

1 1/27/16

2 **PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**
3 **Wednesday, January 27, 2016**
4 **SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**
5 **125 East Court Street**

6 **MEETING MINUTES**

7
8 **Members Attending:**

Name		Representation
Martha Armstrong	P	Economic Development
Todd Bittner	A	Natural Environment
Joe Bowes	P	Housing
Carol Chock	A	Planning Committee
Dick Coogan	A	Local Planning (non-urban)
Sue Cosentini	E	Business
Fernando de Aragón	P	Transportation
John Gutenberger	P	Education
Dave Herrick	P	Facilities/Infrastructure
Ruth Hopkins	P	At-Large
Rod Howe	E	Historical/Cultural Resources
David Kay	E	Local Planning (urban) 10

Name		Representation
Gay Nicholson	E	At-Large
Monika Roth	P	Agriculture
Kathy Schlather	P	Human Services
Rob Steuteville	A	Built Environment Design
Andy Zepp	P	Land Pres/Public Land Mgmt
<i>Dooley Kiefer</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
Others Present		
Ed Marx	P	Commissioner of Planning
Katie Borgella	P	Deputy Commissioner
Jennifer Turner	P	Administrative Assistant

11

12
13 **Call to Order & Changes to the Agenda** – Martha Armstrong called the meeting to order at approximately
14 9:03 AM.

15
16 **Approval of Minutes from September 23** – Dave Herrick made the motion to approve the minutes from
17 December 2, 2015 seconded by Monika Roth. December meeting minutes were approved by unanimous
18 vote. Final minutes will be available on the Planning Department website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/
19 under advisory boards.

20
21 **Introductions** – Members of the board made introductions, and new At-Large member, Ruth Hopkins.

22
23 **2016 Work Program -**

24
25 **Commissioner’s Report** – Ed Marx reported that the Legislature has adopted the tentative budget and noted
26 the changes that include (1) \$25,000 for stream corridor program that was previously one time yearly funding
27 will now be target funding, and will be included in future budgets. (2) The Capital Reserve fund for Open
28 Space Protection projects was made three-year funding at \$50,000. A public hearing will be scheduled,
29 followed by a vote by the Legislature. The Energy Fund Initiative has a budget of \$30,000 for 2016. The
30 \$20,000 in the 2015 budget will be used this year, in part on a project to look at energy issues in critical areas
31 for economic development such as the Ithaca-Tompkins Regional Airport, South Hill, and downtown areas.
32 Working with NYSEG in order to gain a better understanding of infrastructure capacity and limitations was
33 also discussed as a critical piece related to these efforts. Options for IDA incentives for energy efficiency on
34 new projects and renovations are also being considered. The Housing Needs Assessment is very close to
35 selecting a consultant for the project that is expected to start in November. Last week there was a Public
36 Meeting on the Energy Roadmap, with attendance of around 50 people. Ed reported on the public forum he
37 took part in with the League of Women’s Voters, and Professor Bryce Smith. Discussions centered on the
38 grid infrastructure and the possible changes underway, and the airport micro-grid feasibility study. The
39 department also held an open house on the DOT relocation efforts. A request was made at the Government
40 Operations Committee to defer one month on a decision on the Biggs site sale in order to provide
41 opportunities for neighboring resident proposals.

42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92

Approval of Minutes from September 23 – Dick Coogan made the motion to approve the minutes from September 23, 2015 seconded by Andy Zepp. September meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Final minutes will be available on the Planning Department website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ under advisory boards.

Pinckney Road Acquisition – Ed Marx presented a map of the property at Fall Creek and Pinckney Road, noting that the former railroad bed has already been designated for a preferred trail to be used for recreational purposes, and will eventually extend through Varna, Etna, Freeville, and Dryden. He went on to report on the Town of Dryden’s purchase agreement that is in process for a total of \$62,700, and the request that Tompkins County provide funding of \$15,000. Because the Capital Reserve fund has a balance of \$6,500, suggestions were made to redirect funds from the stream corridor project funding, or fund the available \$6,500, and the remaining balance after January 1st. Martha Armstrong made the motion recommending up to \$15,000, to include the \$6,500 currently available for the Dryden Acquisition, seconded by Dick Coogan. The recommendation was approved by unanimous vote.

Climate Change Discussion – Ed Marx opened the discussion on climate change, noting the interest of a number of board members that prompted the discussion.

Discussions centered on flood events, and the increase in the significant rainfall events. Implementing adaptation strategies that would include updates to flood-plain maps, stormwater infrastructure, and emergency response systems were recommended. Members discussed the importance of educating the public on stormwater management, and the need for a higher level of emergency preparedness. Setting criteria for risk management that would coincide with stream corridor and flood plain protection efforts and recovery planning were noted as two areas for near-term initiative. Suggestions were made to combine hazard and energy retrofits in risk zones.

Members reported on their personal observations with climate change impacts, noting an increase in poison ivy, bee colony collapse, early plant blooming, and unexpected weather events that affect local budgets. Leadership collaboration and encouragement of public education were suggested especially regarding the importance of an individual’s carbon footprint, and the positive outcomes from achievements made from previous efforts.

Members discussed land use, and the need for walkable communities, and the ties to both lowered greenhouse gas emissions, and road maintenance. Concerns of increased costs with building and uses of energy efficient materials were expressed; focuses centered on cost analysis for building, sources for financing, and researching ways to bring building costs down. Understanding what influences costs, integrated whole building design, and creating local examples were approaches suggested that could help bring costs down.

Announcements – Martha Armstrong announced that the Energy and Economic Development Taskforce is having an open house at the Sciencenter on October 29 at 5:30. Topics will center on energy and economic development concerns, and five-year implementation strategies for decreasing carbon emissions.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
Tompkins County Planning Department