

MINUTES

Approved 12/11/08

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 13, 2008 3:00 P.M. SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: M. Robertson, Chair; P. Mackesey, F. Proto, C. Chock, M. Sigler
Staff: K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature; E. Marx, Planning and Public Works Commissioner; K. Borgella, L. Schill, Planning Department; J. Jurkowich, Deputy Planning Commissioner; J. Kippola, Strategic Tourism Planning Board; M. Stamm, M. Armstrong, Tompkins County Area Development; J. McPheeters, Chamber of Commerce President; J. Wood, County Attorney; M. Koplinka-Loehr, Chair of the Legislature
Guest: C. Schutt, Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

Members were provided with a memorandum from the County Attorney relating to membership and bylaw revision for the Industrial Development Agency as well as a copy of a resolution passed by the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Ms. Robertson stated she would like to have a brief conversation regarding tourism at the end of the regular agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Proto, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2008, meetings as presented.

Tompkins County Area Development

Resolution

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

Ms. Armstrong reported the resolution must be passed by other municipalities who desire participating in the county-wide evaluation of existing water and sewer infrastructure. Upon receipt of the municipal resolutions, it forms the memorandum of understanding applicable to the Shared Municipal Services Initiative grant. Ms. Armstrong further outlined the notes provided following the resolution, outlining the need, scope of work, and explanation of the Economic Development Collaborative. In response to Mr. Proto, it was clarified that only those municipalities initially applying and subsequently passing the memorandum of understanding resolution would participate in the evaluation, and provide the assistance required, according to the grant requirements. A final document would be prepared that could be used throughout the County to provide a clear picture of exactly where the systems are and how to best determine future needs; it would provide information to adjoining municipalities. There is a possibility there would be free engineering work to municipalities by completing the work ahead of time. In addition, having the study completed ahead of time would greatly assist in applications for funding in the future. It would also assist with housing. A copy of the application is on file at TCAD and in Ms. Kippola's office. *Mr. Proto asked to have a description of the work to be completed be provided to him.*

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

RESOLUTION NO. - ENDORSEMENT OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND PLEDGE TO WORK WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE FOR COUNTY-WIDE EVALUATION OF EXISTING WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Economic Development Strategy's goals include increasing and diversifying the County's housing supply and revitalizing the County's unique commercial districts and town centers, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Collaborative was organized to formalize, strengthen and deepen the cooperation among the many local agencies and municipal bodies addressing economic development issues in the County to make the process more effective through common goals and approach, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) is a member of the Economic Development Collaborative, which is currently working to address the goals of the County's Economic Development Strategy, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Collaborative has suggested the creation of an updated, County-wide evaluation of existing water and sewer infrastructure and the development of a conceptual plan of water and sewer infrastructure needed to support planned future growth to meet housing and economic development goals, and

WHEREAS, the last County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure was completed in 1994, and

WHEREAS, an updated evaluation would facilitate the development of housing within town and village centers, commercial revitalization of those centers and growth in the tax base, with the most efficient use of public dollars for infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the result of this evaluation will be a report that is available for all municipalities to use in their planning of infrastructure development, but that no actual investment in water or sewer facilities is included in this project, and

WHEREAS, the County of Tompkins, on behalf of TCCOG, applied for and was awarded a grant known as Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) grant from the State of New York, to conduct a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and develop a conceptual plan, and

WHEREAS, the TCCOG unanimously adopted this resolution on September 25, 2008 and directed that it to be forwarded to municipalities for consideration and approval by local municipal boards, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 186 of 2008 on September 16, 2008, that authorized the acceptance of this grant in the amount of \$82,245.24 for the purpose of conducting a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and to develop a conceptual plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Tompkins County, by adoption of this resolution, declares its intent to support the development of a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and the development of a conceptual plan of water and sewer infrastructure needed to support planned future growth to meet housing and economic development goals,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County pledges to work with the Economic Development Collaborative to ensure cooperation of the County's planning and engineering departments with this project, providing information and documentation requested by the consultant team, led by TG Miller, including but not limited to:

- Current rated capacity of water and wastewater treatment systems from existing SPDES (State Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permits and facility plans
- Electronic files or paper copies of maps showing current water distribution and/or sanitary sewer collection systems
- Recent studies of water and sewer facilities

- Treatment processes, mechanical and other systems related data
- Scheduled or anticipated system upgrades or new construction
- Historical problems and obstacles including operational difficulties, regulatory compliance, land use restrictions, public impact and complaints, and funding
- Current population served by the utilities including number of service connections
- Anticipated population growth rate for the next ten years
- Existing or planned funding sources that may be available.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-18

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NOTES:

Purpose of Resolution

By passage of each individual resolution the municipalities are creating a memorandum of understanding to apply for this grant.

