



Tompkins County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

121 East Court Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Edward C. Marx, AICP
Commissioner of Planning

Telephone (607) 274-5560
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AGENDA
PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, June 26, 2013
9:00 AM
Scott Heyman Conference Room, 125 E. Court St.

Call to Order & Changes to the Agenda	Martha Armstrong
Cleaner Greener Funding Opportunities	Staff
Climate Showcase Communities – Update for Project on County Property	Ed Marx
Comprehensive Plan – Public Outreach Efforts	Staff
Commissioner’s Report	Ed Marx
Approval of Minutes from April 24 and May 22	Martha Armstrong
Announcements	Members
Adjournment	Martha Armstrong

Please allow 1 ½ hours for this meeting.

*If you will be absent, please notify
Kathy Wilsea at 274-5560 or
kwilsea@tompkins-co.org*

Upcoming meeting dates: July 24, August 28



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TO: Planning Advisory Board
FROM: Joan Jurkowich, Deputy Commissioner of Planning
DATE: June 18, 2013
RE: Comprehensive Plan Public Outreach Efforts

A portion of next week's meeting will be devoted to discussing a public outreach strategy for the Comprehensive Plan update. We are considering a combination of traditional outreach methods (including press releases, guest articles, presentations to advisory boards, presentations to local elected officials at meetings, open houses) and an online engagement process.

Online Engagement Process

Planning staff are currently exploring some of the tools that are available to have an online public participation effort. In particular, we are looking at Open Town Hall (<http://www.opentownhall.com/>) and MindMixer (<http://www.mindmixer.com/>). At next week's meeting, we'd like your input on

- If you've had any experience with either of these two tools,
- what you think of these two tools, based on what you can glean from their websites
- if you know of other tools we should be exploring, and
- any other specific ideas or concerns you have about undertaking an online participation strategy.

Other Outreach Efforts

Planning staff are also looking at some other outreach ideas:

- re-starting the Planners Advisory Group, with representatives from local planning boards and staff
- creating a department Facebook page and/or using an email list management service to announce meetings/activities related to the comprehensive plan update
- engaging high school civics classes to involve community youth.

We won't be able to do everything (all these activities take time and other resources). Your thoughts on the best ideas to incorporate will be appreciated.

2 **PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**
 3 **Wednesday, April 24, 2013**
 4 **SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**
 5 **125 East Court Street**

6 **draft MINUTES**

7 **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

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

14
 15 **Wrapping up the Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Regional Sustainability Plan** – Ed Marx reported the last five
 16 months have involved doing edits for NYSERDA on the draft. NYSERDA has now told the team it is final (but this is
 17 the second time). The Plan needs to be endorsed by the Regional Economic Development Council, which does not
 18 currently have a meeting scheduled. The document will be posted as a draft on the project website. Ed encouraged
 19 PAB members to look at the 65 action items, especially the 22 priority action items. A funding round will be
 20 announced soon – in June according to a speaker at the recent sustainability conference organized by Assemblywoman
 21 Barbara Lifton. The speaker also said funding will be devoted primarily to capital projects, with a push on streamlining
 22 the permitting process for solar power. Joan also encouraged members to get ready, as the typical grant round is only
 23 open for six weeks and we need to figure out how to push projects forward. Ed said best chances are expected to go to
 24 demonstration projects that could then be applied throughout the region, or spreading existing projects throughout the
 25 region. Projects must have an emission reduction component that does not duplicate current NYSERDA programs.

26
 27 **Finger Lakes Land Trust Request for Funding from the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and**
 28 **Recreational Resource Protection (Bock project in Enfield)** – Ed provided background on this capital fund, which
 29 was originally funded with some rollover and foreclosure income. The foreclosure properties have all been sold to State
 30 Parks. Current balance is a little over \$10,000. Andy Zepp provided information on the current project. It has been in
 31 the Bock family for around 200 years, and the preservation area has woodlands, meadows, and trails, and is within a
 32 Natural Features Focus Area and the Emerald Necklace Open Space greenbelt. The Bock family offered the land to
 33 FLLT, which proposed the partnership with Finger Lakes Trail Conference and trail management by Cayuga Trails
 34 Club, with FLLT holding the easement for protection. This concept was then approved by the family. Enfield passed a
 35 resolution of support, which is important because the land is being conveyed to a not-for-profit organization and comes
 36 off the tax rolls. The road frontage is getting very suburbanized, and this will be a step to getting the trails off the road.
 37 David Kay asked why this is an appropriate use of the capital fund. Ed responded the fund was established to protect
 38 resources within NFFAs and stream corridors, and trail corridors. The location of this trail corridor within a NFFA and
 39 the Emerald Necklace is important, and it has lots of recreational potential. Todd Bittner asked if the forest is in a
 40 Unique Natural Area, which will be checked and added to the resolution for the County Legislature if appropriate. This
 41 funding request is for stewardship.

