the county government may assist them in the revival or the creation of a comprehensive plan for their towns. Bill and Mike can give them a menu of options that they could utilize. A possible outcome of the meeting would be the creation of a series of workshops on the comprehensive plan that could be conducted along the towns of the river valley. The meetings along the river could mix towns from across the river together to discuss the master plan.

Buck Moorhead suggested that the Committee make a matrix of the dates in the towns when the comprehensive plan was revised or created. Kate says her department has every town's comprehensive plan and the dates of their last revision. It will be available for members. It was suggested that after the April 1 meeting, the Committee would be in a position to see what its role would be in arranging for training sessions in the comprehensive plan.

### **Pace University Tutorial**

Sandy Schultz presented an excellent tutorial on land-use practices, including the comprehensive plan, that was created by the Pace University Law Center and could be very useful for town officials as a learning tool. It was decided that Sandy would use the NPS reproduction facilities to reproduce at least 20 copies that could be handed out at the April 1 meeting.

### **Three PA towns form a multi-municipal agreement**

Mike Mrozinski announced that the PA townships of Shohola, Blooming Grove and Lackawaxen are interested in developing together a comprehensive plan for their three townships. Funding from the state would be 100 percent if they went this way.

Kate Schmidt announced that Sullivan County will hold a meeting for the Sullivan 2020 on April 7 to finalize the action portion of Sullivan 2020. Sullivan 2020 is the county's comprehensive plan which has not be revised since 1964. Implementation of the 2020 plan is up to the towns since the county's role is advisory. This is a strong reason why the Committee should advocate for comprehensive plan training sessions.

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## **Gunther meeting on casinos**

Kathy LaBuda urged the committee to have a spokesperson present at the meeting on casinos called by Representative Aileen Gunther on April 10 at the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello. It was decided that someone from the committee would read a paper affirming the position of the Committee on the values expressed by river valley residents during the round of evening meetings. The Committee members agreed that the Committee should not take a position for or against casinos but would express in clear terms the desires of river valley resident to preserve the quality of life along the valley. Laurie will write the statement. The National Park Service will makes its own position known at the meeting.

## **Pot luck evening meetings**

The subject came up about conducting another round of evening pot-luck dinners and discussions along the river valley. The understanding of the comprehensive plan and its role in future development could be a subject of the meeting. No decision was made. The subject will be taken up again at the next meeting which is at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 15 at the UDC building in Narrowsburg.