Statement of need:

Increasing housing supply and revitalization of commercial districts are two of the Tompkins County Economic Development Strategy's three goals. Both require improvements to water and sewer infrastructure, especially in the non-urbanized areas of the county. The proposed infrastructure study is, therefore, an integral step to achieving affordable housing and revitalization goals. In particular, to provide for housing to be reasonably affordable, housing requires density. Continuing to build individual homes on 1-2 acre lots is not an affordable approach to providing housing. Dependable water and sewer infrastructure is also critical for revitalization of our town and village centers.

Preliminary scope of work:

A consultant will be hired to:

- Update the 1994 County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure working with local municipal staff.
- Prepare a conceptual plan of water and sewerage infrastructure, including potential service areas, to support future growth.
- Prepare preliminary costs to expand infrastructure to accommodate planned growth.

Work will reflect anticipated growth of the municipalities, local plans, and the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan.

Economic Development Collaborative:

The Economic Development Collaborative is comprised of 13 development agencies brought together through the Economic Development Strategy who (1) engage in a common economic development mission for the County, (2) address complex and multi-dimensional development goals that are larger than any single agency's purview, (3) bring additional resources to the County to achieve its goals and mission, and (4) elevate participating agencies' achievements by engaging the Collaborative's resources to complement efforts. Members include: Tompkins County Area Development, Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency, Tompkins County Workforce Investment Board, Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce, Ithaca/Tompkins County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ithaca Downtown Partnership, City of Ithaca Department of Planning and Development, Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency, Town of Ithaca Planning Department, Tompkins County Department of Planning, Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, and Tompkins County Council of Governments.

Local Economic Conditions

Ms. Armstrong stated in light of the financial crisis a review of local impacts is ongoing. Currently, the Chamber of Commerce business members, and the Economic Development Collaborative held a meeting and have set aside time for a preliminary meeting in December. In addition, the TCAD Executive Committee also held a discussion on this topic and TCAD staff is talking to others in the community. Information to date is that companies and organizations are looking at their 2009 budgets to consider what steps to take in the event of decreased revenue. Two of the local banks, Tompkins Trust and M&T have not seen any changes at this time. Mr. Proto noted the scope of effect on banks should be broadened to include other institutions. Manpower has not seen a big change yet in requests for workers. She noted that as people are laid off there would be the need for some training, some would start new businesses, the Federal government may invest in transportation and other infrastructure as it has good multipliers. Ms. Armstrong noted it is a good time to undertake planning to be prepared for what may come following the recession; this would assist in taking advantage of opportunities that may be developed.

In the various business sectors, realtors expect 2009 to be a bad year, retail sales also expects a slow-down of spending. Not-for-profit organizations are concerned about both a decrease in donations as well as a decrease in Federal funding. She did note that post 911 our area was not as severely hit as other areas, tourism provide a drive-to activity, but it is not known what would occur during a recession period.

Mr. Stamm then spoke of TCAD's efforts to speak to existing businesses. It is known that Borg Warner may lay off as many as 400 employees before the financial situation subsides; however, they are optimistic and view this as cyclical rather than structural. They are continuing to invest heavily in research and development so that when the economy comes back they hope to increase as well. Borg Warner is hoping that TCAD and Workforce Development continue work on the workforce strategy so there would be people available. In addition, a lot of the high-tech companies are still hiring, with specialized companies doing extremely well. Some companies may be vulnerable and may not make through the downturn. At the present time, the niche products and market is still doing well. Cornell University has announced a pause on construction projects, but the percentage of workforce being displaced is very small, with many absorbed within the university through openings and attrition.

Mr. Stamm noted TCAD and the Chamber of Commerce have tried to get perspective of what is occurring and how to respond in the media to properly portray the issues.

The December meeting is to discuss the possibility of pulling all the information together and holding a community roundtable discussion.

In response to Mr. Proto's question, Mr. Stamm said the two \$10 million dollar grants Cornell University had set aside for housing and transportation is not in jeopardy.

Ms. McPheeters said it is a good time for local and county governments to think of how to be prepared to move forward once the economy comes back up. She noted transportation sectors are a good area to get money flowing into the economy and hopes that things would be in place to go when the Federal and State monies become available. Mr. Stamm noted the State Economic Development efforts would take some time to become functional due to staffing changes.

