

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

MINUTES

Members Present – Martha Armstrong, Dick Coogan, Fernando de Aragon, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Gay Nicholson , Peter Penniman, John Spence, Andy Zepp

Members Excused -- Betty Falcao, John Gutenberger, Dave Herrick, Martha Robertson ,
Monika Roth,

Members Absent -- Rick Couture, Scott Whitham, Fred Wilcox,

Others Present – Katie Borgella (TCPD), Ed Marx (Commissioner of Planning & PW),
Kathy Wilsea (TCPD)

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by the Chair, Dick Coogan.

Commissioner's Report – Ed Marx reported that he met with Varna community members as a followup to the Route 13/366 Corridor Study. He attended a meeting for discussion of the housing trust fund and building fund, organized by City staff, and they will meet again in September. TCPD began a contract with Trumansburg to update the Village's zoning ordinance. Ed attended a TCAT meeting on transit development planning. The consultant hired by TCAT recommends establishing service warrants, where TCAT would not expand into an area unless certain criteria were met (i.e., density). The County is negotiating a Payment In Lieu Of Taxes agreement with AES Cayuga. AES Cayuga is already trying to find ways to reduce their carbon footprint by looking to co-fire their coal plants with 10% biomass and finding ways to store excess energy for release during peak hours. The Park Foundation is planning a comprehensive evaluation of housing stock condition, and AFCU may offer low-interest financing for energy efficiency improvements. That meeting had much discussion on rental housing and how to get them included in the initiative. The airport recently added new jet service to Detroit, and Continental will begin service to Newark in the fall. A joint office site is being examined for County Office For the Aging and LifeLong. The new Health Department site will have some deconstruction this fall, and the construction next year may be LEED silver certified. Cornell sent TCPD a draft Transportation Impact Mitigation Study for tGEIS projects, which Ed passed around. USDA sent Ed a letter requesting information on a closed historic bridge that used to connect agriculture property in the Town of Dryden. This is a very low volume road, and would require a lengthy design process for replacement. The funding has been lost, so replacement would need to be funded by the Town of Dryden and Tompkins County. NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation wants the bridge reused if moved, whether or not it is replaced. County Administrator Steve Whicher is concerned about gas drilling issues. Many citizens who signed gas exploration leases were not aware of the new hydrofracking technology. Steve Whicher suggests baseline water well testing so residents can get remediation if their water source is damaged. Most large farms in the

area have gas exploration leases in place. A public meeting will be held October 28 at Paleontological Research Institution, 6:30 PM, on the findings and recommendations of the Route 96 Corridor Study.

Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2008 – Not addressed due to lack of a quorum.

Schedule November/December Meeting – Fernando de Aragon suggested both meetings be rescheduled to one week prior to regular dates, so new dates would be November 19 and December 17. Proposal was accepted by consensus.

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element of the Tompkins County

Comprehensive Plan – Katie Borgella provided a handout with the schedule of outreach meetings. She thanked the committee of PAB that served as the EGGE steering committee, along with Glynn Bebee, Kenny Christianson, and Dominic Frongillo. Leslie Schill made a presentation to PDEQ on 8/14, and comments from county legislators who serve on PDEQ have been incorporated into the draft sent to PAB members prior to today's meeting. PAB comments will be incorporated into the draft plan prior to making it available to the public. Katie expects to visit PAB again in October to provide an update on comments received from the public presentations. Keeping policies focused on what can be accomplished in Tompkins County follows the format of the existing Comp Plan. In order to be listed as an action item, the item needs a local partner willing to take on the action within five years. Items already mentioned in other elements were not included in the EGGE element. Statements were kept as general as possible in order to garner best support. Other discussion mentioned providing source information for statistics, how best to provide examples, how to calculate the combined impact of heat and travel improvements, how to show what can be accomplished by any household with decisions that are available in the normal course of life, and the choice not to prioritize action items.

Announcements – Gay Nicholson said she has been invited by the Office for the Aging and NYS Department of State to participate in a planning initiative on housing for aging populations. She seeks input on zoning for senior housing. Katie said universal design can be incorporated in building codes, and designs can provide ways for seniors to be active. Ed said if projects want to qualify for public subsidies, they should be restricted to locations with proximity to existing services. Dick Coogan announced that Cooperative Extension has hired Sharon Anderson for their new Environmental Team Coordinator position.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department

Minutes adopted by PAB on October 22, 2008.

Membership:

Martha Armstrong, Economic Dev.
Dick Coogan, Local Planning (non-urban)
Rick Couture, Education
Fernando deAragon, Transportation
Betty Falcao, Human Services
John Gutenberger, Education
Dave Herrick, Facilities/Infrastructure
Dooley Kiefer, Associate Member

Gay Nicholson, At-Large
Peter Penniman, Business
Martha Robertson, Planning Committee
Monika Roth, Agriculture
John Spence, Housing
Scott Whitham, Cultural & Historic Pres.
Fred Wilcox, Local Planning (urban)
Andy Zepp, Land Pres./Public Land Mgmt.