

meeting discussions will be compiled and presented to Legislators with an updated draft Plan for discussion and adoption.

3) Tompkins County Area Development

a) Update on Empire Zones – Heather Filiberto said the six subzones in Tompkins County were designated in July 2006, as part of the NYS program of tax incentives for businesses. Most Zone benefits are tax incentives contingent upon job creation. She said nine applicant businesses have been fully certified and another four are waiting for state certification. A development plan is being written and Heather is making a big effort to match the plan to the municipal interests. Although abuses of the Zone program have been in the news, changes to the tax codes are closing the loopholes that had been used by restructuring businesses.

4) Soil & Water Conservation District

a) Update – Craig Schutt provided handouts on SWCD program, saying 2006 was a big year for SWCD because outgoing Governor Pataki’s administration wanted to get the funds out before the new administration took office. Craig said the Natural Resource Conservation Service is implementing a new cost-saving business model and it looks like some offices will be closed. Locally, NRCE pays a lot of the rent for their shared offices and Craig said he might need to come to the Legislature for increased rent. NRCS staff would be relocated, but attrition is expected because many are near retirement age.

5) Workforce Investment Board

a) **Resolution:** Creation of Project Assistant Positions in the Office of Employment and Training – Tompkins Workforce New York – Diane Bradac reviewed the summer youth program and the need to hire staff for screening. Resolution version in the Legislature agenda packet was moved by Jim, seconded by Pam. The duplicate of the phrase “carry over year-to-year” will be removed. Resolution passed unanimously.

b) **Resolution:** Adoption of Amended Bylaws – Tompkins County Workforce Investment Board – Julia Mattick was present to answer questions. Working with the version in the Legislature agenda packet, it was moved by Jim and seconded by Frank. Information on how many non-county residents and decision makers work in Tompkins County comes from employers. Frank said WIB evolved from the Private Industry Council, which was a regional group. He felt the resolution was okay as long as a majority of members is not from out of Tompkins County. Proposed amendment from Dooley Kiefer was accepted as friendly. Jim moved to remove Whereas clause #5, which passed by vote of 3:2 (Robertson and Proto preferred to have it remain in the resolution.). Amended resolution passed unanimously.

6) Transportation

a) **Resolution:** Authorizing an Inter-municipal Agreement Between Tompkins County and Cortland County – Public Transportation Services – Jackie Kippola provided edits suggested by the TCAT attorney. Amended resolution moved by Pam, seconded by Jim and passed unanimously.

7) Tompkins County Planning Department

a) **Resolution:** Appropriation from Contingency Fund – International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Local Governments for Sustainability Membership – Resolution amended to say “rejoin” instead of “become a member of” plus two minor modifications. Moved by Jim, seconded by Pam, and passed unanimously.

b) **Resolution:** Authorization to Accept 2006-2007 Snowmobile Trails Grant-In-Aid – Resolution moved by Pam, seconded by Tyke. First resolved clause amended to read, “That Tompkins County hereby accepts...” Passed unanimously.

c) **Resolution:** Authorization to Continue the Homeownership Program Through Use of Program Income Funds – Moved by Tyke, seconded by Pam. Tyke voiced support for this program, saying it is nice to see it self-perpetuate. Jim agreed. Martha suggested cross-advertising with the City’s program so residents are aware of both options. Resolution passed unanimously.

d) **Resolution:** In Recognition of Tompkins County Homeownership Program Helping 250 Low and Moderate Income First Time Homeowners to Purchase Homes – A celebration will take place at Better Housing for Tompkins County on June 8th at 2 PM. Resolution moved by Tyke, seconded by Pam and passed unanimously.

e) **Resolution:** Acceptance of a Scenic Byways Grant from the NYS Dept. of Transportation to Implement the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan – 2006 – Resolution moved by Pam, seconded by Tyke. Frank suggested a paragraph be added to the cover memo that the Scenic Byway is not related to the Waterfront Trail, which still has some controversial areas that may be taken by eminent domain. Resolution passed unanimously.

f) **Budget Adjustment Request** – Scenic Byway – Moved by Jim, seconded by Pam and passed unanimously.

g) **Commissioner’s Report** – Ed Marx reported that the ITCTC Policy Committee will be discussing a resolution offering comments on the SEQR review for Seneca Meadows landfill. They will comment on their wish to keep truck traffic on the interstate roads. The Planning Department is discussing contracting with TCAD for administration of the Economic Development Revolving Loan fund. Ed will probably bring a resolution to PDEQ next month on this. This action would reduce our reporting obligations to HUD and allow people to more efficiently apply to TCAD’s program at the same time. The Rural Small Business Loan Program would remain at the Planning Department. The Housing Strategy is nearing completion, and Ed expects to bring that to PDEQ in June, also. He expects endorsement soon from at least the City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, Town of Lansing, Better Housing for Tompkins County, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Service, Chamber of Commerce, and TCAD. Pam was unsure if she could support it if it doesn’t address the impacts expected on neighborhoods and roads. Ed said such analysis would require complete examination of land use, which is up to municipalities. The Housing Strategy is about needing housing and letting workers live near their places of work. Martha Robertson said there has been little comment on the four action steps; all the discussion centers on the “Whereas” clauses. Current version will be distributed to PDEQ members again. Ed attended a meeting of the NYS Association of Planning Directors. He will bring PDEQ a resolution on the state-required training for planning board members. The Planning Advisory Board also expects to require some training. At the Planning Directors meeting, there was also discussion on a bill in the NYS Legislature offering state income tax credit for local property tax for farmers who commit to farm for 8 years. This requires county certification, which could be a large administrative burden for planners. One parcel being examined for foreclosure will be withheld from the sale following discussion at Government Operations Committee last week. It will be examined for protection as part of a Unique Natural Area. Scott Doyle is a new staff member who was hired as a Senior Planner. Ed expects to introduce him at PDEQ next month. Interviews will be conducted for one more new staff member.

Returning to the topic of Seneca Meadows landfill, Jim said citizens are outraged about the garbage truck traffic through Ulysses. Ed said elected officials need to show up for the public meeting and comment. The ITCTC resolution will probably suggest contractors be required to use Routes 90 and 414 as a condition of their permits. Frank said in the past they had to prove a truck was overweight in order to impose any penalties. The public meeting will be 5/21, 6 PM at Vince’s Park near the intersection of routes 5&20 and 89. Martha asked for a sense of the committee. It was passed unanimously to draft a resolution to present to the County Legislature on 5/15 opposing Seneca Meadows’ truck traffic through Tompkins County.

8) **Committee Administration**

a) Approval of Minutes from April 9 and April 17, 2007 – The draft minutes were accepted without change.

9) **Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

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