

Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 3:30 PM

Scott Heyman Conference Room

Approved 6-2-10

Present: P. Mackesey, Chair, C. Chock, W. Burbank, P. Pryor, F. Proto

Staff: J. Kippola, J. Mareane, P. Younger, County Administration; M. Armstrong, Tompkins County Area Development, M. Lynch, Public Information Officer; C. Schutt, Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District; C. Schulte, Water Resources Council; E. Marx, J. Jurkovich, J. Leccese, Planning Department

Legislature: M. Robertson, Chair; P. Stein

Guests: D. Sparrow, Strategic Tourism Planning Board; S. Shackford, Ithaca Journal

Call to Order

Chair Mackesey called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

Ms. Mackesey said the resolution regarding the Susquehanna Coalition under the Soil and Water Conservation District portion of the meeting was for information only.

Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2010 (DOC ID: 1923)

RESULT:	COMMITTEE APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Pat Pryor, Member
AYES:	Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

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Strategic Tourism Planning Board

Resolution: Award of Spring 2010 Tourism Capital Grants (DOC ID: 1902)

In response to Mr. Proto’s comments concerning a former study done for Stewart Park, Ms. Armstrong said this study is to determine how to improve the buildings to draw visitors to Stewart Park. It will include information on whether to build a new public works facility, update and utilize the second floor of the boathouse, etc. She also indicated a volunteer group has been doing maintenance on the buildings to restore the exterior. The previous study was to determine different uses, priority of projects, and the overall responsibility for maintenance associated with the areas. The Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce is leading the work, and include identifying who would be responsible for maintenance. Ms. Kippola reassured Mr. Proto the grant program excludes funding for maintenance.

Ms. Pryor said discussions at the City of Ithaca regarding improvements and upgrades to the park facilities has taken place for more than ten years. The City is responsible for maintaining the park, and has kept it open to any member of the public, including visitors, without cost.

Ms. Mackesey said because the grants are from room tax it is appropriate to fund the study to determine how the work could benefit tourist attraction. The buildings have fallen into disrepair due to the City not having funding and the project would ensure the buildings survive and some of the County history is maintained.

Ms. Chock believes each grant addresses the guidelines for use to attract visitors as well as cover specific items in the Comprehensive Plan, including the Tourism Strategic Plan. If looking beyond the feasibility study she would make a distinction regarding the maintenance for City or municipal uses and the adaptive reuse of a building. She noted the budget for PRI/Museum of the Earth was to be split over the course of two years. Ms. Chock's recommendation of clarifying the round of grants and separation of the grants to PRI/Museum of the Earth were found to be friendly.

Mr. Proto asked about the rental fees for use of the various buildings and whether the study would provide the information. Ms. Armstrong said the information was provided with the application. The rental is not a large amount and is not linked to the maintenance of the buildings.

Mr. Burbank supports the resolution and said he believes Stewart Park should be part of a County park system.

Mr. Stein agrees with Mr. Burbank's comments. With so much history, including the early years of movie-making, it would be a shame to see the buildings in disrepair. Mr. Proto agreed with the idea of a County park system, which could also include an area in Danby.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pat Pryor, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Member
AYES:	Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

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 2010 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 awards have 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 these projects:

Entity	Project	2010
Center for Transformative Action	Dorothy Cotton Institute Feasibility Study	\$7,500
Tompkins County Chamber Foundation	Stewart Park Building Rehab. Feasibility Study	\$15,000
PRI/ Museum of the Earth	Glacier/Climate Exhibit Project	\$20,000

RESOLVED, further, That upon completion of the requirements outlined in the grant agreements, including the availability of Room Tax Occupancy funding and PRI/Museum of the Earth obtaining the required outside funding, the County Administrator or his designee is authorized to sign all documents relating to this 2011 project:

Entity	Project	2011
PRI/ Museum of the Earth	Glacier/Climate Exhibit Project	\$30,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Explanatory note:

- Full application materials are available for review at <http://www.tcad.org/private/tourismCapital.php>

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Resolution: Authorization to Contract with Tompkins County Area Development for 2010 Tourism Capital Grants Program (DOC ID: 1903)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Carol Chock, Member
SECONDER:	Will Burbank, Member
AYES:	Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

