

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, December 17, 2008
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
615 WILLOW AVENUE

MINUTES

Members Present – Martha Armstrong, Dick Coogan, Fernando de Aragon, Dave Herrick, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Peter Penniman, Martha Robertson, Monika Roth, John Spence, Scott Whitham, Fred Wilcox, Andy Zepp

Members Excused -- John Gutenberger, Gay Nicholson

Member Absent -- Rick Couture

Others Present – Joan Jurkowich (Planning Dept.), Ed Marx (Commissioner of Planning & PW), Kathy Wilsea (TCPD)

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by the Chair, Dick Coogan.

Commissioner's Report – Ed Marx reported that Betty Falcao has resigned from PAB. He will be trying to fill vacancies in the next few months. The Governor's proposed budget has been released. It may affect some grants that the Planning Department is working with. Ed has spoken with his colleagues about encouraging the state to fund comprehensive planning at the municipal level instead of the "flavor of the day" grant programs. He is receiving positive response from other planning commissioners. Comprehensive planning is established in NYS law. He doesn't expect a lot of direct impact from the state budget, but it will have a trickle down effect. The addition of the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions element to the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan passed in the County Legislature last night 9-4.

TCPD Work Program Discussion – Joan Jurkowich provided a handout of potential activities and provided a quick review. Next year will be the fifth year of our Comp Plan, and staff will be reviewing goals and setting up action items for the next five years. There was much discussion on the potential use of the county room tax to support recreation initiatives for tourism. This could set up daytime activities for visitors who arrive for cultural events. The Strategic Tourism Planning Board has formed an outdoor recreation committee. Ed Marx said there was an effort to apply for a tourism grant, but the measures of success for outdoor recreation don't fit the current application parameters. Andy Zepp pointed out that trail initiatives in general need professional attention in order to get organized. He said he has been organizing his thoughts for a concept paper, which would promote having one person with three job functions: the Finger Lakes Trail implementation plan, Cayuga Lake Water Trail ("Blue Way") development, and help for municipalities with recreation trails. Sports-related local businesses have voiced support, but not provided any action. Martha Armstrong pointed out that phase 2 of the Stewart Park Study will be how to set up a management system, and the concepts could apply to many other projects in the community. Models exist for Adopt-A-Trail volunteer cleanup groups.

Commissioner's Report (continued) – Ed wanted to add that the Planning Department submitted comments to DEC on the gas drilling supplemental generic Environmental Impact Statement scoping document. Kathy Wilsea will email the five documents we have available: County Legislature resolution, and comments from EMC, Planning Department, State Parks and Board of Health.

Election of Officers for 2009 – Martha Armstrong and John Gutenberger served on the Nominating Committee, and had no report. Martha Robertson nominated Fernando de Aragon to serve as chair, which was seconded by Andy Zepp and passed by unanimous voice vote. Martha Armstrong nominated Peter Penniman to serve as vice chair, which was seconded by Scott Whitham and passed by unanimous voice vote. Kathy Wilsea will send PAB Bylaws out by email so members can brush up on them.

Announcements – Martha Robertson said Tompkins County and Ithaca will be featured in a USA Air magazine for passengers. She is seeking ideas for the federal stimulus package, and met with Congressman Hinchey yesterday. Members are invited to send her ideas.

Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2008 – The date will be corrected in the header of the draft minutes, and Dooley Kiefer suggested two changes. Amended minutes moved by Fred Wilcox, seconded by Martha Robertson and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department

Minutes adopted by PAB on April 22, 2009.

Membership:

Martha Armstrong, Economic Dev.
Dick Coogan, Local Planning (non-urban)
Rick Couture, Education
Fernando deAragon, Transportation
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.