Mr. Sigler inquired how long it would take for the water and sewer study to be completed; he was informed it would take at least six months to complete. Mr. Stamm also spoke of the recent Town of Lansing sewer project to bring the line to the Dutch Mill Road business park, noting it is stalled in Albany due to the requirement of a signature within the State Comptroller's office.

A brief discussion regarding preparation occurred, noting the Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) are reviewed and would be ready when funding comes available. Ms. Robertson said she has had conversations with Representatives Hinchey and Arcuri's offices stating her desire to see stimulus payments to include payment to individuals to put insulation in homes which would assist individuals with heating costs, reduce greenhouse gas, and decrease energy expenses. Mr. Proto requested a list of potential TIP work; Mr. Marx said it is under review and would be completed within the next several weeks. A request to place the TIP information for discussion on the December agenda was made.

Industrial Development Agency

Membership and Bylaws Revision

Ms. McPheeters, former member of the Governance Committee of the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) spoke of the Public Authority Accountability Act (PAAA) training received, noting their recommendation of best practice is that the municipal officials appointing members to public authorities, including the IDA, should not be in the majority. Although not a requirement, it was recommended as a best practice. As a result, the IDA presented the information twice and came up with a suggested amendment to the bylaws to indicate five of the seven members being elected officials, but only three of them from the County, who has the authority to appoint the members.

Ms. Chock was provided information that the New York State Authority Budget Office is who developed the best practice relating to the PAAA. She asked what the pro's and con's were to having a municipality have a majority on a board such as the IDA. Ms. McPheeters did not know what other municipalities and governing bodies opinions were, however, it was discussed at both the IDA and within the Government Affairs Committee it was thought to be important to have the majority of the IDA be elected officials and responsible to have taxing authority and therefore determined to have five members elected, with three from the County.

Mr. Sigler expressed concern that it did not indicate the membership would be representative of the entire County; Ms. McPheeters indicated the bylaws state the board should have urban and rural representation. Mr. Proto spoke of past practice of attempting to have the membership include each area of the County. At the present time Mr. Proto believes the Town of Ithaca has more representation than the other areas. Mr. Wood stated the idea of best practice is to provide the IDA board is independent and not under the control of another body, thereby preserving the independence of the IDA. Ms. Robertson clarified that the approval of the membership is still in control of the Legislature.

It was clarified for Ms. Chock what the IDA following State and in some area Federal laws is responsible for making decisions on property, sales, and recording tax abatements, and previously, tax exempt bonds to assist with lower-interest rate debt. The abatements affect all municipalities and school districts throughout the County. Ms. McPheeters explained the amended membership that would include municipal and educational representatives would provide more diversity and fiscal accountability to the IDA. It was noted that Ms. Herrera did not agree with the amendment and felt the County Legislature should have the majority of members on the board.

Ms. Robertson spoke of working with Mr. Stamm to develop the next step for the issue.

In response to Ms. Chock, it was noted there is little possibility of the IDA's to retain bonding authority that had been shifted to the State.

Planning Department

Resolution(s)

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

A request to modify the negative declarations it indicate the County “may” undertake some of the actions versus “will” was made and approved as friendly by the mover and seconder. Revised documents would be submitted to the Legislature office.

RESOLUTION NO. - MAKING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE IN RELATION TO RESOLUTION NO. _____ OF 2008

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. __ of 2008, the Tompkins County Legislature would adopt the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element as an amendment to the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan to guide County program development and decision making with regard to energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature has reviewed and accepted as adequate an Environmental Assessment Form with respect to that action, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee, That Resolution No. __ of 2008 is a Type I action,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature determines that the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan will not have a significant effect on the environment and is expected to have a positive and beneficial effect on the community.

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature hereby makes a negative declaration of environmental significance in regard to Resolution No. __ of 2008.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE I-1

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It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Chock, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. Ms. Borgella said the public hearing would be held on December 2nd with presentation of the resolution to adopt the plan on December 16th.

A discussion occurred regarding the resolution, during which Ms. Mackesey noted she is very impressed with the work completed and it is very exciting. Ms. Chock expressed her appreciation for the work not only on the plan but the model and manner done to bring the information to the public and incorporate their comments. Ms. Robertson said initially she did not know how the component would move forward and was pleased with the way it turned out to create a framework that assists in an understanding of how all groups could work together. Ms. Borgella thanked the community for their contributions in the process.

