

Approved 6:10:09

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE**

MAY 13, 2009 3:15 P.M. SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: P. Mackesey, Chair; M. Robertson; C. Chock; W. Burbank, F. Proto
Staff: P. Younger, Administration; E. Marx, J. Leccese, S. Doyle, Planning; K. Fuller,
Deputy Clerk; D. Bradac, Workforce Development
Legislator: M. Koplinka-Loehr
Guests: T. Ashmore, S. Shackford, *The Ithaca Journal*;

Call to Order

Chair Mackesey called the meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

Addition to the Agenda

Mr. Proto requested an update be provided on the work done by the County staff regarding oil and gas drilling.

Workforce Investment Board

The following budget adjustment was added to the agenda, and acted upon immediately.

Ms. Bradac indicated the funding notice from the New York State Department of Labor was just received with a requirement of spending all the funds by no later than June 30, 2009. These funds will be used to replace old equipment and provide appropriate office furnishings that better suit the area they are now in. It was noted she will be able to make the purchases within the time constraint and that it would reduce the County budget.

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend approval of the following budget adjustment to the full Legislature. BUDGET ADJUSTMENT APPROVED.

Workforce Investment Board

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$11,456	6290.52206	Computer Equipment
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$22,059	6290.52230	Software
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 1,500	6290.52214	Office Furnishings
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 2,335	6290.52222	Communications
Equipment				
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 3,200	6290.54618	Interdepartmental
Charge				

Explanation: New York State Department of Labor is making one-time funding available for technology related purchases for use within the One-Stop Center. The funding must be fully expended by June 30, 2009.

Approval of Minutes

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to accept the minutes of April 8, 2009, as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to accept the minutes of April 21, 2009, as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Reschedule November Meeting

Following a brief discussion, it was decided the November Committee meeting would be held on November 18, 2009, at 3:15 p.m.

Appointments

Environmental Management Council

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to recommend the appointment of Katie Kelly to the At Large Seat #13, for a term to expire December 31, 2010, to the full Legislature. Mr. Proto expressed concern that the individual had only resided in the County for a two-month period. It was noted that the criteria does not require a minimum length of residency. Ms. Chock stated the applicant's qualifications outweigh the length of residency and would be a wonderful addition to the Environmental Management Council.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 5, Noes – 0. APPOINTMENT APPROVED.

Strategic Tourism Planning Board

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Burbank, to recommend the appointment of Susan Monagan as a Culture representative, for a term to expire December 31, 2011, to the full Legislature. Ms. Chock provided the explanation provided by Ms. Ballard of how the appointment process was made. Mr. Sparrow noted the candidate had been interviewed on two separate occasions. The candidate was chosen for what she could offer as a representative of the rural areas of the County.

Ms. Robertson expressed appreciation of the information leading to a decision. She then asked about how decisions are made when individuals sitting on the Strategic Tourism Planning Board are affiliated with potential grants. Mr. Sparrow said the board is addressing a policy regarding the issue; he explained the chair has the power to ask anyone affiliated with the organization recuse themselves from all deliberations relating to a request; he has been very mindful of this sensitive issue.

Mr. Proto spoke of how it was originally difficult to obtain a member on the board with an Arts background who was from outside the City of Ithaca. He is very interested to see what art recommendations are included in the final draft.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. APPOINTMENT APPROVED.

Strategic Tourism Planning Board

Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. - AWARD OF TOURISM CAPITAL GRANTS

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Ms. Armstrong provided a review of the process utilized to determine the award of the grant for Cayuga Nature Center (CNC). Last year a feasibility study grant was provided to do the architectural drawings to determine what needed to be done and the extent of the project. That portion was completed last fall and are now ready to move forward. The total cost of the project is \$350,000, and have requested \$100,000. Although CNC would like to receive as a lump sum, or half now and half next year the STPB Board made a determination to provide the \$100,000 grant in \$25,000 increments to provide observation of the project as it progresses as well as reviewing the financial status on an annual basis to ascertain if all stipulations are met. She indicated the STPB and TCAD felt that CNC is moving in the right direction under the newly hired director. In response to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Armstrong noted CNC receives approximately 50 percent of their budget through earned income and 50 percent through requests; all the funds offered through the grant would only be used as capital funding, not operational.