WHEREAS, the County has provided funding for tourism entirely from the Room Occupancy Tax account, and the County Legislature appoints members to the Strategic Tourism Planning Board (STPB) to make recommendations concerning expenditures from that account, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature approved an increase in the Room Tax in 2001 to support the development of tourism products and attractions, among other objectives, including the funding of feasibility studies, seed money or funding for tourism capital projects, and

WHEREAS, the STPB also recognizes the need to encourage the development of tourism products and attractions through the Tourism Capital Projects Grant Program, in order to increase the tourism business in the County, and to increase the income from the Room Occupancy tax, and

WHEREAS, the STPB has recommended that Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD) continue to administer the Tourism Capital Projects Grants process that has a 2010 total budget of \$133,263, divided into a grants budget of \$119,937 and an administration budget of \$13,326, and

WHEREAS, STPB will be responsible for recommending grants from this program to the appropriate Legislative committee, and TCAD will administer the application process, will review and analyze the feasibility and economic impact of a project, will provide oversight for each project, and provide such analysis with recommendations to the appropriate Legislative committee, 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 an agreement with TCAD pertaining to this program,

RESOLVED, further, that, of the total program amount of \$133,263, up to \$13,326 (10 percent of total program expenditures) shall be paid to TCAD for 2010 administrative evaluation and oversight services,

RESOLVED, further, That the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee or its successor is authorized to recommend expenditures be made from this Program Account, with the understanding that such expenditures shall be subject to the approval by the Tompkins County Legislature.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Resolution: Funding of Spring 2010 Community Celebrations Grants (DOC ID: 1904)

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Frank Proto, Member
SECONDER: Carol Chock, Member
AYES: Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has a grant program for community celebrations using funds drawn entirely from Room Occupancy Tax, and

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

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the following Spring 2010 grants are approved:

Town of Enfield	2010 Enfield Harvest Festival	\$1,770
City of Ithaca	2010 Congo Square Market	800
Town of Caroline	2010 Caroline Open House	2,000
City of Ithaca	2010 Cayuga Lake Community-Build	1,000
City of Ithaca	2010 Juneteenth African American Heritage Celebration	2,000
Village of Groton	2010 Sesquicentennial Celebration of Village	800
Town of Danby	2010 Danby Fun Day	910
Town of Enfield	2010 Enfield Elementary School Celebrating 51 Years	500
Town of Lansing	2010 Myers Park Concerts	1,050
City of Ithaca	2010 West End Waterfront Rhiner Festival	2,000
City of Ithaca	2010 Celebrating Youth in the Arts	550
Town of Dryden	2010 Dryden Lake Festival	2,000
Town of Groton	2010 Annual Halloween Celebration	350
City of Ithaca	2010 Latino Heritage Month Celebration	2,000
Town of Newfield	2010 Newfield Old Home Days	<u>2,000</u>
		<u>\$19,730</u>

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

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Resolution: Funding of Spring 2010 Tourism Project Grants (DOC ID: 1907)

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Burbank, to amend the resolution and increase the grant award for 2010 Light in Winter Festival to \$10,000. Ms. Chock said the increase is warranted to provide additional funding to offset the economic decline. Although the funding was reduced due to a decline in participation, the festival designed their parameters around the request that it take place during winter, a non-traditional tourist period. Ms. Kippola explained the grant award to Light in Winter from the review committee was less than the \$7,000; the amount had been increased by the Strategic Tourism Planning Board (STPB). In response to questions, Ms. Kippola explained the reduction had been due to a decrease in actual hotel room nights for the event. In addition, the total available for grants was \$69,000, with \$46,000 recommended for grants; leaving \$23,000 for a round of grants in the fall.

Ms. Mackesey opposes the amendment; she believes the STPB has carefully determined what the grant awards should be based on information provided.

Ms. Chock said Light in Winter does not have the available resources other proposals have.

Mr. Proto said the purpose of the grants are to increase room nights; while he would like to support the event it appears there are not as many room nights. Ms. Pryor agreed with Mr. Proto's comments.

