

**Planning, Development & Environmental Quality Committee
Tompkins County Legislature**

Regular Meeting

December 10, 2007 3:30 PM Courthouse Conference Room

Members Present: Martha Robertson (Chair), Jim Dennis, Pam Mackesey, Frank Proto, Tyke Randall

Staff: Katie Borgella, T C Planning Dept.
Scott Doyle, TCPD
Joan Jurkowich, TCPD
Jackie Kippola, T C Administration
Jeanne Leccese, TCPD
Ed Marx, Commissioner of Planning & PW
Kathy Wilsea, TCPD

Visitors: Fred Bonn, Convention & Visitors Bureau
Brett Bossard, Community Arts Partnership
Carol Chock, Legislature candidate
Stu Stein, Strategic Tourism Planning Board
Joe Turcotte, TCAT Inc.
Scott Wiggins, STPB

1) Call to Order & Agenda Changes -- The meeting was called to order at 3:33 PM by the Chair, Martha Robertson, with all members present. A resolution was added to the agenda for TCAT, and addressed first.

Resolution: Authorizing the Advance of up to \$670,000,000 of State Transit Operating Assistance (STOA) to Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) -- Resolution moved by Frank Proto, seconded by Pam Mackesey. Title amended to \$670,000 to match first Resolved clause. Joe Turcotte explained the request for advance on the STOA money, as has been done for several years. Resolution passed unanimously. Joe said TCAT voted last Thursday to award the contract (discussed at PDEQ last month) to Tioga Transit.

a) **Approval of Minutes from 11/15 and 11/20/2007** – Both sets of minutes moved by Pam, seconded by Tyke Randall and passed by unanimous vote without change.

2) Tompkins County Planning Department

a) **Resolution:** Acceptance of Grant from NYS DEC – Water Quality Improvement Project Program for the Ludlowville Stormwater Control Project -- Moved by Frank, seconded by Pam. Scott Doyle discussed the three-year timeline anticipated for feasibility/analysis/design in the first year followed by a two-year construction phase. This will address a variety of issues including stormwater and culvert problems. The Town of Lansing is involved in all phases. Resolution passed unanimously.

b) **County Land Inventory** – Katie Borgella distributed notes on questions raised by Martha Robertson and Katie’s answers. Historic information was gathered by working with local historical societies. If the property is requested to be sold, further study is triggered. Martha asked about all the little pieces along Elmira Road that the County holds title to. Ed Marx said the County Attorney can research title if directed by the Legislature. The Comprehensive Plan proposed an official map of County-owned property, and that process would help clear up titles and dimensions. There may be small pieces along Cliff Street and Trumansburg Road, too. Frank asked about the use of “strategic” in the

cover memo. Katie said properties are reviewed for use by the County through research with department heads. This inventory examines land the County owns and if any of the properties should be sold. Martha will put examination of the stray small lots on a potential goals list for 2008. In discussion about Biggs B, Ed Marx said the capital plan spells out use of proceeds from vacated buildings. F&I will be discussing whether or not to maintain the building, and PDEQ would discuss acreage, with a role for GO, too, as defined in the County land policy. Jackie Kippola said Biggs B is being considered for records storage.

c) **Report on the Walkability Studies** – Katie Borgella said this was one of the projects funded by the federal TCSP grant. The goal was to identify tools for ease of walkability. Pilot projects were conducted in Trumansburg, as an example of a hamlet layout, and the northeast Town of Ithaca, where it is more suburban in nature. Local plans and initiatives were reviewed, and steering committees were established. Site visits, assessment surveys for conditions, interaction with other modes of transportation, environment, and street crossing issues were all parts of the project. In the northeast area, Warren Road seemed to divide the study area into two distinct areas. Single-family homes and curved streets were on the west. Multi-family housing on grid streets were on the east. General recommendations were traffic and pedestrian evaluation at Community Corners and traffic calming measures for residential through-streets. Trumansburg has historic neighborhoods with 1900-era slate sidewalks and trees by the streets. Both sidewalks and trees are deteriorated, and some were removed. People began parking on the grass strip, then some spots were paved. Most people walk in the street. The Main Street Project did not connect neighborhoods to the Main Street. Town and Village halls could be defined better. The study recommended a greenways committee for Trumansburg. Many of the study recommendations were incorporated into the Trumansburg Comprehensive Plan. Both of the study areas are poised to apply for Safe Routes to Schools grants.