Ms. Mackesey spoke of her having been on the committee that determined whether to provide the grant. She said it is a wonderful organization and the only reason for caution was to determine performance under its new leadership. She will support the resolution.

Mr. Proto inquired when the Committee might receive information on how many out-of-town guests come to CNC. Ms. Armstrong noted it is a requirement subsequent to receiving a grant; at this time there is not any intercept survey being conducted. Ms. Armstrong spoke of the rope course attracting a lot of visitors outside of the area and other groups that utilize their business. Because others come to wander the trails there is not a set program to determine the percentage of out of town. Ms. Armstrong said one item being done with the funding is to lower the grade along the main highway to make CNC more visible to traffic and have additional signage and sculptures. Ms. Mackesey spoke of one of the long-range plans being to connect with the Black Diamond Trail along the back of their property as well as take advantage of the bicycle traffic in the area. Mr. Bonn spoke of the location being strong; it is along the Scenic Byway and wine trail, as well as being close to Taughannock Falls. He believes the front-end improvements will assist in drawing people in.

In response to Ms. Chock's question of how many of the 25,000 visitors were students, Ms. Armstrong said many schools stopped utilizing CNC for the rope course and camping due to budget constraints. Ms. Chock then asked if it is necessary to approve the entire \$100,000 at this time, particularly with reductions in the STPB budget. Ms. Armstrong said the normal manner is to approve the entire amount, and each year the County would approve the expenditure. She said the projects CNC would be doing fit within the \$25,000/year scope.

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Burbank, to amend the resolution to commit to a \$50,000 grant for CNC, with the disbursement to be \$25,000 per year, for a two year period. She spoke of budget uncertainties and other projects seeking capital funding that may be beneficial; with limited funding she believes it would be more appropriate to reduce the grant amount. A voice vote on the amendment resulted as follows: Ayes – 1 (Legislator Chock); Noes – 4. AMENDMENT FAILED.

Mr. Proto spoke of the need to indicate the funds would assist in drawing tourists and demonstration of visitors and tourists. He inquired what the plan would be. Ms. Mackesey said the level of scrutiny at the Committee level is not the full detail of what the capital committee had reviewed. Mr. Proto believed a comment on the synopsis page should refer to how the capital improvements would attract tourists. Ms. Armstrong noted there is a request for follow-up of tourist attraction is within the contract. She said it is sometimes difficult to determine actual

numbers based upon the type of operation. Ms. Armstrong provided more detailed information about the review process that is completed each year.

In response to Mr. Burbank's question, it was noted the Ithaca Children's Garden is a 501c3 not-for-profit with staff partially subsidized by Cooperative Extension. The first application made by the Children's Garden was in 2003. Since that time they have developed their staff, have volunteers, have included a turtle garden that attracts visitors, etc. Ms. Armstrong noted it is a teaching garden and has a vegetable garden that is grown by youth and have many activities throughout the year. Ms. Robertson noted it is a very active, diverse group. The land is owned by the City with a long-term lease for the garden.

Ms. Chock spoke of the 2010 budget having \$120,000 for grants and asked if it was the reduced amount. Ms. Armstrong explained for 2009 it would have been \$175,000 for grants, which was reduced. For next year it is anticipated to approximately the same, with \$130,000 for the entire program; \$10,000 of which is for administration.

