MEMORANDUM

To: Plan Conformance Committee

From: Lisa J. Plevin, Executive Director

Subject: Committee Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2020

Date: January 15, 2020

A Plan Conformance Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 2:00pm in the Highlands Council office in Chester.

Committee Members present via phone were: Council Chair Richko, Committee Chair Dressler, and Committee Member Vohden

Staff Members present: Lisa J. Plevin, Christine LaRocca, James Humphries, Maryjude Haddock-Weiler, Corey Piasecki, Carole Ann Dicton, and Annette Tagliareni.

Present via phone: Lauren Nathan-LaRusso, Senior Counsel, Governor’s Authorities Unit

Ms. Plevin opened the meeting at 2:10pm.

Chester Borough Amended Petition for Plan Conformance

Corey Piasecki gave a presentation on Chester Borough’s Amended Petition for Plan Conformance providing history, noting that the Borough received Plan Conformance approval in July 2016, and that the Borough is now seeking to amend their Petition for Plan Conformance for Center Designation.

Mr. Piasecki noted that a public comment period was held from November 15 - December 16, 2019. No comments were received. Mr. Piasecki also noted that during the comment period, the Highlands Council amended the Borough’s Implementation Plan and Schedule to include funding for a study of the Borough’s public lands. Specifically, this study will focus on the removal of invasive species and regrowth of critical habitat in the area of 50 North Road.
After the presentation, Mr. Piasecki asked if anyone had questions.

Council Chair Richko asked for clarification regarding an area in the Protection Zone that was excluded from the Highlands Environmental Resource Zone (HERZ), as well as the allowance of wastewater service extension into another area. Mr. Piasecki responded that one area, Mill Ridge Lane, was excluded from the HERZ to recognize development that occurred prior to Plan Conformance. The extension of wastewater service will be to permit the outfall from the replacement of the Borough’s wastewater treatment facility.

There were no other questions.

Committee Chair Dressler asked for a motion to add Chester Borough Amended Petition for Plan Conformance to the Council’s January 16, 2020 Agenda

Council Chair Richko made a motion and committee Member Vohden seconded it. All were in favor.

Takings Waivers

James Humphries informed the committee that there are three takings waivers Highlands staff are currently discussing with NJDEP staff.

Committee Member Vohden asked if these waivers are to avoid a taking. Mr. Humphries confirmed they were.

Council Chair Richko asked if the committee may know where these properties are located. Mr. Humphries responded that the properties are located in:

- Independence Township – commercial property
- Bloomingdale Borough – residential property
- Montville Township – residential property

In closing, Mr. Humphries noted that as Council staff receives more information, the committee will be updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.