Mr. Sparrow, Chair of the STPB, said the members were skeptical about the diminishing impact on the hotel industry during the festival. They had reported 37 room nights as the yield for the nights of the Light in Winter Festival.

A voice vote on the amendment resulted as follows: Ayes – 2 (Legislators Burbank and Chock); Noes – 3 (Legislators Mackesey, Proto, and Pryor). MOTION FAILED.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Proto, Member
SECONDER:	Pat Pryor, Member
AYES:	Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

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

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

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the following Spring 2010 grants are approved:

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

Tompkins Co. Chamber Foundation	Interpretive Panels- Waterfront Trail Phase 3	\$ 8,000
Cayuga Lake Wine Trail	2010 Greyhound Wine Tour & Friends	\$ 2,000
Downtown Ithaca Alliance	2010 Downtown Ithaca Festival of Ice	\$ 9,000
Light in Winter Festival, Inc.	2010 Light in Winter Festival	\$ 7,000
bioDevelopments	2010 Ithaca Scottish Games & Celtic Festival	\$10,000
PRI & Museum of the Earth	2001 One Fish, Two Fish, Old Fish, New Fish	<u>\$10,000</u>
		\$46,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Resolution: Funding of Spring 2010 Tourism Marketing and Advertising Grants (DOC ID: 1913)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pat Pryor, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Member
AYES:	Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

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

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has requested and reviewed grant applications for

recommendation to the Tompkins County Legislature through the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee with the advice of the Strategic Tourism Planning Board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the following Spring 2010 grants are approved:

PRI & Museum of the Earth	2010 One Fish, Two Fish, Old Fish, New Fish Exhibit \$5,000	
State Theatre of Ithaca, Inc.	2010 Dan Zanes & Friends Performance	\$3,000
Cayuga Wine Trail	2010 Holiday Shopping Spree	\$4,000
Cayuga Wine Trail	2010 Greyhound Wine Tour & Friends	\$2,500
Historic Ithaca	2010 Central NY Window Preservation Conference	\$750
Downtown Ithaca Alliance	2010 Downtown Ithaca Festival of Ice	\$2,000
Cayuga Lake Watershed	Cayuga Eco-Cruise Pilot	\$2,500
Ithaca Triathlon Club	2011 Cayuga Lake Triathlon	\$3,400
Light in Winter Festival, Inc.	2011 Light in Winter	\$5,000
bioDevelopments-International Institute	2010 Ithaca Scottish Games & Celtic Festival	\$1,250
		\$29,400

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

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Strategic Tourism Planning Board Presentation – Baseline Survey

Ms. Kippola announced the Strategic Tourism Planning Board will have a baseline survey presentation on May 4th at 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn. The Chumura consulting firm will provide information on a survey of visitors to Tompkins County and what attracted them to our area.

Transportation

Resolution: Appropriation of 2010-2011 Budgets for the Ithaca-Tompkins-County Transportation Council (DOC ID: 1919)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Proto, Member
SECONDER:	Pat Pryor, Member
AYES:	Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

WHEREAS, Tompkins County serves as the Host Agency for the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Ithaca-Tompkins County area, and

WHEREAS, the County has a contract with the New York State Department of Transportation to provide funding for the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council through grants provided by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, and

WHEREAS, the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council has grant authorizations for its 2010-2011 fiscal year, beginning April 1, 2010 and ending March 31, 2011, in the amounts of \$280,350 from the Federal Highway Administration, and \$42,034 from the Federal Transit Administration, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee of the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council has adopted resolution 10-1, *APPROVAL OF THE 2010-2011 ITHACA-TOMPKINS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL OPERATING BUDGET*, which requests that the Host Agency (Tompkins County) take the appropriate actions to fully implement said operating budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee, That the budgets for the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council, as presented in "ATTACHMENT A" to this resolution, be amended in the 2010 Tompkins County budget and that the County Finance Director be authorized to expend such funds for the period from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