RESOLUTION NO.- AWARD OF TOURISM CAPITAL GRANT – ITHACA CHILDREN'S GARDEN

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Burbank, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Tourism Program includes Tourism Capital grants and Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD) administers the Tourism Capital Grants process, which includes designing the application process, reviewing and analyzing the feasibility and economic impact of tourism projects, and providing oversight for tourism projects, and

WHEREAS, funding exists within the Room Tax Occupancy budget for Tourism Capital Grants, and

WHEREAS, TCAD reviewed the following projects with the Strategic Tourism Planning Board (STPB), and the STPB anticipates that the following project will encourage the development of tourism products and attractions in order to improve community assets, to increase the tourism business in the County, and to increase the income from the Room Occupancy tax, and the following grant award has been reviewed and recommended by the STPB, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the County Administrator or his designee is authorized to sign all documents related to this project:

Entity	Project	Distribution	Amount
Ithaca Children's Garden	Phase I Completion	2009	\$14,800

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RESOLUTION NO. - AWARD OF TOURISM CAPITAL GRANT – CAYUGA NATURE CENTER

It was MOVED by Mr. Burbank, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to add information relating to the specific distribution of the full grant: “(\$25,000 per year over a four-year period, subject to annual approval)”. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 3 (Legislators Burbank, Chock, and Robertson); Noes – 2 (Legislators Mackesey and Proto). AMENDMENT ADOPTED.

A voice vote on the main motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 1 (Legislator Proto). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Tourism Program includes Tourism Capital grants and Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD) administers the Tourism Capital Grants process, which includes designing the application process, reviewing and analyzing the feasibility and economic impact of tourism projects, and providing oversight for tourism projects, and

WHEREAS, funding exists within the Room Tax Occupancy budget for Tourism Capital Grants, and

WHEREAS, TCAD reviewed the following projects with the Strategic Tourism Planning Board (STPB), and the STPB anticipates that the following project will encourage the development of tourism products and attractions in order to improve community assets, to increase the tourism business in the County, and to increase the income from the Room Occupancy tax, and the following grant award has been reviewed and recommended by the STPB, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the County Administrator or his designee is authorized to sign all documents related to this project:

Entity	Project	Distribution	Amount
Cayuga Nature Center	New Entrance and Attractions	2009-2012 (\$25,000 per year over a four-year period, subject to annual approval)	\$100,000

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RESOLUTION NO. - FUNDING OF TOURISM MARKETING AND ADVERTISING GRANTS

MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Chock. It was noted the Cayuga Wine Trail is proceeding and is expected to open in 2009. A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has a grant program for Tourism Marketing and Advertising using funds drawn entirely from Room Occupancy Tax, and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Tourism Planning Board has requested and reviewed grant applications for recommendation to the Tompkins County Legislature through the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the following grants are approved:

Cayuga Wine Trail	2009 Grapehound Wine Tour	\$ 4,000
PRI- Museum of the Earth	2009 Forest Journey Exhibit	\$ 5,000
Ithaca Triathlon Club	2010 Cayuga Lake Triathlon	\$ 5,000

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Tompkins County Quilter's Guild	Traditions and Beyond 2009 Quilt Show	\$ 1,500
Finger Lakes Wine Center	Finger Lakes Wine Center 2009	\$ 5,000
Light in Winter	2010 Light in Winter Festival	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
		\$25,500

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or designee shall be authorized to sign any documents related to the aforementioned projects.

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Report on the 2009 Water Quality Strategy

Ms. Jurkovich reviewed the 2009 Water Quality Strategy (WQS). She said the main work is in the goals and objectives and are focused in various areas – surface and ground areas, as well as interfaces to water and land, riparian corridors and wetlands. The projects outlined in the strategy include research and planning activities to public education, as well as implementation and long-term management of water quality efforts. The WQS focuses on coordination among the many agencies addressing water resources in the county, including municipalities, the storm water coalition, Soil and Water Conservation District, Cooperative Extension, etc. With items specific to the Water Resources Council, the strategy specifies the particular committee working with the item. The plan has been modified to cover a three-year period versus the two-year period previously done. The plan now includes topical issues such as gas drilling and other issues that may come up over the period covered by the WQS.

