

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, April 24, 2013
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM
125 East Court Street

MINUTES

Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Mina Amundsen	P	At-Large
Martha Armstrong	P	Economic Development
Michelle Berry		At-Large
Todd Bittner	P	Natural Environment
Carol Chock	E	Planning Committee
Dick Coogan	P	Local Planning (non-urban)
Sue Cosentini	E	Business
Rick Couture	P	Education
Fernando deAragon	P	Transportation
John Gutenberger	P	Education
Dave Herrick	E	Facilities/Infrastructure
David Kay	P	Local Planning (urban)

Name		Representation
Gay Nicholson		At-Large
Monika Roth	P	Agriculture
Kathy Schlather	P	Human Services
John Spence	E	Housing
Rob Steuteville	E	Built Environment Design
Scott Whitham	P	Cultural & Historic Pres.
Andy Zepp	P	Land Pres/Public Land Mgmt
<i>Dooley Kiefer</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
Ed Marx	P	Commissioner of Planning
Joan Jurkowich	P	Deputy Commissioner
Megan McDonald	P	Senior Planner
Kathy Wilsea	P	Secretary

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by the Chair, Martha Armstrong. New staff member Megan McDonald was introduced. Her major job assignments are housing and County sustainability programs. Other introductions were made around the room.

Wrapping up the Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Regional Sustainability Plan – Ed Marx reported the last five months have involved doing edits for NYSERDA on the draft. NYSERDA has now told the team it is final (but this is the second time). The Plan needs to be endorsed by the Regional Economic Development Council, which does not currently have a meeting scheduled. The document will be posted as a draft on the project website. Ed encouraged PAB members to look at the 65 action items, especially the 22 priority action items. A funding round will be announced soon – in June according to a speaker at the recent sustainability conference organized by Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton. The speaker also said funding will be devoted primarily to capital projects, with a push on streamlining the permitting process for solar power. Joan also encouraged members to get ready, as the typical grant round is only open for six weeks and we need to figure out how to push projects forward. Ed said best chances are expected to go to demonstration projects that could then be applied throughout the region, or spreading existing projects throughout the region. Projects must have an emission reduction component that does not duplicate current NYSERDA programs.

Finger Lakes Land Trust Request for Funding from the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection (Bock project in Enfield) – Ed provided background on this capital fund, which was originally funded with some rollover and foreclosure income. The foreclosure properties have all been sold to State Parks. Current balance is a little over \$10,000. Andy Zepp provided information on the current project. It has been in the Bock family for around 200 years, and the preservation area has woodlands, meadows, and trails, and is within a Natural Features Focus Area and the Emerald Necklace Open Space greenbelt. The Bock family offered the land to FLLT, which proposed the partnership with Finger Lakes Trail Conference and trail management by Cayuga Trails Club, with FLLT holding the easement for protection. This concept was then approved by the family. Enfield passed a resolution of support, which is important because the land is being conveyed to a not-for-profit organization and comes off the tax rolls. The road frontage is getting very suburbanized, and this will be a step to getting the trails off the road. David Kay asked why this is an appropriate use of the capital fund. Ed responded the fund was established to protect resources within NFFAs and stream corridors, and trail corridors. The location of this trail corridor within a NFFA and the Emerald Necklace is important, and it has lots of recreational potential. Todd Bittner asked if the forest is in a Unique Natural Area, which will be checked and added to the resolution for the County Legislature if appropriate. This funding request is for stewardship.

Martha summarized the request before PAB today, which was moved by David Kay and seconded by Rick Couture. In discussion, it was decided to specify the grant is for stewardship and that was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Action: Planning Advisory Board recommends a grant from the Capital Fund in the amount of \$7,500 to Finger Lakes Land Trust for stewardship purposes to protect the Bock property in the Town of Enfield, for protection of the trail corridor, old growth forest, and other resource values with a permanent easement. Voice **vote:** Yes 11/ No 0/ Abstention 1 (Zepp).

Update Process for the Comprehensive Plan – Joan Jurkowich carried on discussion from the last meeting. How do we update the Comp Plan action items? The 2004 TCPD and partner actions were mostly completed. Other agencies' work was not as complete. So in the update should we have two lists – County and County partnership actions, then ideas (not called actions) for other agencies. Last time action items were only included if we got agreement from a lead agency, but this time some ideas will only be included as recommendations. We have had some success developing strategies, and will incorporate more this time. Strategies are shorter term and prescriptive. An example is the Black Diamond Trail, which was not a County project, but we had a role to play. Kathy Schlather suggested the second list could be stakeholder participation, with focus on the goal. Dooley commented she would not want them completely separate in the plan. Ed said with fewer staff, TCPD is unable to follow up on projects outside the department. Some things we track and report on. It can be frustrating when there is no progress, but these are not our projects. Joan said although we want the Comp Plan to have a wish list, we can't be too pie-in-the-sky. Ed pointed out development of detailed strategies can lead to action by others. Comp Plan action might specify development of a strategy. Target for completion and adoption is the end of 2014.

Commissioner's Report – Ed Marx reported the Blueway Trail Plan meeting will take place tonight at the Public Library. • Notice of Funding Availability for the Housing Fund was released last week, with due date of 5/23. • The Aurora Pocket Neighborhood is holding open houses 4/27 and 5/4 from noon to 5PM. EcoVillage is progressing and the first houses in the new phase will be complete in June. EVI will also have an open house. In September there will be a major presentation to the community on code possibilities for more efficient buildings. Tentative date is 9/30. They are gearing up to do reporting on Climate Showcase Communities locally, regionally and nationally. • At Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative on 4/26, two Cornell University interns will present on their energy road map research. • The Sustainability Center is open in the Human Services Annex. On Thursday evening they will have an intergenerational dialog on solid waste. Grand Opening will be 5/9, 4 to 6 PM. • In County Government, the airport is trying to keep the control tower open, and our US senators are advocating for us. Flight schedules remain in place, and the tower closure would not affect safety. • The Capital Plan Review Committee is reviewing the future of the Old Library. Once the Community Justice Center is moved, the building will be vacant. Move of the Legislature to the Old Courthouse will meet all space needs except for CJC. • Concerning Biggs A, Ed and the developers have visited the Ithaca Town Board a couple times, but have received no solid feedback. Discussion will continue at the next Town Board Meeting. The team is willing to have a community meeting and answer questions.

Approval of Minutes from 11/28/2012, 1/23/2013, 2/27/2013 – All drafts moved together by Dick Coogan, seconded by Fernando De Aragon and passed by unanimous voice vote. Final minutes are available on the Planning Department website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ under Advisory Boards.

Announcements – Andy thanked supporters who helped make the handicapped boardwalk at the Berntsson-Millier tract in the Town of Dryden happen. Ribbon cutting will take place 5/30 at 3PM. David Kay announced Streets Alive will take place on 5/5 from 1 to 4 PM. Fernando said the last event had about 2,000 people. The location has been expanded this time. Fernando reported the Regional Transportation Study is coming to an end. They will hold a meeting at TC3 for community leaders. Some recommendations are specific, some more general. Some good ideas came out of this process. The participants got to know each other and share ideas. Recommended projects have some overlap with the Cleaner Greener Regional Sustainability Plan, and he will check the Plan recommendations. One priority is to continue Ride Share.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department

Minutes adopted by PAB on June 26, 2013.