

1 5/25/16

2 **PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**
3 **Wednesday, May 25, 2016**
4 **SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**
5 **125 East Court Street**

6 **FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

7
8 **Members Attending:**

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

Name		Representation
Martha Robertson	P	Planning Committee
Monika Roth	P	Agriculture
Kathy Schlather	P	Human Services
Rob Steuteville	P	Built Environment Design
Andy Zepp	A	Land Pres/Public Land Mgmt
<i>Dooley Kiefer</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
Others Present		
Katie Borgella	P	Deputy Commissioner
Ed Marx	P	Commissioner of Planning
Pam Pariso	P	Administrative Assistant

10

11
12 **Call to Order & Changes to the Agenda** – Chair was not available at time meeting started, so member Rob
13 Steuteville volunteered to lead. He called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. No changes to the Agenda.

14
15 **Introductions** -- Pam Pariso, new committee secretary, was introduced.

16
17 **Proposed Tompkins County Green Infrastructure Capital Project:**

18
19 Commissioner of Planning Ed Marx passed out his draft proposal for review and discussion before it goes to
20 the County Legislature for budget approval in June. This five-year Green Infrastructure Capital Project
21 requests \$200,000 a year. It focuses on protection of natural systems to help mitigate the impacts of heavy
22 rainstorm and flooding events, by easement, restoration and/or stabilization of upper watershed forests and
23 wetlands; stream corridors, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas. This project has water quality benefits as
24 well as flood prevention benefits. This plan helps the community invest in systems now to prevent future
25 problems, if/when a major flooding situation happens.

26
27 The draft proposal outlines specific projects that could be partially or totally funded, if approved. These
28 include easements or land acquisition to reconnect and protect natural floodplains, acquiring/monitoring
29 easements of private forest land, water corridors, ditch management and stormwater runoff issues. Likely
30 projects include:

- 31 • Sediment mitigation for areas preventing waterflow to natural flood plains. One likely area is Cayuga
32 Inlet between Buttermilk and Robert Tremain State Parks
- 33 • Stream restoration
- 34 • Demonstration projects for county highway ditch work.

35
36 The Board discussed state and other matching-fund projects for more costly projects, inter-community/
37 municipal collaboration, and tax advantages to landowners who voluntarily comply with easements. Planning
38 has a tentative map targeting major project areas, and that map will be refined if or when the project moves
39 forward.
40

41 Monika Roth asked if there was a planned collaboration with the City and the Cayuga Watershed, because all
42 area water eventually comes down to the lake. Ed said yes, the City is taking on dredging in the inlet. Monika
43 said we're probably not going to acquire every easement, and landowner education will help motivate
44 approval. Floodplain education needs to be an important part of getting this funding approved and the
45 community's support. There was also a discussion about selling the idea with a cost analysis and emphasis
46 on prevention and protection of the community's water supply. Gay suggested emphasizing the economic
47 impact to the community if this Capital Project was not approved, like the cost of flood damage. Avoidance
48 or best practice data could help push it through. Ed said perhaps data from flooding in Ludlowville could be
49 presented as an example.

50
51 Other discussed topics were: who should "own" the project if is approved; what could happen if there was
52 serious flooding and Route 13 were cut off; vegetation buffers could help solve sediment issues; and
53 potential flood damage effects to Cayuga Lake tourism and recreation. Committee agreed that Ed has a good
54 proposal, but his "sales pitch" could be strengthened by using data and emotion to address the pain of what
55 would happen to the community if we had a major a flood and they had not approved this project.
56 Ludlowville's flood could be used as recent historical example for flood damage and costs after the fact.

57
58 **Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2016** -- No changes proposed. Martha Robertson motioned they be
59 approved, seconded by Rod Howe. Motion approved by majority vote. Dave Herrick abstained. Final
60 minutes will be available on the Planning Department website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ under
61 advisory boards.

62 **Agricultural District Revision:**

63
64 Scott Doyle presented a proposed change to the Agricultural Map for Ag District 2. He showed a map where
65 a small portion -- 42 acres in the Town of Newfield -- will be removed because it's on a slope, it hasn't been
66 farmed, it's under new ownership and it will probably never be farmed. This change was made on the request
67 of the new owner who wants to connect it with other parcels. Dave made motion to approve; Gay seconded.
68 Unanimously approved.

69 **Energy and Economic Development Task Force Update:**

70
71
72 Deputy Commissioner of Planning Katie Borgella presented the results of the Energy and Economic
73 Development Task Force, formed at the request of the Tompkins County Legislature, who asked TCAD –
74 Tompkins County Area Development – to work with the County to create a group with a charge of
75 identifying ways to implement the County's greenhouse gas emissions goals while supporting job and
76 economic growth. This 19-person task force is chaired by Sciencenter Executive Director Charlie Trautmann,
77 and made up of a mix of people with expertise in renewable and traditional energy resources, business
78 operation, real estate development and other aspects of the community. The task force presented six major
79 recommendations at two public meetings, which encouraged public input. The PAB is urged to check out the
80 full report and give feedback at the TCAD website at www.tcad.org. by Friday, May 27, 2016.

81
82
83 Katie distributed copies of the report and reviewed its six key recommendations. She reported that the public
84 meetings fostered good communication, education and cooperation, with less conflict than a year ago. One of
85 the key issues is the pipeline on West Dryden Road, a focus of the report and the public's interest. One big
86 recommendation to be done immediately is to shave peak demand to potentially avoid the need to build the
87 pipeline, with the caveat that if it doesn't happen quickly, the natural gas pipeline probably does need to be
88 built because of huge demand for energy in that area.

89
90 The Board discussed how to balance changes in the way we produce energy with the practical needs of local
91 industry, especially high-tech businesses that have clean rooms. Martha Robertson said these things are all
92 possible, but who pays? She said there needs to be mandates or incentives for NYSEG to do things
93 differently. Group discussed ways to help – or at least not hurt – economic development while meeting the
94 county's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Rate payers want heat pumps and solar panels. A lot of

95 industry needs natural gas and isn't equipped for electrical power sources. We want the jobs here, but we
96 want to move to more progressive energy use. Katie said we have a moratorium on natural gas in the Cornell
97 Technology Park, and we can't accommodate those businesses. Gay asked if there are engineers looking at
98 this. Katie said that a conclusion from the task force is a growing awareness of the problems and a
99 willingness to look at it as a group. Other topics discussed were transition to EVs, better bussing for people
100 who can't afford EVs, residential energy scoring, creating an energy strategy for the next several years, and
101 working better with NYSEG. The group discussed EVs, shuttles, transportation issues, and Katie replied that
102 those issues were beyond the focus of this task force. Ed said there's been a lot of time spent on examining
103 the issues – we had two years to create the roadmap, then a year for the task force to focus on solutions: now
104 is the time to act.

105
106 **Commissioner's Report** – Ed's report was not presented as the committee ran out of time, and another
107 group was waiting for the room.

108
109 **Announcements** – None.

110
111 **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

112
113 Respectfully submitted,
114
115 Pamela Pariso
116 Administrative Assistant
117 Tompkins County Planning Department