43 Martha summarized the request before PAB today, which was moved by David Kay and seconded by Rick Couture. In
44 discussion, it was decided to specify the grant is for stewardship and that was accepted as a friendly amendment.
45

46 **Action:** Planning Advisory Board recommends a grant from the Capital Fund in the amount of \$7,500 to Finger Lakes
47 Land Trust for stewardship purposes to protect the Bock property in the Town of Enfield, for protection of the trail
48 corridor, old growth forest, and other resource values with a permanent easement. Voice **vote:** Yes 11/ No 0/
49 Abstention 1 (Zepp).
50

51 **Update Process for the Comprehensive Plan** – Joan Jurkowich carried on discussion from the last meeting. How do
52 we update the Comp Plan action items? The 2004 TCPD and partner actions were mostly completed. Other agencies’
53 work was not as complete. So in the update should we have two lists – County and County partnership actions, then
54 ideas (not called actions) for other agencies. Last time action items were only included if we got agreement from a lead
55 agency, but this time some ideas will only be included as recommendations. We have had some success developing
56 strategies, and will incorporate more this time. Strategies are shorter term and prescriptive. An example is the Black
57 Diamond Trail, which was not a County project, but we had a role to play. Kathy Schlather suggested the second list
58 could be stakeholder participation, with focus on the goal. Dooley commented she would not want them completely
59 separate in the plan. Ed said with fewer staff, TCPD is unable to follow up on projects outside the department. Some
60 things we track and report on. It can be frustrating when there is no progress, but these are not our projects. Joan said
61 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
62 detailed strategies can lead to action by others. Comp Plan action might specify development of a strategy. Target for
63 completion and adoption is the end of 2014.
64

65 **Commissioner’s Report** – Ed Marx reported the Blueway Trail Plan meeting will take place tonight at the Public
66 Library. ▪ Notice of Funding Availability for the Housing Fund was released last week, with due date of 5/23. ▪ The
67 Aurora Pocket Neighborhood is holding open houses 4/27 and 5/4 from noon to 5PM. EcoVillage is progressing and
68 the first houses in the new phase will be complete in June. EVI will also have an open house. In September there will
69 be a major presentation to the community on code possibilities for more efficient buildings. Tentative date is 9/30.
70 They are gearing up to do reporting on Climate Showcase Communities locally, regionally and nationally. ▪ At
71 Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative on 4/26, two Cornell University interns will present on their energy road
72 map research. ▪ The Sustainability Center is open in the Human Services Annex. On Thursday evening they will have
73 an intergenerational dialog on solid waste. Grand Opening will be 5/9, 4 to 6 PM. ▪ In County Government, the airport
74 is trying to keep the control tower open, and our US senators are advocating for us. Flight schedules remain in place,
75 and the tower closure would not affect safety. ▪ The Capital Plan Review Committee is reviewing the future of the Old
76 Library. Once the Community Justice Center is moved, the building will be vacant. Move of the Legislature to the Old
77 Courthouse will meet all space needs except for CJC. ▪ Concerning Biggs A, Ed and the developers have visited the
78 Ithaca Town Board a couple times, but have received no solid feedback. Discussion will continue at the next Town
79 Board Meeting. The team is willing to have a community meeting and answer questions.
80

81 **Approval of Minutes from 11/28/2012, 1/23/2013, 2/27/2013** – All drafts moved together by Dick Coogan, seconded
82 by Fernando De Aragon and passed by unanimous voice vote. Final minutes are available on the Planning Department
83 website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ under Advisory Boards.
84

85 **Announcements** – Andy thanked supporters who helped make the handicapped boardwalk at the Berntsson-Millier
86 tract in the Town of Dryden happen. Ribbon cutting will take place 5/30 at 3PM.
87 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
88 people. The location has been expanded this time.
89 Fernando reported the Regional Transportation Study is coming to an end. They will hold a meeting at TC3 for
90 community leaders. Some recommendations are specific, some more general. Some good ideas came out of this
91 process. The participants got to know each other and share ideas. Recommended projects have some overlap with the
92 Cleaner Greener Regional Sustainability Plan, and he will check the Plan recommendations. One priority is to continue
93 Ride Share.
94

95 **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.
96

97 Respectfully submitted,
98 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
99 Tompkins County Planning Department
100

101 Minutes adopted by PAB on __, 2013.

2 **PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**
3 **Wednesday, May 22, 2013**
4 **SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**
5 **125 East Court Street**

6 **draft MINUTES**

7
8 **Members Attending:**

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

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

10

11 **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by Dick Coogan, who volunteered to
12 act as Chair today. There were no changes to the agenda.

