

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, July 25, 2012
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM
125 East Court Street

MINUTES

Members Present – Michelle Berry, Will Burbank, Rick Couture, Fernando de Aragon, John Gutenberger, Dave Herrick, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Kathy Schlather, Scott Whitham, Andy Zepp

Members Excused -- Mina Amundsen, Martha Armstrong, Todd Bittner, Dick Coogan, Sue Cosentini, John Spence

Member Absent – David Kay, Gay Nicholson, Monika Roth, Rob Steuteville

Others Present – Joan Jurkowich (TCPD), Ed Marx (Commissioner of Planning & Community Sustainability), Leslie Schill (TCPD), Debbie Teeter (CCE), Kathy Wilsea (TCPD)

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by the Fernando De Aragon, Acting Chair. There were no changes to the agenda.

Proposed Addition to Agriculture District – Debbie Teeter was present, representing the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board for Cornell Cooperative Extension. There is one request for addition to Ag District 2 in the Town of Ithaca. The owner requests that property that was previously partly fallow and partly rented for agriculture be added to the Ag District. He has worked with the Town of Ithaca to subdivide the property into a portion for Ithaca Beer's brewery and this larger portion that he wishes to add to the Ag District. Addition to the Ag District is supported by the Town. Dooley Kiefer asked about the wetlands on the property, which do not show on the map. Debbie said the owner only wishes to farm that part that was previously farmed, and she will check with him about Dooley's concerns. If the smaller section that was subdivided off is not used for the brewery, it would be appropriate for sales, bistro, or community supported agriculture. PAB Bylaws allow for a Sense of the Body action in the absence of a quorum. Fernando asked if those present supported having the property added to the Ag District, which was supported unanimously.

Final Draft of the Conservation Strategy – Leslie Schill explained the draft was updated based on discussion at PAB's last meeting, public comment, and input of experts. She was present today to discuss any questions. During discussion, minor changes were made to language, including invasive species, anticipated impacts of climate change, and exclusion of vertical high volume hydrofracturing on page 19. In another Sense of the Body action, Fernando asked about support for the final draft, and voting members present supported endorsing it.

Commissioner's Report – Ed Marx welcomed new member Michelle Berry and introductions were made around the room. ▪ The RFP for Biggs B property has been released, with responses due in October, and spelling out the guidelines of Climate Showcase Communities. An on-site meeting has been offered to interested parties and five people have asked to attend. ▪ Southern Tier East Regional Planning & Development Board has approached Ed about having Tompkins County join again. That will be considered later this year. Right now, Ed is helping STERPDB review eleven Appalachian Regional Commission funding applications and TCPD staff is interacting with them to develop the Regional Sustainability Plan. ▪ In addition to the ARC applications, local projects can apply for funding through the Consolidated Funding Application process, which just

had a deadline, and through the regional Rural Initiative, which is funded by a block of money from last year's CFA process. ▪ EcoVillage and Aurora Street Pocket Neighborhood have broken ground on their Climate Showcase Communities projects and are on track for completion in the next six to ten months. They are learning much that will benefit other designers and builders. EVI hired two groups to help with education/outreach materials and development of key messaging that can be used broadly on websites and in conferences.

Announcements – Fernando announced the Black Diamond Trail has applied for a grant that would wrap up the project and allow use of the bridge funding for much of our local match. Application was for \$1,095,000 from the Department of State's Local Waterfront Redevelopment Program. Statewide the program has \$15 million. ▪ Ed announced the NYS Secretary of State will be in Ithaca next Friday to celebrate the Cayuga Lake Waterfront Trail. ▪ Ed also announced Seneca County is ready to contract a consultant for the Blueway Trail, and the selected consultant has lots of bikeway experience. ▪ Andy Zepp invited members to the 9/22 dedication of the newest Finger Lakes Land Trust property, located on the west side of Cayuga Lake, north of Sheldrake. ▪ Rick Couture asked if the Blueway Trail will be a loop, and Ed said part of the consultant's work will be to study how people want to use it. ▪ Will Burbank asked if anyone was informed about a change in federal policy that allows utilities to cut trees in instances when the trees previously would have been topped. Ed said this is contrary to Climate Showcase Communities support of tree planting to reduce temperature changes anticipated from climate change. Andy said Washington DC has lots of power outages from downed trees because they slacked off annual maintenance, and speculated that what Will heard may be a policy that allows response to emergencies.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department

Minutes adopted by PAB on August 22, 2012.

Membership:

Mina Amundsen, At-Large	Dave Herrick, Facilities/Infrastructure
Martha Armstrong, Economic Dev.	David Kay, Local Planning (urban)
Michelle Courtney Berry, At-Large	Dooley Kiefer, Associate Member
Todd Bittner, Natural Environment	Gay Nicholson, At-Large
Will Burbank, Planning Committee	Monika Roth, Agriculture
Dick Coogan, Local Planning (non-urban)	Kathy Schlather, Human Services
Sue Cosentini, Business	John Spence, Housing
Rick Couture, Education	Rob Steuteville, Built Environment Design
Fernando de Aragon, Transportation	Scott Whitham, Cultural & Historic Pres.
John Gutenberger, Education	Andy Zepp, Land Pres./Public Land Mgmt.