**Resolution No.
 ATTACHMENT A**

2010-2011 ITCTC OPERATING BUDGET

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Current Year Funds		
		10/11 FHWA	10/11 FTA	10/11 TOTAL
.4959	REVENUES: FEDERAL AID	\$280,350	\$42,034	\$322,384
	EXPENSES: COMBINED SALARIES	186,661	23,359	210,020
.8800	FRINGE	75,598	9,460	85,058
.2206	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	0	500	500
.2210	OTHER EQUIPMENT	0	0	0
.2214	FURNITURE & FIXTURES	0	400	400
.2230	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	0	300	300
.4303	OFFICE SUPPLIES	0	0	0
.4330	PRINTING	0	750	750
.4332	BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS	0	200	200
.4400	PROGRAM EXPENSE	8,000	0	8,000
.4402	LEGAL ADVERTISING	0	750	750
.4412	TRAVEL/TRAINING	500	1,000	1,500
.4414	LOCAL MILEAGE	256	1,000	1,256
.4416	PROFESSIONAL DUES	300	300	600
.4424	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	3,500	0	3,500
.4425	SERVICE CONTRACTS	250	750	1,000
.4432	RENT	250	250	500
.4442	PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FEES	1,135	865	2,000
.4452	POSTAGE SERVICES	500	500	1,000
.4472	TELEPHONE	400	1,150	1,550
.4618	INTERDEPARTMENTAL CHARGE	0	500	500
.4905	CENTRALLY DISTRIBUTED ITEMS	3,000	0	3,000

	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$280,350	\$42,034	\$322,384

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Water Resources Council Annual Report (Doc Id: 1918)

Mr. Proto said a requirement of the Water Resources Council is to present the annual report in April. The subcommittees of the Water Resources Council put forth a great deal of effort to complete this task. Ms. Schulte, Tompkins County Council of Governments representative on the Water Resources Council, provided a brief overview of the Water Resources Council 2009 Annual Report. With regard to the work done by the Gas Drilling Committee, Ms. Mackesey noted County representatives met with several individuals in Albany who were amazed by the work done by staff and volunteers in the County and the Water Resources Council.

Ms. Schulte said all of the aspects of work done by the Water Resources Council would be affected in some way by gas drilling and will require a great deal of effort. She also noted the assistance of the Planning staff is critical for the Water Resources Council to be able to complete their work.

Ms. Chock asked what the Water Resources Council's plans are regarding gas drilling's affect on water quality, referencing a Federal document on scoping for the relationship of drilling and water quality. Ms. Schulte said she read the 118 page document and although a comment could be prepared, she does not know if it is necessary. Although she would provide a brief comment from herself.

Ms. Schulte said the Water Resources Council will continue to review information regarding gas drilling and are waiting for the State to respond to the comments before continuing work.

Mr. Proto stated that the Water Resources Council is the officially designated advisory board for water bodies in Tompkins County and that the request for comments should have come to that body. Ms. Mackesey asked that any additional comments on the annual report be directed to the Water Resources Council or to Mr. Proto.

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Update on Strategic Tourism Planning Position

Ms. Mackesey asked Mr. Mareane to address the issue of hiring an individual for the work that former Legislator Stuart Stein has been doing for the Strategic Tourism Planning Board.

Mr. Mareane said the Strategic Tourism Planning Board had set aside funds for a position, however, due to budget constraints last year action to move forward has been delayed. There continues to be a need for staff support; a great deal of work has been done by volunteers but now exceeds the level a volunteer board should be expected to undertake. The position should call for a single point of accountability for the spending of room tax dollars, how the funds are spent, assist in helping the committee to shape its expectations, and have the responsibility of spending the funds. Mr. Mareane has had discussions with a number of individuals and stakeholders to develop a report outlining what the responsibilities should be and a recommended organizational model.

In response to Ms. Pryor's question, Mr. Mareane anticipates the position would fit into the current departmental structure. He also noted the position would be funded through the Room Tax revenue.

Soil and Water Conservation District Report (DOC ID: 1920)

Mr. Schutt provided a written overview of the Soil and Water Conservation District operations, including grants received, contracts, sales, education, and hydroseeding.

Following review of the report, Mr. Schutt also informed the Committee he has six employees with a \$1 million budget, the majority coming from the State. The County provides space as well as approximately \$110,000 for financial support. Mr. Proto spoke of the value of the Soil and Water Conservation District, bringing approximately \$1 million into the County.