In response to a question from Ms. Chock, Ms. Jurkovich explained the County is considered to be within the Great Lakes Basin and the regulations for it apply here as well. It was noted it might relate to the possible gas drilling. Ms. Chock then said one recommendation with regard to gas drilling is to have good inventories of anything that could potentially be damaged by the drilling process. She asked if there is any way to have the inventories. Ms. Jurkovich said there is lots of information needed to be able to have the ability to track what happens after gas drilling occurs. Ms. Chock asked what the baseline water-markers to be recommended with regard to gas drilling and if it is included within the strategy. Ms. Jurkovich said although it is known that a recommendation is to check individual wells, there is no way to say the County has a sense of water quality of individual wells within our county; there is no program or proposal to do so within the WQS. She said it would cost approximately \$500 per well to do a study.

Mr. Burbank inquired whether it would be worthwhile to do a sampling around the county to determine some baseline information. Ms. Jurkovich said it would be good information for the community but would not help anyone unless the specific test-well was contaminated.

Ms. Robertson would like to see more priority placed upon investigation of possible consequences of gas drilling. Ms. Jurkovich said development of the strategy began a year ago, when concern over gas drilling was not an issue. She indicated there is a lot of work going on with regard to the concern. Ms. Robertson spoke of the aquifer studies and indicated a desire to have the full Legislature be informed of the work. She also inquired whether other ones are being considered. Ms. Jurkovich said the aquifer studies do not occur unless the municipality has indicated a desire to do so. There is one or two interested but do not have funding. She also said the aquifer studies would assist in knowing the physical movement of water, not chemical composition. Ms. Robertson suggested taking the map indicating the potential drill sites and how

they may relate to aquifers would be useful to share with municipalities who may then decide on having the aquifer studies completed.

Mr. Proto noted the amount of land leased for gas drilling is 38 percent. He then said that testing wells are particular to any one piece of land; testing one, even within a mile of another, would not necessarily have the same result due to the original source. Mr. Proto said he also knows there is a question of how often to test wells. There are not the unlimited financial resources to test all the wells.

Ms. Jurkowich said her personal suggestion regarding wells is to make the gas companies establish wells around the perimeter of the area drilling occurs and test them regularly; if there is a problem the water could then be tracked to determine further areas of concern. Mr. Proto asked if municipalities could establish the requirement; Ms. Jurkowich hopes the State would do so.

Ms. Chock expressed her appreciation for the introduction and background information regarding the WQS, noting it was very helpful to those that do not have extensive background on how it has been prepared. She also expressed appreciation for Ms. Jurkowich's opinion on well testing during gas drilling operations.

Ms. Robertson said she would like to be certain that the County works with Tompkins County Area Development when evaluating the level of protection of existing groundwater sources used for municipal and individual supplies.

Mr. Proto expressed his gratitude to Ms. Jurkowich for chairing the committee who prepared the document. Ms. Jurkowich said other members included Cindy Schulte, John Andersson, Craig Schutt, and Dooley Kiefer.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE THE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM THROUGH USE OF PROGRAM INCOME FUNDS

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Proto, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. Ms. Leccese explained the program has a good deal of funds available and as a result of recommendations from the HUD Small Cities Program, need to be spent down by September 2009. It was noted the program repayment has not had any significant problems with repayment of loans, it is less than for the commercial loan program. The administration of the applications is through Better Housing of Tompkins County, with an oversight committee including a Legislator. The Committee meets and reviews applications, reviewing the information with the clients to determine eligibility. *Ms. Chock asked to be provided information regarding delinquencies over the sixteen-year period the program has been established.*

A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the County received Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administered by New York State in 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005, and 2007 for the purpose of continuing its successful existing home mortgage program for first-time homeowners, and

WHEREAS, the County operates a homeownership program that serves low-to-moderate first-time homebuyers, and

WHEREAS, the County operates through the provision of financing on which payment is deferred for five years, and

WHEREAS, the County repayment on these monies began in September 1995 and, under the rules of HUD Small Cities Program, these program income funds must be re-spent for like purposes as the original grants, and

WHEREAS, these funds will assist up to twenty families in Tompkins County to become first-time homeowners, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the County hereby authorizes the continuation of the Homeownership Program through use of Small Cities Community Development Block Grant income funds,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator be authorized to execute any contracts related to this project.

