

final

**PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, September 26, 2012
SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM
125 East Court Street**

MINUTES

Members Present – Mina Amundsen, Todd Bittner, Will Burbank, Dick Coogan, John Gutenberger, David Kay, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Gay Nicholson, Monika Roth, Kathy Schlather, Andy Zepp

Members Excused -- Martha Armstrong, Michelle Berry, Sue Cosentini, Rick Couture, Fernando de Aragon, Dave Herrick, John Spence, Rob Steuteville, Scott Whitham,

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

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by the Chair, Mina Amundsen. There were no changes to the agenda.

Cleaner Greener Regional Sustainability Plan Update – Leslie Schill presented a slide show on the Regional Sustainability Plan. Regional boundary matches that established for the Regional Economic Development Council, and each of the ten REDCs will be preparing a sustainability plan. Statewide there will be \$90 million awarded over three years for Phase II implementation. The four partners working on our plan are Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board, Southern Tier East Regional Planning and Development Board, Tompkins County Planning Department and ICF Inc. (consultant). The 18 goals are on the website at cleanergreenersoutherntier.org. Natural gas drilling will be dealt with in a separate, companion document. Ed Marx spoke of the difficulties of working with the eight counties that were put together for the Southern Tier REDC with no central city, no recognition, two regional planning and development boards, and uncertainty about how long this artificial boundary will last. But they hope to grow into a regional working group.

The next phase of public outreach is scheduled for Thursday, 10/11/12 at 6:30 PM, at Tompkins County Public Library. Leslie noted some PAB members may be invited to stakeholder meetings during the day, where the topics will be working lands/open space and university innovation.

John Gutenberger asked if this entails lots of TCPD work, and do any of the funds stay here. Joan Jurkowich said some funds stay here, and it has involved more work than anticipated because we are first in the process and we are a disparate region. Ed said, in terms of the work program, TCPD sees this as a funding source for other things we want to do. The project could only have a municipality apply for funding. Also, sustainability issues need to be regional, and this is a way to engage other counties. Joan pointed out the plan involves some projects we might have undertaken anyway. Ed added it is a valuable opportunity to work with ICF Inc.

Andy Zepp asked how job creation opportunities look. Leslie said the team is now pulling together projects, which will need to meet greenhouse gas indicators. ICF is crunching numbers now. The plan has to speak to jobs or saving money to get the attention of municipalities. Ed feels there is huge job potential for energy efficiency and technical development. Gay Nicholson commented she attended a meeting at Cornell about the REDC plan, where there was discussion about the amount of funding going to bricks and mortar projects. Some attendees there felt this sustainability plan will be better for people projects. Ed couldn't agree or disagree, but said projects will need to be able to document direct energy reductions. Leslie pointed out that \$30 million per year is spread over the ten regions, so the Southern Tier might not qualify for much. Applications will have to go to other funding sources, too. Ed said the sustainability plan definitely includes training and education/outreach. He suggested PAB members submit comments on the website in addition to

taking part in today's discussion. Leslie said the plan development team wants to show some scenarios for how our region can build on the plan.

Commissioner's Report – Ed Marx reported proposals for the Biggs RFP are due 10/9. A meeting was held on site for interested developers. He has had conversations with one developer. He is hearing it is very challenging to meet the parameters of the RFP. He may ask some PAB members to help review proposals. ▪ The Likens request for funding from the Capital Reserve Fund passed at the County Legislature. ▪ Ed reviewed comments made by staff to the Town of Ithaca on their draft Comprehensive Plan. ▪ Staff is receiving 239 reviews from the City for West End development that have the potential to change the cityscape, and staff has provided comments with suggestions for changes, particularly in parking. Joan pointed out the West End Design Study is not being implemented. ▪ The Blue Way Trail Plan is underway with the selected consultant. ▪ Ed just received notice from NYS Ag & Markets that we will be awarded funding for an update of the Agriculture and Farmland Plan. ▪ The Conservation Strategy and Development Focus Areas Strategy will go to the County Legislature next week, with presentations by staff. ▪ The draft 20-Year Capital Plan went to the Capital Review Committee last week. It proposes multi-year funding for facilities maintenance. Replacement of the Public Safety Building was postponed.

Gay Nicholson asked for update on sewer and housing proposals in the Town of Lansing. Ed said there have been some discussions of expansion of sewer service for housing on Warren Road north of the airport, and the Town Center plan envisions about 200 housing units short term. The 300 housing units on Warren Road are outside the Development Focus Area. Each proposal would need a sewer district. The project that gets built first may draw the market away from the other. Gay said some citizens are trying to push through 190 units of senior housing with no consideration for energy efficiency or public input. Ed suggested citizens encourage the Town of Lansing to contact TCPD and ask about implementation project funds for Development Focus Areas.

Approval of Minutes from August 22, 2012 – Minutes were moved by Andy Zepp, seconded by Dick Coogan and accepted without change. Final minutes are available on the Planning Department website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ under Advisory Boards.

Appoint Nominating Committee for 2013 Officers – Mina asked for volunteers, and Monika Roth, John Gutenberg and Kathy Schlather offered to work on finding a slate of officers for 2013.

Select Date of November/December Meeting – Since the regular November date (11/28) falls the week after Thanksgiving, it will be used for the joint Nov/Dec meeting.

Announcements – John Gutenberg reported the proposed housing on Honness Lane will be submitted for sketch plan review soon. Many of the units are designed to be more affordable. Dooley Kiefer asked if anyone had current information on the efforts to keep the community garden open in the City. Monika Roth said the City passed a resolution that buys some time if a developer is identified, but doesn't suggest sites if the gardens have to move. There are very few sites available that can match the size and access of the gardens in the north end. CCE was already talking with the mayor's staff on policy for urban ag & gardening in parks, so that will probably weave into the relocation work. She noted Merkels Flats is not on the table, as there are plans for recreation and parking there for Ithaca City School District and GIAC. Todd Bittner reported Ithaca is within the first DEC Deer Management Area, which encompasses 60,000 acres. Hunters can register with DEC and harvest up to two antlerless deer per day on property where the owner has granted permission to be in the program. Also, January 13-31 will be a special hunting period for antlerless deer. This may serve as a pilot for other areas. More information is available on the Cornell Plantations website: <http://www.cornellplantations.org/our-gardens/natural-areas/stewardship/deer>

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department
Minutes adopted by PAB on October 24, 2012.

Membership:

Mina Amundsen, At-Large
Martha Armstrong, Economic Dev.
Michelle Courtney Berry, At-Large
Todd Bittner, Natural Environment
Will Burbank, Planning Committee
Dick Coogan, Local Planning (non-urban)
Sue Cosentini, Business
Rick Couture, Education
Fernando de Aragon, Transportation
John Gutenberger, Education

Dave Herrick, Facilities/Infrastructure
David Kay, Local Planning (urban)
Dooley Kiefer, Associate Member
Gay Nicholson, At-Large
Monika Roth, Agriculture
Kathy Schlather, Human Services
John Spence, Housing
Rob Steuteville, Built Environment Design
Scott Whitham, Cultural & Historic Pres.
Andy Zepp, Land Pres./Public Land Mgmt.