Mr. Schutt reported working with Cornell University to obtain an agricultural-plastic baler to recycle agricultural plastic rather than dispose of it through burning and other means. This initiative came about as a result of the State Public Health regulations regarding open burning. This equipment would be used in surrounding counties as well.

Ms. Chock asked what Mr. Schutt sees as potential work and problems due to hydrofracking in the State. He said that Pennsylvania was hit very fast and did not have time to prepare; New York State will have a period of time to determine a course of action. At the present time it appears the largest concern is the road conditions due to increased heavy-truck traffic. Although the gas companies have signed maintenance agreements to repair any damage, they are overwhelmed at the road repair work that is required. The recommendation is that the Soil and Water Conservation Districts could assist in providing technical assistance with erosion/sediment control, stormwater issues around paths, and pipelines, etc.

Ms. Robertson said it is critical to support the agency's assistance with the gas drilling issue and that perhaps there should be industry support. Ms. Mackesey said concern has been expressed that if the Districts receive industry funding it may reduce objectivity. Mr. Schutt said the District is not and does not choose to be regulatory; a review would be completed to determine the extent of work to be done.

Ms. Chock asked that a future agenda item be the differences of the various water districts. Mr. Schutt said a meeting held in Newfield had a Susquehanna Basin member give a presentation and it was interesting to hear their information.

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Planning Department

Resolution: Support for State Legislation to Amend Current Enabling Laws Authorizing Sustainable Energy Financing Programs (DOC ID: 1916)

Mr. Marx said there is movement in the State Legislature to make amendments that will allow local municipal programs as outlined within the resolution. In response to Mr. Proto's question regarding the funding and bonding associated with the resolution, Mr. Marx said the legislation would give the County the option to get bonding; the current legislation only allows the use of current Federal grant funds for these programs. Mr. Proto asked if it is different than the Industrial Development Agency and if there would be any exposure. Mr. Marx said there are ongoing discussions with bond counsel to determine how to structure bond financing to determine what would be the County's legal responsibility. It would be financed by an assessment on the property tax of participating parcels. The resolution is simply to ask for the authority to do so. Mr. Proto said there is a timing issue as the State Legislature is in session and there is a push to act upon this. It was noted that discussions over the past six months regarding this issue have included the County Administrator and Finance Director. Once authority is given the next step would be to look further to determine how to proceed and answer various questions. It was also noted that any further action would have to come back to the Legislature for approval.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pat Pryor, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Member
AYES:	Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

WHEREAS, in August 2009, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted Resolution #146 “Support for State Legislation Authorizing Municipalities to Establish Green Loan Programs to Provide Financing to Residential and Commercial Property Owners for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements” and

WHEREAS, in November 2009, by Chapter 497 of the Laws of 2009, the State of New York authorized an amendment of the General Municipal Law by creating Article 5-L to allow municipalities to create Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs (known in New York State as “Sustainable Energy Financing Programs”) to promote the deployment of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvement measures at residential and commercial properties; and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County wishes to increase energy efficiency of existing buildings, reduce energy costs for residents, reduce carbon emissions to help mitigate climate disruption, reduce the negative health effects of fossil fuel emissions, and create and retain local jobs in the energy audit and energy contracting sector; and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County wishes to explore mutually beneficial ways of:

- Leveraging private sources of capital with other public and private resources to accomplish these objectives; and
- Coordinating efforts with Federal, State, and other agencies and authorities to assure that activities are compatible with the plans and programs of the cooperating municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Energy Financing Program enabled by Article 5-L should be amended to allow broader sources of funding while securing and facilitating such programs. Such legislation is now pending in the New York State Senate and Assembly, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature hereby requests the State of New York to adopt legislation to amend, strengthen and correct technical deficiencies within the current enabling laws authorizing Sustainable Energy Financing Programs, including allowing the use of bonds and other sources of public and private financing to establish and implement such programs,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Legislature is authorized to forward this resolution in support of amending current enabling laws authorizing Sustainable Energy Financing Programs to Governor David A. Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith, Senate Minority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator George Winner, Senator James Seward, Senator Michael Nozzolio, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, and the New York State Association of Counties.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Commissioner’s Report (DOC ID: 1917)

Mr. Marx reported on the following items:

- Energy Report – there has been a lot of work regarding the energy strategy component of the Comprehensive Plan. The issue of quantifying and determining how to systematically reduce the energy and greenhouse gas emissions is understandably complicated and even more complex as moving forward. Many of the ways to determine measurement are changing and the carbon

intensity measures of fuels sources requires recalculation. Although time consuming it is interesting to learn the changes as we go forward.