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RESOLUTION NO. - TOMPKINS COUNTY COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ADDRESSED IN THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION *FINAL SCOPE FOR DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (dSGEIS) ON THE OIL, GAS, AND SOLUTION MINING REGULATORY PROGRAM FOR THE MARCELLUS SHALE*

It was MOVED by Ms. Proto, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. Following a brief discussion, during which suggested amendments to the resolution were accepted as friendly, a voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, compared to other fossil fuels, natural gas is a relatively clean, relatively low-impact source of energy that is being used to replace the use of coal and other fuels that emit more greenhouse gases during a transition to a more sustainable energy future, and

WHEREAS, full development of New York State natural gas resources may only meet energy needs for a limited period of time that will be measured in years or decades, yet environmental damage could be permanent, and

WHEREAS, ultimately we need to develop capacity to deliver safer, cleaner, and fully renewable energy sources, and

WHEREAS, there has been gas drilling in New York State for more than 100 years in deposits that can be recovered by conventional means, but recent advancements in technology and increases in the price of energy have now made the extensive natural gas reserve in the Marcellus Shale potentially recoverable, and

WHEREAS, gas production from the Marcellus Shale is expected to be done using horizontal hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), a technique that requires pressurized injection of millions of gallons of water containing certain proprietary chemicals into the underground shale to release the gas, but the sweeping 2005 Energy Policy Act exempted hydro-fracking from monitoring and regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and

WHEREAS, if done in an environmentally responsible manner, development of the gas resources of Upstate New York could be of great economic benefit to landowners, municipalities, and New York State, and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2008, Governor Paterson directed the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to supplement the existing 1992 Generic Environmental Impact Statement governing drilling to specifically address the specific techniques used to tap the natural gas in the Marcellus Shale, and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2009, the NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources, Bureau of Oil and Gas Regulation, released the *Final Scope for Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS) on the Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program: Well Permit Issuance for Horizontal Drilling and High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing to Develop the Marcellus Shale and Other Low-Permeability Gas Reservoirs*, and

WHEREAS, the Final Scope for the dSGEIS notes inspection and enforcement staffing concerns related to fracking as well as public disclosure of fracking fluids as topics not included in the Final Scope (Section 8.0), and

WHEREAS, adequate staffing and enforcement are essential to ensure each aspect of fracking regulation is adhered to, and

WHEREAS, the current State budget crisis may inhibit NYSDEC's inspection and enforcement ability, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County and its municipalities have a responsibility to preserve and protect our natural resources, water resources, highway infrastructure, and quality of life for our residents, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature urges New York State to calculate how many inspectors and staff will be needed to adequately oversee all subject operations related to the fracking process,

RESOLVED, further, That permitting for gas drilling be delayed until New York State has in place an adequately funded as well as staffed inspection and enforcement program,

RESOLVED, further, That the comment period following promulgation of the dSGEIS be extended to at least sixty (60) days,

RESOLVED, further, That, since adequate regulation and oversight by the New York State Department of Conservation will cost significant State funds, New York State should enact a severance tax and adequate permit fees on gas drilling companies to pay the costs of such regulation and oversight,

RESOLVED, further, That New York State require that all substances intended to be introduced into wells be identified and the information be made public, with special notification to local emergency response personnel and health care providers, before use of such chemicals is permitted,

RESOLVED, further, That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Paterson, Senators Skelos, Malcolm Smith, Winner, Seward, and Nozzolio, Speaker Silver, Assemblywoman Lifton, Chair of Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation Marcellino, Chair of Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation Sweeney, Attorney General Cuomo, Representatives DeGette, Salazar, and Hinchey, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congressman Arcuri, New York State Association of Counties, and Municipal Officials and Clerks

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Update on Meetings Regarding Gas Drilling

The Committee requested an update from Mr. Marx on information relating to gas drilling operations and/or restrictions. Mr. Marx said there is a group of County departments who are discussing county issues relating to gas drilling, with the primary area being roads. He explained the Emergency Response, Public Health Departments, etc. would also have

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responsibilities. He also noted there is county staff participating in the other groups within the County working on gas drilling issues that will bring information back to the County. In addition, County staff is attending the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) gas drilling subcommittee; Amy Risen Environmental Management Council (EMC) also attended the meeting. Ms. Robertson asked that the Committee receive frequent updates on the work being undertaken. Ms. Chock would like to know when the TCCOG subcommittee meets as she is liaison to the EMC. Mr. Marx said when the TCCOG agenda indicates an appropriate topic staff would attend. Ms. Mackesey noted that meetings with elected officials are anticipated to occur to discuss gas-drilling concerns.

