

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, March 23, 2016
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM
125 East Court Street

MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Martha Armstrong	E	Economic Development
Todd Bittner	P	Natural Environment
Joe Bowes	P	Housing
Darby Kiley	P	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	P	Historical/Cultural Resources
David Kay	P	Local Planning (urban)

Name		Representation
Gay Nicholson	P	At-Large
Martha Robertson	P	Planning Committee
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

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Call to Order & Changes to the Agenda – Andy Zepp called the meeting to order at approximately 9:03 AM. “Election of Officers” was added to the agenda.

Introductions – Darby Kiley was introduced as the recently appointed Planning Advisory Board member representing Local Planning (non-urban).

Election of Officers – David Herrick announced the recommended slate: David Kay as Chair, and Andy Zepp as Vice-Chair of the Planning Advisory Board. Fernando DeAragon moved the recommended slate, seconded by Kathy Schlather, and approved unanimously by all members.

Approval of Minutes from January 27 – Dave Herrick made the motion to approve the minutes from December 2, 2015 with corrections, seconded by Monika Roth. Members Carol Chock, and Dick Coogan will be removed from the January meeting minutes, and Martha Robertson will be added to the members list. Natural Features Focus Areas connectivity assessment will be included under Natural Resources. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Final minutes will be available on the Planning Department website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ under advisory boards.

Agricultural District 2 Update – Debbie Teeter reported on the 8 year review process of the agricultural district 2 review that focuses on the west side of Tompkins County. She went on to report that because no recommendations were made by the towns in the district, and because the Farmland Protection Board’s review of information confirmed 50% or more of the land under review is agriculturally viable, a recommendation was made for district 2 to move forward with no changes. Members of the board discussed agricultural assessments. Andy Zepp made the motion to move the Agricultural District Review recommendation, seconded by Rod Howe, and approved by unanimous vote. A brief summary of the review process will be made available to the members of the Planning Advisory Board.

Energy Roadmap Recommendation – Ed Marx reported on the completion of the Energy Roadmap, noting the work of Katie Borgella, and members of the Steering Committee. He went on to outline the following recommendations:

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- 35% energy reduction in existing buildings through efficiency improvements
- 70% energy reductions in new buildings (eventually to net-zero between 2030-2050)
- Vehicle miles driven to remain at 2008 levels
- 50% reductions in natural gas from the 2008 levels
- 24% reduction in electricity use from the grid to be replaced with locally generated renewable energy
- Targets of 50% development of solar potential and 20% of wind and micro-hydro
- Develop 50% of the total calculated biomass potentials with a sustained management approach
- 50% transition from light-duty gas and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles by 2050
- Develop interim GHG emissions goals in the Energy Strategy update scheduled for 2016.

Members discussed municipal involvement, and the planned outreach that will include education on transitioning to renewable energy, and the challenges with transportation as it relates to rural development. The housing strategy was discussed as a key component in quantifying the housing needs in the County. A resolution to accept the Energy Roadmap will be presented to the Legislature in April.

Comprehensive Plan Measures – Joan Jurkowich opened her discussion with an interim update on a previous presentation on Comprehensive Plan measures, noting the Board’s interest in employment diversity and how it relates to similar geographic areas. She went on to report on her research using Census data on student population, geographic size, and overall populations to identify counties that are similar to Tompkins County. She found that there were 14 counties in the US that were within 50% +/- of Tompkins for those 3 categories. She said that Tompkins County has 46% of its jobs in the “education, health care, and social assistance” sectors, and all of the other similar 14 counties had lower percentages, indicating more diversity in jobs than is found here. Members suggested including the total employment for non-higher education versus higher education employment, as well as the ratio.

Commissioner’s Report – Ed Marx announced Jennifer Turner’s resignation from the Planning Department and thanked her for her service to the Planning Advisory Board. Members added their thanks and wished her well in her future career. Microgrid Feasibility - Ed reported that the final presentation was made by the consultants for the microgrid feasibility study for the area around the airport, and that a cost benefit analysis is pending. He said there is now potential to move into stage 2 of NY Prize, which would involve a more detailed feasibility and design analysis. The stage 2 funding announcement is expected in April, with applications due in June. The grants are upwards of \$1 million, and will require a 15% local match. The micro-grid is being designed to provide 85% the total energy needs for all of the users in the area through the combination of local generation that would include PV, CHP, and an anaerobic digester based on food and agricultural waste. A final report will be available in April. DOT Relocation – It was reported that the DOT relocation study is complete and that recommendations include redevelopment that will include residential and commercial uses. The potential value is around \$40 million with the relocation costs approximately \$14 million.

Announcements – Gay Nicholson announced a series on Tompkins County’s Housing Issues, taking place at the Earth Day celebration on April 21, at The Space at Greenstar. Fernando DeAragon announced that the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure planning grant is underway and that Energetics has been hired as the consultant on the project. Dooley Kiefer noted the Ithaca Journal’s article on Governor Cuomo’s approach at keeping nuclear plants open in New York State.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
Tompkins County Planning Department