

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022
Via Zoom
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

Name		Representation	Name		Representation
Joe Bowes	P	Housing	Marcus Riehl	P	Natural Environment
Fernando de Aragón	P	Transportation	Leslie Schill	P	Education #2
Jordan Decker	P	Energy	Kathy Schlather	P	Human Services
Yamila Fournier	E	Built Environment	Andy Zepp	P	Land Preserv./Public Land Mgmt.
George Frantz	P	Agriculture			
David Herrick	P	Facilities/Infrastructure	Deborah Dawson	E	Legislative Liaison
Susan Holland	P	Cultural/Historic Preservation			
David Kay	P	Local Planning (urban)	Others Present		
Ernie McClatchie	P	Education #1	Katie Borgella	P	Commissioner
Heather McDaniel	P	Economic Development	Scott Doyle	P	Associate Planner
Thomas Knipe	P	Business	Kristin McCarthy	P	Administrative Assistant
Gay Nicholson	E	At-Large	Megan McDonald	P	Deputy Commissioner
C.J. Randall	P	Local Planning (non-urban)			

Guests: Anne Koreman

Call to Order: Chair C.J. Randall called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. Returning members, new members, and Department of Planning and Sustainability staff introduced themselves and shared a little about their professional background and connection to Tompkins County.

Privilege of the Floor: None

Agenda Review/Changes: None

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (Oct. 12, 2021): The draft October meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the members present (moved by Dave Herrick and seconded by Kathy Schlather). Motion carried.

Action: Nominating and Electing Chair and Vice Chair – Nominating Committee

Dave Herrick, on behalf of the Nominating Committee (David Herrick, Joe Bowes, Monika Roth), presented the 2022 Slate of Officers for consideration. Nominations were solicited from the floor but none were offered.

Action: David Herrick made a motion, which Andy Zepp seconded, to elect Leslie Schill the 2022 Chair and C.J. Randall Vice Chair of the Planning Advisory Board. CJ Randall abstained. Motion carried by members present.

Report/Action: Natural Infrastructure Capital Program Funding Request for the Lick Brook at Route 13 Gateway

Acquisition – Scott Doyle, DPS

Scott Doyle asked the board to support the use of \$16,500 from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Program to assist the Finger Lakes Land Trust in acquiring the 7-acre Lick Brook at Route 13 Gateway property. Referring to background material provided in the agenda packet, Scott gave an overview of the Natural Infrastructure Capital Program, which has helped conserve some 1,000 acres in Tompkins County. He explained how the Lick Brook project meets the requirements of the program and reported that it was reviewed in advance by the PAB's Natural Infrastructure Subcommittee (subcommittee member Andy Zepp did not participate in these discussions). Subcommittee members shared thoughts on the project and Andy provided more details, conveying the Town of Ithaca's support for the acquisition. The acquisition would secure a popular gateway to Lick Brook and the Emerald Necklace Greenbelt and provide access to one of the most heavily used segments of the Finger Lakes Trail.

Discussion covered such topics as funding stream protection, potential capital improvements, trail connectivity and property's relevance to the Tompkins County Priority Trails Strategy, zoning concerns, improved traffic safety and public access, site development, and more.

Action: Leslie Schill made a motion, which Tom Knipe seconded, to recommend the Tompkins County Legislature approve the use of \$16,500 in funds from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Program to support the acquisition of the Lick Brook at Route 13 Gateway property. Motion carried by members present. Andy Zepp abstained. did not participate in subcommittee discussion.

Report/Action: Natural Infrastructure Capital Program Funding Request for Bell Station Acquisition – Scott Doyle

Scott Doyle asked the board to support the use of \$111,050 from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Program to assist the Finger Lakes Land Trust in acquiring the 470-acre Bell Station property in the Town of Lansing. Scott reviewed the funding eligibility requirements, highlighting that the property is identified as a priority protection area in the County's Conservation Plan. He also shared that this is the largest and most complex land-acquisition project to be considered for funding by the Natural Infrastructure Capital Program and would ultimately result in the formalized protection of approximately 270 acres along the lakeshore by New York State. The remaining 200 acres of the property is being explored for solar and agricultural use. Subcommittee members shared thoughts on the project. Andy Zepp then gave an overview of the property, which the Finger Lakes Land Trust has strived to protect for over a decade, as well as ongoing negotiations between the Land Trust and key stakeholders, including NYSEG, Town of Lansing, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Andy explained that County funds would not be used to purchase the property but rather to cover additional direct costs, such as transaction expenses, surveying and appraisal of the property, as well as staffing and infrastructure improvements. The Q&A discussion covered various topics, including additional funding sources, economic development, future of former site of the Cayuga Power Plant, bitcoin mining, and possibility of County funds being used only for the 270 acres slated for conservation. DPS staff will specify details of how capital infrastructure funds will be used for this project in the memo accompanying the final proposal forwarded to the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality legislative committee for recommendation.

Action: George Frantz made a motion, which David Kay seconded, to recommend the Tompkins County Legislature approve the use of \$111,050 in funds from the *Natural Infrastructure Capital Program* to support the acquisition of the Bell Station property. Motion carried by members present, with Heather McDaniel voting in opposition and David Kay and Andy Zepp abstaining.

Report/Discussion: 2021 TC 239 Development Review Summary – Scott Doyle, DPS

Scott's report was postponed until the February meeting due to time constraints.

Discussion: 2022 DPS Work Program Ideas – Katie Borgella

Katie painted a few broad strokes in terms of the department's various areas of focus (e.g., affordable housing, sustainable energy, 239 GML review, conservation planning, tourism development) and shared a few Legislature-funded projects in the pipeline for its work program in 2022. These included a traffic calming and control study to be done in coordination with the Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council as part of the larger Reimagining Public Safety initiative, broadband access expansion, the County's Green Facilities and Green Vehicles program, the Community Housing Development Fund, and more. She will bring a draft of the work program to the board in February for their input and asked members to email her with any questions or suggestions in the meantime.

Member Items – None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm.