

**PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2008**  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
**615 WILLOW AVENUE**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present** – Martha Armstrong, Dick Coogan, Fernando de Aragon, John Gutenberger, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Gay Nicholson , Peter Penniman, Martha Robertson , Monika Roth

**Members Excused** -- Dave Herrick, Fred Wilcox, Andy Zepp

**Members Absent** -- Rick Couture, Betty Falcao, John Spence, Scott Whitham,

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

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:12 AM by the Chair, Dick Coogan.

**Final Draft of the Energy & Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan** – Katie Borgella was present to talk about EGGE. She accepted some comments on the SEQR full Environmental Assessment Form and said other comments can be sent to her until November 6<sup>th</sup>. Regarding the final draft element, Dooley Kiefer said LEED certification does not necessarily focus on energy use. Ed Marx said the staff has a discussion on this. Things that are not energy points in LEED can impact long-term energy use, so in many ways LEED certification is transforming the economy. The only items put in as action steps are those that have lead agencies established. There was discussion on how County legislators can remain informed about early federal and state action trends outside the County that can affect our County. Ed Marx pointed out having an advisory board to keep them informed is different from having a board with the capacity to provide analysis. The Comprehensive Plan focuses on local impact in all of its elements. Following discussion, Ed proposed addition of action item: “Identify and, if necessary, create a board or committee to advise the Tompkins County Legislature on proposed federal and state legislation and policy initiatives regarding energy and greenhouse gas emissions.” Addition was moved by Martha Armstrong, seconded by Monika Roth and passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution of Support for Adoption of EGGE by the Tompkins County Legislature**

– Resolution moved by Peter Penniman, seconded by Fernando de Aragon. Dooley proposed change to second Whereas clause and language corrections, which were accepted as friendly. Resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Approval of Minutes from June, August and September** – Acceptance of the three documents was moved by Fernando de Aragon, seconded by Martha Armstrong. Dooley Kiefer suggested changes to the September draft, which were accepted as friendly. Accepted of minutes from the three meetings was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Topics for Discussion and Identification of Future PAB Roles -- Parks, Recreation, Trails and Conservation – What is the County Role?:** Ed Marx said Andy Zepp has asked him how the County can help on issues that cross municipal boundaries, like recreation and conservation. Potential is not being accomplished because one municipality can't lead the whole project. Stewart Park and management of recreation trails were examples. Following discussion, Martha Robertson encouraged discussion with municipalities to identify gaps in opportunities to work together. Managing and Maintaining Public Infrastructure in Time of Escalating Costs/Diminishing Resources: Ed said this is somewhat in the context of the County Budget. There is no identifiable new federal funding in the next ten years. We need a strategy that's outside the box. Federal studies use speed limits to dictate levels of improvement. So, what if we asked to reduce the speed on County roads to 45 MPH? Ed wondered if we could get the public to adapt with a public education campaign and diligent law enforcement. He also wondered what level of plowing is acceptable as a standard of service for keeping roads clear in the winter. There was agreement that both of these topics are pertinent and of interest to members.

**Commissioner's Report** – Ed said he expects a forum for advisory board members to be scheduled in the second week of November on gas drilling. Possible speakers are Susan Riha, someone from USGS, and a representative from an energy company. This would have an opportunity to ask questions and be better prepared to comment to DEC on the draft gEIS. On 11/12, an evening meeting will be held on nodal development. The consultant report on the Route 96 Corridor Study will be held next week at PRI.

**Announcements** – Peter Penniman said it's clear we need to encourage optimal baseline water testing for citizens undertaking gas drilling leases. He has heard of some septic failures. Dick Coogan said Cooperative Extension is recommending baseline studies. He suggested a question for the forum: What should be in a baseline water study? Kathy Wilsea said if PAB meets in November, the meeting will take place at the Old Jail Conference Room. She will include specific reminders in email announcements.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department  
Minutes adopted by PAB on December 17, 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.