13
14 **Cleaner Greener Southern Tier – Next Steps --** Ed Marx reported the final Regional
15 Sustainability Plan was endorsed by the Southern Tier Regional Economic Develop Council
16 (REDC) yesterday. The Phase II grant round is expected soon, probably with a June release and
17 September due date. The Southern Tier Cleaner Greener Consortium met yesterday and identified
18 some steps to focus on the 22 priority action items in the plan. Several agency representatives
19 volunteered to be lead agencies, and the REDC is also ready to address some action items. Some
20 projects may proceed with funding from outside the Cleaner Greener program. The Consortium
21 agreed to continue to meet occasionally. Ed learned yesterday that Broome County is updating their
22 Hazard Mitigation Plan, but included no climate change language. FEMA may require that to be
23 written in.

24
25 Katie Borgella said there was mention yesterday of a new law that 90% of hops for NY beer
26 brewers need to be grown in NYS. Monika Roth said this is a requirement for a Farm Brewery
27 Licence, and will spur plantings of hops. Hops is not a good crop for cash farms, but farm breweries
28 are OK as a hobby. The problem with hops is the sense of scale. There are two applications for
29 farm breweries under review in Tompkins County currently, and Cooperative Extension has a NYS
30 hops specialist.

31
32 There is an overlap between the REDC Strategy and the Cleaner Greener plan, with instances noted
33 in the Cleaner Greener plan. The Cleaner Greener plan also incorporates some language on climate
34 adaptation. Carol Chock asked if anyone is addressing access for solar in terms of view lines, and
35 Ed said staff is examining that and will probably report at the next PAB meeting. There was
36 discussion on regulating that in neighborhoods and the point that trees provide energy-related

37 benefits. Monika serves on the City's Shade Tree Advisory Committee, and recommended staff
38 check out the work of that committee. Ed pointed out right now economics are great for solar, and
39 Carol said Solarize Tompkins is finding great combinations of grants, discounts, rebates and
40 financing. Discussion followed on restrictions on net metering into the grid for solar and wind.
41 David said there is a lot to learn from Texas, which is probably the most energy-friendly state.
42 Peter Bardaglio recently shared a Public Service Commission ruling re net metering for a property
43 owner with multiple properties.

44
45 **Comprehensive Plan Scope** – Joan led discussion for comparison of existing Table of Contents
46 with a proposed one. Possible additions were added by staff, and items we probably can't address
47 were listed separately. We can't do everything, but present some as trade-offs. She asked members
48 what is the best way to take this to the public. David Kay suggested review by importance of topic
49 and which areas are most likely to be beneficial. Joan said there were some ranking criteria
50 developed last time, and Ed suggested reading the 2004 introduction portion for mention of filters
51 used. Gay said we should also look at risk and opportunity.

52
53 **Placemaking:** Gay would like to see culture, stewardship, relationship added – things that are
54 social. Carol thought this would be a good place to address the arts.

55
56 Monika said the Agriculture Plan is being updated, and we should keep in mind how it links to the
57 Comp Plan. Themes include food, agriculture, economic development, education, environmental
58 protection and energy. They started examining food security about two years ago. They will be
59 discussing key issues in fall and winter public meetings. Ed said staff expects the Comp Plan public
60 review period to be summer 2014. Gay felt the public might be interested in food security and
61 green infrastructure. We need one or two things to get the public thinking. Ed mentioned we might
62 need tangible examples, such as what other communities are doing.

63
64 Carol said she is not hearing people distinguishing between alternative energies and renewables.
65 Some achievements in infrastructure and communication could be included in the plan. Gay
66 suggested finding an adjective to use for infrastructure – frame what is appropriate, resilient, not
67 business as usual. Joan said we can refer to the importance of upgrading infrastructure, if
68 appropriate. Dave Herrick suggested keeping it in reference to neighborhoods and communities.
69 David Kay thought maybe it should be in cross-cutting. There is enormous demand for public
70 resources, so it needs to be addressed with implicit scale, not just item by item. Acknowledge if
71 asking for something out of the ordinary; step back and look at big fiscal picture.

