

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Via Zoom
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

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

Guests: Shawna Black

Call to Order/Agenda Review and Changes/Privilege of the Floor: Chair Leslie Schill called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. No changes to the agenda. There were no speakers for privilege of the floor.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (Jan. 11 and Feb. 8, 2022): The draft January 2022 (motion by Anne Koreman, second by David Herrick) and February 2022 (motion by Fernando de Aragón, second by Yamila Fournier) meeting minutes were approved by the members present.

Information: Legislature Chair 2022 Message and Organizational Structure – Shawna Black, TC Legislature Chair
 DPS Commissioner Katie Borgella welcomed Shawna to the meeting, and the group engaged in a quick round of introductions. Shawna spoke about her professional and personal background and thanked PAB members for their service to County government. She then shared highlights from 2021, including the hiring of Terry Carroll as the County's chief sustainability officer and the 2021 Tompkins County Housing Snapshot, as well as work on ongoing initiatives related to resiliency and recovery planning, broadband access expansion, greening of the County's fleet and facilities, tourism, and the community recovery fund. She also reported on operations for legislative committees in 2022, sharing that affordable housing issues will be addressed by the Health and Human Services Committee and that the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality and Housing and Economic Development Committees have been combined into the singular Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee. Q&A discussion touched on best methods for sharing information between advisory boards and legislators and protocols for reporting to legislative committees. In closing, Shawna thanked the Planning and Sustainability Department and colleagues from around County government for their hard work and dedication to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Report/Discussion: DPS Comments on NYS Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan – Terry Carroll, DPS

Terry led a discussion on the draft NYS Climate Action Scoping Plan with an eye toward soliciting feedback from PAB members to help inform the Planning and Sustainability Department's comments. His presentation covered the development timeline for the scoping plan and progress made by the 22-member NYS Climate Action Council, which was tasked with authoring the plan as part of the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. He highlighted the various framing chapters and sectors/topics covered, noting that Planning and Sustainability

staff plan to focus their comments on buildings, electricity, agriculture and forestry, land use, gas system transition, and other specific sectors, as well as cross-sector strategies. In addition, the department will likely comment on the impact of recommendations on rural communities and local governments. Other County stakeholders, including the Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council, Department of Recycling and Materials Management, and Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board, plan to submit comments as well. The Q&A discussion touched on various topics, including funding, need for state to be more proactive and collaborative with municipalities regarding energy siting requirements and incentives for such projects, municipal capacity in terms of staff and financial resources to implement plan recommendations, ramifications for demand on the electric grid, the county's older housing stock, equity and affordability, creation of model local laws or other templates, scalability of green hydrogen, district-wide geothermal heating, potential expansion of County 239 review to empower smart growth priorities, carbon tax, balancing renewable energy projects with forest conservation, and more. Members were encouraged to consider submitting comments on behalf of their own agencies if applicable.

Commissioner's Report – *Katie Borgella, DPS*

Katie shared that the Planning and Sustainability Department is hiring for two staff positions. They are currently classified as openings for planners, one with a focus on energy issues and the other on affordable housing. However, to encourage a broader applicant pool, she is working with Human Resources to rebrand the titles for their positions along the lines of sustainability coordinator and housing and community development planner, with flexibility built into the job descriptions in terms of educational and professional requirements.

Member Items – The group shared news and events of interest. These included employment opportunities with the Center for Community Transportation (Bike Walk Tompkins/Ithaca Car Share); draft flood insurance maps from FEMA; as well as a pilot project to install heat pumps in 100 low- to middle-income rentals in the City and Town of Ithaca over the next two years, which would combine new incentives with Sustainable Tompkins' Finger Lakes Climate Fund grants. In addition, Sustainable Tompkins is launching a spring and fall webinar series ("Finger Lakes Forecast") that will examine expected climate impacts in our region and their effects on people's daily lives and an op-ed series for regional newspapers on the various chapters of the draft NYS Climate Action Scoping Plan.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:03pm. All were in favor.