Mr. Proto reiterated his concerns he has had relating to financial impacts of the proposed action. Although the documents have been reviewed by many, including the Planning Advisory Board, he asked what other benefits may be afforded to the agricultural segment of the community in addition to those listed on the Short Environmental Quality Review form. Mr. Proto also spoke of noted impact on transportation reference to Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT). , Mr. Proto would not like to have additional routes included in Transportation plans without inclusion of the TCAT Board. He then asked if financial impacts in each of the areas has been completed, stating the Retired County

Administrator had indicated no new initiative should be undertaken. Mr. Proto does not believe the plan element should move forward at this time.

Mr. Marx said many of the items are already in the Comprehensive Plan that has been approved by the Legislature (nodal development and alternative transportation options). Mr. Proto asked about the anticipated outcome that would require an increase in the level of service required by TCAT, specifically if the County is prepared to take on the additional expense. Mr. Marx said TCAT and Planning have discussions all the time on this aspect and noted current discussions regarding the Route 96 corridor, he is on the resource committee working on TCAT's strategic plan and said discussions occur regarding providing service where it is financially feasible.

Ms. Robertson said the element provides policy statements, however, specific items relating to the comprehensive plan would require a specific process of development. Every action item is identified with a lead organization; like the rest of the plan it sets a direction to pursue.

Mr. Proto said TCAT board is having discussions regarding a potential policy relating to the level of service provided. He is concerned that developers not assume that if a nodal community is built or a particular dense population project undertaken that TCAT would automatically provide service to the location. He believes the plan has far-reaching financial implications as well as not having knowledge of how it would affect departments.

Mr. Sigler clarified that the biomass is non-food agriculture and that the model building energy code would be made available to municipalities.

Mr. Proto said the TCAT board discussions regarding a potential policy relating to the level of service provided. He is concerned that developers not assume that if a nodal community is built or a particular dense population project undertaken that TCAT would automatically provide service to the location.

Ms. Chock spoke of her concerns as well as those from the Environmental Management Council (EMC) regarding windmill setbacks. Mr. Marx noted there would not be any change to the comprehensive plan based upon the comments made. Mr. Marx said he would be discussing this further under his report. Mr. Sigler spoke of the decision being made by basically only a single individual. He acknowledged that Mr. Marx put a great deal of thought into the situation, however is concerned to have one person making a final decision. Mr. Marx clarified the final decision is up to the municipality. He stated the recommendation was based upon recently introduced wind regulations and the actual recommendation was more stringent than what had been recommended, and the EMC had actually endorsed two times the tower height instead of the 1.5 times the height that was recommended. Ms. McPheeters noted the Planning Department would always weigh in on projects such as this.

Ms. Chock said she would like to have the resolution pass without objections. Mr. Proto said he would not support the resolution due to his concern regarding the economic impact.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 3 (Legislators Chock, Mackesey, and Robertson); Noes – 2 (Legislators Proto and Sigler). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION NO. - ADOPTION OF THE ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ELEMENT AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan to guide County program development and decision making based on a community-defined vision of future growth and development in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, during the comprehensive planning process energy and greenhouse gas emissions were identified as important topics to be included in the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan, but were delayed for study due to resource limitations at the time with the intention of studying and incorporating the topics as resources became available, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Planning Department, with guidance and advice from the Tompkins County Planning Advisory Board and with significant participation from the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, has developed an Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions element to be added to the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan that addresses the local energy challenge, and

WHEREAS, the County has, through its Department of Planning, engaged in an extensive outreach effort to solicit public input and determine public support for the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions element's Principles, Policies, and Action Items as a means for providing leadership and guiding decision making on energy and greenhouse gas emissions in the community, and

WHEREAS, the draft element was subject to wide-ranging opportunities for public review and comment, including four general public meetings and presentations to key community organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Tompkins County Council of Governments, and Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative, and

WHEREAS, this element is based on current research undertaken by the Planning Department with outstanding assistance from many active groups, organizations, and individuals in the community, and

WHEREAS, the element promotes community-wide reduction in energy demand, improvements to energy efficiency, transition to renewable sources of energy, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, the element is not only consistent with the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan but also supports other principles and policies of the County Comprehensive Plan, such as nodal development patterns, developing alternative transportation options, investing in local jobs and business opportunities, and protecting rural resources and natural features, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Planning Advisory Board and Tompkins County Environmental Management Council have both passed resolutions recommending that the Legislature adopt the element as an amendment to the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions element is adopted as an amendment to the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE I-1

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It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Chock, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 1 (Legislator Proto). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF THE ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ELEMENT AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan in 2004, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Planning Department, with guidance and advice from the Tompkins County Planning Advisory Board and with significant participation from the Tompkins County

Environmental Management Council, has developed an Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions element to be added to the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan that addresses the local energy challenge, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is required to hold a public hearing pursuant to State General Municipal Law §239-d requirements for amending a County Comprehensive Plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That a public hearing be held before the Tompkins County Legislature in Legislative Chambers of the Tompkins County Courthouse, 320 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, New York, on December 2, 2008, at 5:30 o'clock in the evening thereof concerning to present the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element of the County Comprehensive Plan for review and discussion. At such time and place all persons interested in the subject matter will be heard concerning the same,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Legislature is authorized to place proper notice of this public hearing in the official newspaper of the County.