72
73 John Spence asked if we will have priority actions and fiscal impact analysis. Joan report last time
74 TCPD hired a consultant for fiscal impact of the economic development portion, which was not
75 worthwhile due to our slow rate of growth. For the 2004 Comp Plan, action items were only listed
76 if a lead agency was identified, and most outside projects did not occur for a variety of reasons.
77 Gay suggested including community actions and partnerships, identified by shared goals. Katie
78 asked what people thought about having a draft scope for the public. Dick said it would be good for
79 the public to see what the Comp Plan concepts are based on. Carol wanted an opportunity to ask
80 the public if their needs are being met, which Ed said is more commonly done in a survey.
81 Following discussion, it was decided staff would find out which communities had conducted
82 surveys in the last few years and ask to share results. David Kay suggested we state in interaction
83 with the public if we have an agenda and/or timeline, and state why we could only add two more
84 topics. These should be addressed as what topics need more planning. Joan said staff is exploring
85 ways to use social media. Carol pointed out we need to recognize that many in our community
86 can't comment via internet, but Joan said that would only be used in addition to traditional outreach.

87

88 Martha Armstrong asked to be excused today, but had shared comments with Joan. Martha
89 expressed concern about using the term “livable wage”, which was used as a reference to affordable
90 living. How can we phrase that? Gay felt the term is practical, as people here understand the term.
91 Fernando pointed out it is one of several factors concerning household economies. Ed said the
92 Cleaner Greener Plan aspired to having Southern Tier workers earning national average wages.
93 Livable wage has an AFCU definition.

94

95 Ed said nobody has latched on to education as a potential addition. David Kay thought it should be
96 included only in its relationship with green jobs. Carol thought its place was in healthy
97 communities. Fernando commented the education topic already has traction, and the future of
98 higher education economy is a huge proportion of our economy. How can we continue to work
99 with that? Gay sees more risk in education, and Ed concurred, saying internet classes are having an
100 impact. Concerning addressing education while keeping to the scope outlined in the proposed table
101 of contents, Ed said the proposed scope is an effort to keep the Comp Plan concise and readable.
102 Joan said a Comp Plan recommendation could be to have an intense study of issues relating to
103 education. Gay reminded all that education impacts the local economy through jobs, business, and
104 students as customers, not just as an incubator. Ed commented Cornell does not consider their
105 developing New York City campus to be any competition to the Ithaca campus.

106

107 **Commissioner’s Report** – Ed reported that following the last PAB meeting, we found the Bock
108 property is not in a Natural Features Focus Area, so the proposal from FLLT was not advanced.
109 ▪ The Sustainability Center opened 5/9 with about 100 people present. They are open Thursdays
110 and Saturdays, 2 to 6PM. ▪ The airport control tower remains open, hopefully permanently. The
111 last two months have had declines in the number of passengers. ▪ A public information meeting for
112 the Climate Showcase Communities project at Biggs has been set for June 12, 7PM. ▪ New staff
113 member Megan McDonald is working on a Fair Housing plan and a County Sustainability Programs
114 plan, which would be similar to the Conservation Strategy and Development Focus Areas Strategy
115 finalized last year by staff. ▪ Staff recommendation will go to Government Operations Committee
116 next week for withholding some properties from the foreclosure auction for incorporation of land
117 protections and/or sale to appropriate agencies. ▪ Bob Howarth & Tony Ingraffea presented to
118 County Legislature on 5/7. There was good discussion and continuing interest. Ed and Carol
119 explained the emphasis at the Public Service Commission on expanding natural gas. PSC has
120 orders to shut down coal plants and go to natural gas. The impacts of taxes are huge for the County
121 and the Town of Lansing if the Lansing plant is closed, and the low cost of natural gas makes it’s
122 desirability to natural gas users continue. ▪ Ed presented to the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Green
123 Building Council on the Climate Showcase Communities project. ▪ The joint City of Ithaca/Town
124 of Ithaca form-based code study held a kick-off meeting recently. That is funded in part by a grant
125 from TCPD. ▪ In 239 development reviews, staff will be examining the Newfield Comprehensive
126 Plan and providing final comments on proposed changes to City of Ithaca zoning.

127

128 **Announcements** – Fernando announced ITCTC will be conducting a public meeting 5/23 at the TC
129 Library on the draft TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). He invited members to participate
130 at the meeting and/or comment on the website.

131

132 **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

133

134 Respectfully submitted,

135 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department

136 Minutes adopted by PAB on __, 2013.