Ms. Kiefer spoke of Chenango and Madison counties opposing severance tax with regard to gas drilling. She said the resolution, if provided to other counties may receive support, or could possibly oppose the recommendations contained within it.

Final Report on the Route 96 Corridor Study

Ms. Schill explained the report is an intermunicipal study taken on by the Town of Ithaca, City of Ithaca, Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council, Town of Ulysses, and the County in December 2007. The goal of the project was to find an appropriate approach to managing anticipated growth in the Route 96 travel shed, and how a preferred development pattern to help in traffic mitigation along the route. During the course of this study 592 residents residing in the Route 96 corridor were surveyed (from the southern end of Trumansburg to Fulton Street) and more than 80 people attended the two public meetings. In addition, the first three reports: the State of the Corridor outlining the physical state of the infrastructure and traffic was completed; a Transportation Impact Analysis, and Nodal Development Patterns. At this point the intermunicipal team developed the fourth report, using the recommendations developed as a result of the other reports, taking the recommendations and making them useful for the specific municipal needs. The result is the Technical Report draft being circulated to other agency partners for review. Ms. Schill said the outcome is to have resolutions of support by municipalities and from agencies in the development of the plans.

Following a review of the plan that provided all the considerations and steps involved in development of the corridor, members of the Committee expressed appreciation for the work done by staff. With regard to municipal reaction, the Town of Ithaca is going through the review process at this time, with a planning board meeting this week, and the full Board will review the report next month. There has been a great deal of municipal involvement during the process.

Mr. Burbank noted there is likely to be negativity to the plan due to concern with development; there is a strong need to have an education piece regarding nodal development, noting the call for a development moratorium on West Hill. Ms. Mackesey said she believes it is primarily due to development on Route 79. Mr. Burbank said there is concern with the Cayuga node development. Ms. Chock spoke of the City's concern regarding the bridge, noting the commercial development on inlet island; they do not want to divert traffic, particularly pedestrian away from that area. Ms. Robertson suggested the population information noted in the vision section be placed toward the front of the report.

Commissioner's Report

Mr. Marx requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a contractual matter.

Mr. Marx spoke to the Committee regarding nodal development, stressing the need for everyone to fully understand the concept. At this time he believes it would be useful to have the Planning Department start mapping the areas that would be good for nodal development, however, due to a misunderstanding of the purpose of nodal development, particularly the big picture of how it would be a positive undertaking for the County and municipalities to work together in their development. Mr. Marx said many individuals do not understand it is not just picking a spot, but rather, making a determination of a logical location that would afford individuals and businesses to live and grow in a specific location. He said there are two areas that showed a potential site, one by Cayuga Medical Center and the other by the New York State Electric and Gas Corporation building. It is hoped the Planning Advisory Board will discuss nodal development mapping and how to work with municipalities to provide a clear understanding of the overall picture.

Mr. Proto was excused at this time (5:10 p.m.).

Ms. Mackesey spoke of how there are concerns regarding development that has taken place on Route 79. Mr. Burbank said the zoning allowed it in the comprehensive plan. Ms. Mackesey said there was a lapse in time from announcement of zoning changes to their implementation which allowed for development in areas that would not have been allowed with the zoning changes.

Ms. Robertson said she believes the concrete description of a node is helpful to understand the concept better. It was suggested to develop models to provide a visual picture of what a nodal development is like.

Executive Session

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Burbank, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to enter into an executive sessions to discuss contractual matters. Executive session was entered at 5:16 p.m.

It was MOVED by Mr. Burbank, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present to enter into open session at 5:20 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk