

**PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Wednesday, August 26, 2009**  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
**615 WILLOW AVENUE**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present** – Mina Amundsen, Dick Coogan, Fernando de Aragon, John Gutenberger, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Pam Mackesey, Gay Nicholson, Peter Penniman, Monika Roth, Fred Wilcox, Andy Zepp

**Members Excused** -- Martha Armstrong, Dave Herrick, John Spence, Scott Whitham,  
**Member Absent** -- Rick Couture

**Others Present** – Joan Jurkowich (Planning Dept.), Ed Marx (Commissioner of Planning & PW), Martha Robertson (T C Legislator), Kathy Wilsea (TCPD)

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by the Chair, Fernando de Aragon. Ed Marx introduced Mina Amundsen, a new at-large member. Introductions were made around the room.

**Changes to the Agenda** – Approval of minutes was moved forward.

**Approval of Minutes from July 22** – Draft minutes were moved by Peter Penniman, seconded by Fred Wilcox and approved by voice vote with no changes.

**Prioritize Potential Action Items for Update of the Tompkins County**

**Comprehensive Plan** – Joan Jurkowich explained that the 2009 update would not be a complete rewrite. It will focus on changes to the action items for the next five years. The first step is to clean up the list of suggestions. She noted the list includes action items from the original Comp Plan that have not been completed. There was discussion on process, which is to provide additions and deletions today, distribute the revisions to members by email, receive ideas for prioritization from members by email, and discuss further at a future PAB meeting. Efforts will then be made by staff to link the remaining action items with lead agencies. Only action items that have lead agencies will go forward for inclusion in the Comp Plan. Most of the meeting time was devoted to discussion on the list of suggestions and ideas for additions.

**Commissioner's Report** – Ed Marx reported that the budget process for the Planning Department has forced some adjustments. All department functions were examined in terms of being important, effective, and least duplicative. Three areas remained for focus: housing and Development Focus Areas, conservation (agriculture, Natural Features Focus Areas, and stream corridors), and action items from the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions element of the Comp Plan. He noted that ITCTC already focuses on transportation and TCAD already focuses on economic development. John Gutenberger commented that other agencies and municipalities are facing reduced resources, too, and the ability of TCPD to provide knowledge and organization may be

called upon because of this. Ed said there is lots of energy in our community, and sometimes it is dispersed because too many groups are working on the same issues.

On the energy side, federal and state efforts are making stimulus money available. Tompkins County applied for a Climate Showcase Community grant through the Environmental Protection Agency. The two programs submitted are (1) examine biomass for domestic heating in rural areas in terms of local growing, local production, and getting equipment into households, and (2) build on the Solid Waste Business Reuse program to include an energy efficiency component that would address buildings, energy use, and fleets. EPA requires documentation of reduction. There is conjecture that EPA will use project results for models that will be used by other communities. TCPD also submitted a grant application for energy reduction in County buildings. Projects are solar hot water for Public Safety and Human Services buildings, replacement of lights at the Solid Waste facility, and HVAC replacement at the Public Works garage. Andy Zepp facilitated a meeting with Cayuga and Seneca counties, and the three counties will apply for a Blueway Trail planning grant. Staff time would be our in-kind contribution.

**Announcements** – Monika Roth said Cooperative Extension is applying for funding to update the Ag Plan. Martha Robertson said the Continuum of Care is receiving a grant to fund services.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary  
Tompkins County Planning Department

Minutes adopted by PAB on October 28, 2009.

**Membership:**

Mina Amundsen, At-Large	Pam Mackesey, Planning Committee
Martha Armstrong, Economic Dev.	Gay Nicholson, At-Large
Dick Coogan, Local Planning (non-urban)	Peter Penniman, Business
Rick Couture, Education	Monika Roth, Agriculture
Fernando deAragon, Transportation	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.