- Phase 2 – County Conservation Plan – the public meeting was held several weeks ago regarding the Agriculture Resource Focus Plan portion. He recommended members review the document online to have a full understanding of agriculture in the various areas of the County.
- Planning Advisory Board – last month there was a great deal of discussion regarding development and area focus planning with municipalities. This would look at the information in County and local Comprehensive Plans as well as the sewer and water infrastructure plans, and assist in planning future developments. There will be a meeting this spring with local municipal planners and officials to discuss how the broadened view of development would be beneficial.
- Comprehensive Plan Implementation Update – a review of the five-year progress of the Comprehensive Plan will take place.

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Environmental Management Council

Appointment (DOC ID: 1922):

Ms. Jurkowich said the Environmental Management Council does solicit applications several times a year. She does not believe there was a specific request for applicants since a request for interested parties had taken place earlier this year.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Frank Proto, Member
AYES:	Mackesey, Burbank, Chock, Proto, Pryor

Brian B. Eden – At-large representative, term to expire December 31, 2010.

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Housing Fund Proposal Recommendations (DOC ID: 1921)

Ms. Mackesey reported on the progress of the Housing Fund Program, noting the Notice of Funding Availability period is complete. Six proposals were received and reviewed by the Applications Review Committee with three recommendations being made. The next step is the three entities, Cornell University, City of Ithaca, and Tompkins County meeting this Friday to discuss which entity will fund each project, with a goal of working toward having the funding in one budget line, meeting the needs of all the three groups.

Mr. Proto asked if there is a timeframe for applicants not approved to resubmit a request. Ms. Mackesey said another round of applications would take place at the end of April. Applicants not approved were given information on how to improve their application forms for future consideration. Ms. Mackesey said the application submitted by Shelter Valley Home was not considered due to Health Department concerns and that the application was not complete.

Mr. Burbank asked what the County decision-making process with this program is and was informed that it would require Committee and Legislature approval. Mr. Marx said if the Committee has any concerns or reservations they should be given prior to the meeting with the City and Cornell University.

In response to Ms. Chock's question regarding whether the applications would be expected to move forward to permanent affordability, Mr. Marx said the review committee was very pleased with the quality of applications received. Ms. Mackesey said the oversight committee had a broad view of the applications; she believed it was a great combination of not-for-profit, for profit, and both inside and outside the City of Ithaca. She said it is a work in progress and there is a great deal of cooperation among the three parties. Mr. Marx said the housing trust provides funding to underwrite the cost of the housing unit in return for keeping it permanently affordable.

A brief discussion took place regarding the process and potential concerns with projects. Ms. Pryor spoke of a constituent concern regarding the Ithaca Neighborhood Housing project design, believing vehicles would have to back into a main roadway. Mr. Marx said the design does not have a parking area in a position to cause that to happen; the Town of Ithaca has approved the project design.

Ms. Mackesey stressed the importance of this initiative, recognizing it has already gone through a detailed process.

The Committee requested copies of the NOFA and how the funds would be used. Ms. Fuller will forward this information.

It was noted the funds for the program are from the CDBG grant, not local tax dollars.

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Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of Farming

Ms. Mackesey said there was a request for representation on the New York State Association of Counties Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of Farming; the County could have up to two representatives. It was suggested that perhaps a Legislator and representative from Cooperative Extension could join. This Commission will have three meetings and prepare a report. Mr. Proto asked if he could join this Commission and was approved by Ms. Robertson, however, Ms. Kiefer stated he may not be the most appropriate individual to serve. The purpose of this group is to make certain that New York State recognizes the importance of agriculture in the State through information presented by New York State Association of Counties. Following discussion it was thought that Mr. Proto could sit on the Commission with Ms. Pryor as an alternate in the event of conflicts.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.