

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & PLANNING
Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 9:30 am
MEETING MINUTES**

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Leg. William Burton, Chair; Legislators Peter Harckham, Judy Myers, Martin Rogowsky. Advisory Members: Blanca Lopez and Tom McGrath. Committee Coordinator: Barbara Dodds.

Others: Norma Drummond, Planning Dept.; Ken Belfer, Westhab; Altria Webber, Anti-Discrimination Center (ADC); CEO: Katy Delgado, John Talio; Karen Schatzel, LWVW; CHCR: Tony Hoetzel, Rose Noonan, John Nolan.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

▪ **Surplus Land-Parcel Q-Town of Greenbush & Village of Ardsley:** An Act determining that the parcel of County owned real property located at the terminus of Old Sprain Road in Westchester County is surplus property. 2/1/10 B&A, H&P

▪ Presentation and discussion with the **Community Housing Resource Center**. Guests: Rose Noonan, Exec. Director, Housing Action Council; Rev. Tony Hoetzel, CHRC Director; John Nolan, Chair, CHRC Policy Board.

Leg. Burton opened the meeting with a meeting quorum. The discussion on legislation approving **Parcel Q as surplus county land** was postponed for lack of a voting quorum.

Leg. Burton invited Rose Noonan, Exec. Dir. of the Housing Action Council; John Nolan, Chair of the Policy Board of CHRC and Tony Hoetzel, from the **Community Housing Resource Center (CHRC)** to make their presentation. CHRC was created in 2001 as a response to survey conducted by United Way of Westchester & Putnam in 1998 (and again in 2004) which identified affordable housing as the number one need in Westchester County. Ms. Noonan defined the primary role of CHRC as local advocacy in communities. The mission of CHRC is to foster and support development of local housing groups in municipalities where there are none or fledgling ones. It develops community support for specific affordable housing plans and draws upon regional resources to support local constituency building. Mr. McGrath added that as Board Chair of the Bedford Affordable Housing group, he has appreciated the support of CHRC in developing a dozen units and is using the center to help combat the groundswell against a new Bedford project. Ms. Lopez said CHRC provides technical support for Port Chester housing.

Leg. Rogowsky commented that some assistance would have been helpful in the long discussions on the Somers affordable housing project where the Peekskill

Sewer District concerns were pitted against the Somers affordable housing advocates. Mr. Annunziata commented that support has to be broad including the Planning and Health Department resources to combat nimbyism. There are new septic technologies, he said, that have been approved and accepted by the state that allow greater building density per parcel of land. However, the Westchester Board of Health does not approve those technologies. Leg. Harckham commented that environment and building communities need to come together because sanitary issues have become a cost-prohibiting factor in building up-county. He also opined that the net cost of school districts would be less if there were better planning of communities. He added that the Septic Sub-Committee, of which he is chair, will meet again on Thursday.

Leg. Burton asked how the board of CHRC saw their role in relation to that of the Housing Opportunity Commission. Ms. Noonan said their roles were complimentary although different. CHCR was independent of the County and concerned with grassroots empowerment at the local level. HOC is a County commission that is more editorial. It provides background information through its Housing Allocation Plan and has been a helpful resource for CHCR. Ms. Lopez suggested that twice a year HOC should meet to discuss how to enhance the education component. Mr. Annunziata said that Richard Hyman is a great resource who has written numerous studies on infrastructure, roads and school districts.

Leg. Burton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, moved by Leg. Rogowsky, seconded by Leg. Harckham.

Note: Due to a recorder malfunction, no audio tape of this meeting is available.