

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, February 27, 2008
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
615 WILLOW AVENUE

MINUTES

Members Present -- Dick Coogan, Fernando de Aragon, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Martha Robertson, Monika Roth, Andy Zepp

Members Excused -- Dave Herrick, Gay Nicholson

Members Absent -- Rick Couture, Betty Falcao, John Gutenberger, John Spence, Michael Stamm, Fred Wilcox

Others Present --Katie Borgella (TCPD), Joan Jurkowich (TCPD), Jeanne Leccese (TCPD), Ed Marx (Commissioner of Planning & PW), Leslie Schill (TCPD), Debbie Teeter (Cooperative Extension), Kathy Wilsea (TCPD)

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:18 AM by the Chair, Dick Coogan. Due to lack of a quorum, many agenda items were postponed.

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Committee – Leslie Schill provided information on the efforts of TCPD to establish a steering committee to recommend data sources, provide research, and establish scope of the project. Leslie distributed a draft timeline, which included adoption of the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element to the County Comprehensive Plan by the County Legislature at the end of 2008. Five PAB members have volunteered to serve: Fernando de Aragon, Gay Nicholson, Dick Coogan, Dooley Kiefer, and Martha Robertson. Dominic Frongillo has also been recommended, and Kenny Christianson and Glynn Bebee are EMC members who signed up. Dooley expressed surprise that only two EMC members signed up, and Ed Marx said the EMC Energy Committee can provide review and comment. Dick Coogan, as PAB chair, appointed the eight members to the steering committee.

Eight-Year Review of Agriculture District 2 – This will be rescheduled for PAB in March, then PDEQ and the County Legislature in April. The public hearing will proceed on 3/18. Debbie Teeter will check NYS law for hard deadlines and inform Ed Marx if the proposed changes need to be addressed sooner.

Expenditure Request from Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic & Recreational Resource Protection – Andy Zepp said this opportunity is part of an ongoing effort to secure land in the Lick Brook corridor. The request is for Tompkins County to participate in sharing the cost of a 7-acre parcel on Sand Bank Road. The property has 1,100 feet of frontage on Lick Brook and potentially provides connection to a 50-acre parcel upstream that may come to FLLT as a donation. The parcel is also adjacent to lands protected by conservation easement and in use by the Finger Lakes Trail. It is pristine, close to Ithaca, and in a Unique Natural Area. The parcel will be subdivided from the Hanson farm property, and the adjacent ten acres will be used for

housing, leaving 40 acres that may be protected through PDR. The Capital Reserve Fund currently has a balance around \$56,000, and County staff considers the site a good target for conservation with County funds. The County is selling some surplus land to State Parks, and with this site a walking trail loop could be formed. FLLT has a purchase agreement, but seeks partners so they don't deplete their reserve fund. Comments were supportive, but since this requires PAB vote, it will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Rural Small Business Loan Committee – Jeanne Lecesse reported that the loan program was established several years ago to provide business loans of \$5,000 to \$25,000 at 3% interest to qualified applicants who have completed training at Alternatives FCU. Applicants must meet the low-to-moderate income criteria. The committee will craft application forms, review applications, make recommendations for funding, and plan outreach. John Gutenberger has volunteered to serve, and County Legislator Mike Sigler was recommended. Since the Economic Development Revolving Loan program is going to TCAD, some of those committee members might be willing to serve on the Rural SBL committee. Jeanne recently mailed program information to all banks in the County. Dick suggested sending information to the towns, as they get inquiries at their offices. Martha suggested informing Legislators and maybe having them deliver information to the municipal offices in their districts. Other suggestions were John Spence, Monika Roth, and Gary Watrous. This committee will be established next month.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department

Minutes adopted by PAB on March 26, 2008.

Membership:

Dick Coogan, Local Planning (non-urban)	Gay Nicholson, At-Large
Rick Couture, Education	Martha Robertson, Planning Committee
Fernando deAragon, Transportation	Monika Roth, Agriculture
Betty Falcao, Human Services	John Spence, Housing
John Gutenberger, Education	Michael Stamm, Economic Development
Dave Herrick, Facilities/Infrastructure	Fred Wilcox, Local Planning (urban)
Dooley Kiefer, Associate Member	Andy Zepp, Land Pres./Public Land Mgmt.