SEQR ACTION: Not an action under SEQR

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Commissioner's Report

Mr. Marx reported he met last week with the Cornell Real Estate staff regarding the memorandum of understanding for housing. There are some changes to be addressed before the document is reviewed again by all parties. He anticipates the document to come back to the Committee at the December meeting.

With regard to the Enfield Wind Law, Mr. Marx explained that when reviewing the proposed law it is necessary to not only look at the individual municipality but the long-range impacts as well, including adjoining municipalities. He noted the reason he did not agree with the Enfield law proposed setback for the windmills offered minimal setbacks and did not offer protection of other property-owner rights; the County's recommendation was thought to be a reasonable setback. Mr. Marx said the plan developed for the ordinance almost appeared to be based upon the developer plans rather than what would provide the best protection for everyone. He further explained the setback recommendation was also to provide a safety factor for things such as ice chunks thrown from the blades, as they are somewhat of a large industrial facility. He also said if there is not an easement on an adjoining property there should be a setback in place; although it doesn't prohibit them from negotiating an easement if desired, nobody should be forced to give up property and their home for someone else's benefit, regardless of the overall benefit. He said the recommendations made were ones determined to be fair to all municipalities, residents, schools, etc. Mr. Marx noted he does not know how recommendations might affect an individual proposal.

Mr. Marx reported there would be a forum for advisory boards on November 24th at the Borg Warner room of the Library to address some questions and concerns the environmental impact regarding the Marcellus shale drilling and the scope of the generic environmental statement. Mr. Sigler asked where the water would come from for drilling and if it had to be filtered before returning to the ground. Mr. Marx said these are some areas attempting to be covered in the EIS. He said the participating speakers are highly qualified in the area and have interest in the water aspect. Mr. Marx said the Department of Environmental Conservation is not saying do not drill, rather, to find the best way to approach issues of concern and deal with them.

Mr. Marx spoke of having a Project Assistant working on the Greenfleet Policy and it appears there would be a very beneficial policy coming forth.

Ms. Robertson spoke of the work regarding wind energy almost being a model wind ordinance. Mr. Marx said some of the components were identified but it is not considered a model. Ms. Robertson

said municipalities have expressed a desire for a model; it is something to possibly be discussed at the Tompkins County Council of Government meeting.

Mr. Marx reported on his attendance at the Danby Hamlet meeting, one for Nodal development with good participation, and a green community conference in Mt. Morris.

Soil and Water Conservation District

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend adoption of the following resolution by the full Legislature.

RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE TOMPKINS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservations Service (NRCS) has historically contributed substantially to the rent for the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and

WHEREAS, through Federal audits and a change in Federal policy the NRCS can no longer assist with rental costs to the SWCD, and

WHEREAS, the rental cost at the current 903 Hanshaw Road SWCD/NRCS office location is prohibitive to both the SWCD and Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, County Administration has identified adequate office and storage space for the Soil and Water Conservation District at the same location leased by the County for the Board of Elections, and

WHEREAS, the SWCD Board of Directors and staff all agree that this space will adequately meet the office and storage needs of the SWCD and is well located for SWCD programs and clientele alike, and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2008, the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors passed a resolution in support of entering into a lease agreement with Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, funds have been appropriated in the 2009 Tompkins County budget for the Soil and Water Conservation District, specific to rental payment, and

WHEREAS, the Soil and Water Conservations District wishes to provide adequate notice of termination of rental at there present location to the landlord and co-tenant, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the County Administrator or his designee is hereby authorized to enter into a lease agreement with the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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STPB Subcommittee

Ms. Robertson spoke of a desire to have a subcommittee to review the structure of the Strategic Tourism Planning Board and how to best provide appropriate staff for their function. This request is a result of recognizing the many hours of volunteer time provided from former Legislator Stuart Stein and the need to recognize it would not always be available to the board to make recommendations. The subcommittee is charged with making recommendations regarding the need for such staffing and the appropriate office for such staffing, if any. Following discussion, Ms. Mackesey and Ms. Chock agreed to serve, and Mr. Proto would see if his schedule would allow participation.

Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.