

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, April 23, 2008
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
615 WILLOW AVENUE

MINUTES

Members Present – Martha Armstrong, Dick Coogan, Fernando de Aragon, John Gutenberger, Dave Herrick, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Peter Penniman, Monika Roth, Scott Whitham, Fred Wilcox

Members Excused -- Betty Falcao, Gay Nicholson , Martha Robertson

Members Absent -- Rick Couture, John Spence, Andy Zepp

Others Present – Joan Jurkowich (Planning Dept.), Jeanne Leccese (TCPD), Ed Marx (Commissioner of Planning & PW), Leslie Schill (TCPD), Debbie Teeter (Cooperative Extension)

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by the Chair, Dick Coogan. New member Peter Penniman was introduced.

Additions to Agricultural District 1 – Debbie Teeter provided information on the process behind the request for addition being reviewed today. Ken Miller, who has property in the Village and Town of Dryden, is requesting that his Village property be returned to the Ag District. Since making his request last year, Mr. Miller has purchased additional adjacent farm property that is in the Ag District. In discussion with the Village board, one trustee was mildly supportive, one spoke in opposition, and the board took no action at the meeting and has provided no statement. There is a vague proposal for senior housing in the vicinity. Ag District 1 will be up for complete review in 2012.

Moved by Fred Wilcox: Because there has not been a positive recommendation from the Village Board, the PAB does not recommend including these two parcels in the Ag District. Seconded by Scott Whitham. Vote 8 yes, 1 no (Roth).

Housing Affordability and Community Trust Fund – Jeanne Leccese reviewed the proposal to create a Housing Affordability and Community Trust Fund. The Affordability Fund would loan funds for up-front costs to not-for-profit or for-profit developers who need assistance in order to proceed with an affordable housing project. The Trust Fund would provide NFP or FP developers with funds to help purchase lands that would become part of a housing trust and become permanently affordable (separately from the cost of the house). Draft criteria were discussed. Money would likely come from County and City CDBG funds plus funding from Cornell's housing and transportation initiative. The partnership hopes to release a notice of funding availability in August.

Indicators of Success – Achieving the Policies of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan – Leslie Schill reviewed portions of the 2007 report that relate to topics under discussion at PAB. There is a trend of declining acreage with agriculture assessment, but more protected acreage. Land development and household population growth shows development exceeds population growth. Renewable energy indicators show progress in the greenhouse gas review

and energy audits in County offices. This is in part from the County's contract with Johnson Controls. The report shows some housing affordability decline and vacancy rate decline, but owner-occupied homes have increased.

Commissioner's Report – Ed Marx reported NYS is updating the Open Space Plan, so Ed and Andy Zepp met recently with Tim Joseph, the new Director of Finger Lakes State Parks. The State has for at least 8 years identified Finger Lakes shoreline as a state priority for protection, yet the State has not acquired any significant property in that time. Tim was receptive to taking this message forward to the OS Committee for our region. New public access to the lake is becoming more difficult to achieve as market prices increase. A survey of renters is now underway for off-campus students and other renters in the community. A survey of projected housing needs of people nearing retirement age is also being designed, with hopes to conduct it in the fall. The County closed on the Brown Road property for the future Health Department offices. The PAB committee that will examine reuse or disposal of Biggs B will begin meeting soon. The County established a green fleet fund to help pay the difference between prices of regular vehicles and those that are more energy efficient. Recently funds were approved for two hybrid vehicles for the Health Department. The County Highway Department is focusing on “complete streets” and will be bringing information to PAB on efforts to meet goals of sharing roads with pedestrians and bikes. PAB may be asked for support in educating the community about complete streets. There was a request for discussion at a future meeting on the controversy on Coddington Road widening.

Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2008 – Not addressed because of lack of a quorum at this time.

Announcements – Tonight a public meeting will be conducted at Paleontological Research Institute on the Route 96 Corridor Study. This was mentioned as another good topic for a future PAB meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department

Minutes adopted by PAB on June 25, 2008.

Membership:

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