



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
STATE PLANNING COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH

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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

SUSAN BASS LEVIN
Commissioner

EILEEN SWAN
Executive Director & Secretary

**Union County Cross-acceptance III Public Hearing
New Jersey State Planning Commission
Minutes of the Meeting Held April 3, 2007
Union County Engineering and Public Works Office
2371 South Avenue
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076**

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Eileen Swan, Executive Director and Secretary, called the April 3, 2007 meeting of the New Jersey State Planning Commission to order at 7:20 p.m. Ms. Swan proceeded to introduce the State Planning Commission (SPC) members in attendance. Kenneth Albert, (public member) and Brent Barnes (State Agency member) attended on behalf of the SPC. Ms. Swan then introduced Union County staff in attendance. Kamal Selah, Deputy Planning Director, and Al Fiella, County Administrator, attended on behalf of Union County. Ms. Swan then introduced staff attending on behalf of the Office of Smart Growth (OSG) and OSG's State Agency partners. The following people were in attendance on behalf of OSG: Courtenay Mercer, Planning Director; Kate Meade, Area Planner and Lorissa Whitaker, Area Planner. The following people were in attendance on behalf of OSG's State Agency partners: Veda Truesdale, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Ms. Swan announced that notice of the date, time and place of the meeting had been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

UNION COUNTY CROSS-ACCEPTANCE REPORT PRESENTATION

Kamal Saleh, Union County Planning Director provided an overview of the third round of the Cross-acceptance process for Union County. Mr. Saleh went on to acknowledge and thank the 21 participating municipalities, as there are 21 total municipalities within Union County. Mr. Saleh provided an overview of the report writing process and described the steps taken to produce the County's cross acceptance reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commenter 1: Gary Szalc from the Fanwood Environmental Commission thanked members of the State and County for their work on Cross Acceptance. He went on to describe ongoing projects in Fanwood. He first commented that the state map says the Fanwood Nature Center is 6.7 acres. However the Nature Center is 8 acres total. Mr. Szalc also stated that there is a conservation easement over the Center. The Center is next to a public service and gas right of way that runs through several towns. These towns are currently undergoing efforts to have this land preserved. Mr. Szalc was also happy to report that Fanwood has adopted a stormwater ordinance. Since this ordinance has been in place a rain garden has been installed by the library. Fanwood is currently in the process of designing a transfer of development rights program for their historic districts.

Commenter 2: Judy Thornton is a planner from Westfield. She said that she regretted not being involved from the beginning of the process. Westfield didn't have a planner until recently when she was hired. She asked about how to comment in the future should she have any comments. Ms. Swan assured her that OSG staff will be in contact with Mr. Saleh and that any future comments can be discussed with him.

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION (SPC) COMMENTS

Members of the SPC had no further comments.

ADJOURN

Ms. Swan adjourned the hearing at 7:10 p.m.