d) **Report on the Northside Waterfront Circulation Study** – Joan Jurkowich outlined the study area, which was Dey Street to Buffalo Street, and Fulton Street to the Cayuga Inlet. There are only five access points for the area. In order to proceed, the committee laid out a potential future land use pattern, which is not set in stone or even recommended. Some of the areas in the study area are fixed, such as the wastewater treatment plant, the community garden, boat houses, railroad tracks, and power lines. It was envisioned that the southern area would become mixed use commercial, and north of the railroad would be commercial/industrial. It was assumed the NYSDOT site would become residential/ commercial. Work on the Cayuga Lake Waterfront Trail and pedestrian crossings at Dey and Third Streets are expected to go forward. Recommendations were to turn Dey to Fulton area into an urban boulevard with landscaping, median, and bike lanes to provide a visual connection to the City; work toward moving the public access railroad crossing to Cascadilla Street; provide road connection through to the private drive on the west side of the tracks (would allow bus access); and develop parking near the power lines in Carpenter Park (can't build there). The committee included Planning Advisory Board members and staff members of the City of Ithaca. A final report is expected soon from the consultant, and any implementation will be up to the City.

e) **Commissioner's Report** – Ed Marx reported there is a group working now on components of the housing strategy. The funds that Cornell has committed to the community for housing may go toward a trust and an affordability fund. The Chamber of Commerce recently voted to support the housing strategy. For the sewer and water study, a steering committee has chosen a preferred consultant following interviews. Three municipalities are still discussing support of the study. Policies developed by the Sustainability Team have gone to F&I and are on the GO agenda. The partners of the Route 96 Corridor Study have interviewed and selected a preferred consultant. The final draft report is expected soon on the Cornell Univ./Town of Ithaca tGEIS. The MPO is convening a group to come up with project proposals for the community investment funds pledged by Cornell for transportation.

f) **2008 Work Program** – Chart was provided with the agenda. A few points were clarified by Ed Marx and Joan Jurkowich. More details will be discussed in January or February.

4) Strategic Tourism Planning Board

- a) **Resolution:** Funding of Community Celebrations Grants – Stu Stein said many of the applications show as not funded, but the committee took the events occurring soonest for consideration, and other applications will be in the 2008 cycle. Resolution moved by Pam, seconded by Jim. Amended to state STPB requested applications. Resolution passed unanimously.
- b) **Resolution:** Funding of Tourism New Initiatives Grants – Moved by Jim, seconded by Pam. Scott Wiggins said these grants are for programs and events in their first three years. Funding as written requires moving some money from reserves. Four projects were recommended. Earth Day may not generate overnight guests, but was considered a quality of life issue. The Wine Center request for part of the salary of a director is a human resources request prior to opening the center. It was seen as an opportunity to develop a significant new attraction, and the previously approved STPB grant has leveraged funding from City of Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency, NYS Main Street Program, and Senator Winner. Resolution amended to spell out that \$9,870 will be used from 2008 funds. Resolution passed unanimously.
- c) **Resolution:** Funding of Tourism Marketing and Advertising Grants – Moved by Pam, seconded by Frank. Amended to insert STPB requested applications. Passed unanimously.
- d) **Resolution:** Approval of Contract for Arts and Culture Stabilization – Moved by Jim, seconded by Frank. Stu Stein said they are hearing from agencies that this program is very helpful. Jim reiterated his support for STPB, saying the committees do a magnificent job and he appreciates all their work. Resolution passed unanimously.
- e) **Award:** Recognition and Awards Nomination – This item was postponed.
- f) **Tourism Baseline Survey RFP Update** – Stu said STPB is trying to assemble statistics and data to evaluate their programs. They have been setting aside funds to work on visitor demographics and will put out an RFP next year. They will bring more info to PDEQ in March or April.

3 Appointments

- a) Environmental Management Council At-Large Seats – Kathy Wilsea explained that the deadline for municipal applications occurred last week, and the Executive Committee wishes to convert the seats of the villages of Freeville and Trumansburg to one-year At-Large seats, and appoint Cliff Babson and Amy Risen. Slate (Yonkin, Kimber, Miller, Stewart, Whitmore, Khanna & Spences) in memo plus Babson & Risen moved by Pam, seconded by Tyke. Martha, Pam & Jim were interested in seeing term limits established for advisory boards, and attendance policies enforced. Term limits will be mentioned to GO. Martha will also discuss at EMC on Wednesday. Frank said there is also a need for more flexible categories. Appointments passed unanimously.
- b) Water Resources Council – Slate (Schutt, Karig, Johnston, Kiley, Shattuck, Schulte, Wagenet, Jurkowich) provided by Nominating Committee moved by Jim, seconded by Frank and passed unanimously.
- c) Planning Advisory Board – Herrick & Wilcox appointments moved by Frank, seconded by Jim and passed unanimously.
- d) Strategic Tourism Planning Board – Slate (Stewart, Fueldner, Stein, Tatar, Ballard, Wiggins, Reis) moved by Jim, seconded by Tyke and passed unanimously.

5 Committee Administration

- a) Committee Goals – Martha briefly reviewed goals and said she felt the committee made good progress, especially on housing and environmental quality. A meeting will be set for 1/7/08 if needed, since it will take time to establish new Legislature committees. She thanked Kathy Wilsea for providing excellent staff support for the year.

6) The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Dept.