



Tompkins County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

121 East Court Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

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Commissioner of Planning

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AGENDA
PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, May 22, 2013
9:00 AM
Scott Heyman Conference Room, 125 E. Court St.

Call to Order & Changes to the Agenda	Andy Zepp
Cleaner Greener Southern Tier – Next Steps	Staff
Comprehensive Plan Scope – Discussion	Staff
Commissioner’s Report	Ed Marx
Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2013	Andy Zepp
Announcements	Members
Adjournment	Andy Zepp

Please allow 1 ½ hours for this meeting.

*If you will be absent, please notify
Kathy Wilsea at 274-5560 or
kwilsea@tompkins-co.org*

Upcoming meeting date: June 26, July 24

**Scope of Comprehensive Plan – 2014
FIRST DRAFT**

Existing Table of Contents

Proposed deletions are shown in red

Introduction
 The Value of a Comprehensive Plan
 Regional Cooperation
 Listening to Community Voices
 Coordinating with Other Efforts
 Principles of the Comprehensive Plan

Tompkins County Overview
 History of Settlement
 Our Demographic Profile
 Geology and Natural Surroundings
 What Lies Ahead

Interlocking Pieces: Housing, Transportation and Jobs
 Housing Choices
 Transportation Choices
 Jobs and Business
 Rural Resources

Interlocking Pieces: The Environment
 Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 Water Resources
 Natural Features

Interlocking Pieces: Neighborhoods and Communities
 Strong Communities
 Centers of Development
 Efficient Use of Public Funds

Implementation and Impact Analysis
 Implementation of Priority Actions
 Future Development Scenarios
 Fiscal Impact Analysis

Proposed Table of Contents

Proposed additions are shown in brown

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Overarching Themes/Cross-Cutting Principles
 Affordable Living – *livable wage, housing, trans, energy*
 Efficient Use of Public Funds
 Healthy Communities – *recreation, food, public health*
 Regional Coordination
 Sustainability including Social Equity

Interlocking Pieces: Housing, Transportation and Jobs
 Housing Choices – *more on senior housing*
 Transportation Choices – *alternative fuel vehicles*
 Jobs and Business – *more on local economy*
 Rural Resources – *alternative energy resources*

Interlocking Pieces: The Environment
 Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions – *energy road map, utility infrastructure, natural gas issues including methane emissions*
 Water Resources
 Natural Features
 Climate Adaptation/Resiliency

Interlocking Pieces: Neighborhoods and Communities
 Strong Communities/Centers of Development - *combine*
 Place-Making – *historic resources, rural character, scenic resources*

Implementation and Impact Analysis
 County Implementation Plan
 Community Actions
 Future Development Scenarios – *scenarios based on alternative growth rates*

Other Potential Additional Topic Areas

- Community Food Security
- Culture and the Arts – creative economy
- Education – K-12, life-long learning, the future of a higher education economy?
- Green Infrastructure – parks, trails, stormwater management
- Infrastructure – water and sewer, energy, communications and data

Information in the 2004 Plan should be updated to reflect most recent information/data. Highlight successes in implementing recommendations of the 2004 plan. Throughout the Plan, weave in findings, policies and recommendations from plans since 2004 – e.g., Cleaner Greener Southern Tier, Regional Transportation Study, various strategic plans, corridor studies, Energy Road Map. Also, incorporate information on relevant new legislation, like NYS Complete Streets and NYS Smart Growth laws. As appropriate, share information gleaned from the Indicators of Success annual reports.

The Overarching Themes/Cross Cutting Principles would not be like the topic chapters, but would describe the general concept (e.g., Affordable Living takes into consideration the total cost for a household to live in Tompkins County – housing costs, transportation costs, energy costs, and the related wages needed to afford to live here) and address the question “How would the various topic area chapters (housing, transportation, energy, development) further these principles.” These might not be individual chapters but one chapter covering the multitude of topics.

2 **PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**
 3 **Wednesday, April 24, 2013**
 4 **SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**
 5 **125 East Court Street**

6 **draft MINUTES**

7

8 **Members Attending:**

Name		Representation
Mina Amundsen	P	At-Large
Martha Armstrong	P	Economic Development
Michelle Berry		At-Large
Todd Bittner	P	Natural Environment
Carol Chock	E	Planning Committee
Dick Coogan	P	Local Planning (non-urban)
Sue Cosentini	E	Business
Rick Couture	P	Education
Fernando deAragon	P	Transportation
John Gutenberger	P	Education
Dave Herrick	E	Facilities/Infrastructure
David Kay	P	Local Planning (urban)

Name		Representation
Gay Nicholson		At-Large
Monika Roth	P	Agriculture
Kathy Schlather	P	Human Services
John Spence	E	Housing
Rob Steuteville	E	Built Environment Design
Scott Whitham	P	Cultural & Historic Pres.
Andy Zepp	P	Land Pres/Public Land Mgmt
<i>Dooley Kiefer</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
Ed Marx	P	Commissioner of Planning
Joan Jurkowich	P	Deputy Commissioner
Megan McDonald	P	Senior Planner
Kathy Wilsea	P	Secretary

10

11 **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by the Chair, Martha Armstrong. New staff member
 12 Megan McDonald was introduced. Her major job assignments are housing and County sustainability programs. Other
 13 introductions were made around the room.

14

15 **Wrapping up the Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Regional Sustainability Plan** – Ed Marx reported the last five
 16 months have involved doing edits for NYSERDA on the draft. NYSERDA has now told the team it is final (but this is
 17 the second time). The Plan needs to be endorsed by the Regional Economic Development Council, which does not
 18 currently have a meeting scheduled. The document will be posted as a draft on the project website. Ed encouraged
 19 PAB members to look at the 65 action items, especially the 22 priority action items. A funding round will be
 20 announced soon – in June according to a speaker at the recent sustainability conference organized by Assemblywoman
 21 Barbara Lifton. The speaker also said funding will be devoted primarily to capital projects, with a push on streamlining
 22 the permitting process for solar power. Joan also encouraged members to get ready, as the typical grant round is only
 23 open for six weeks and we need to figure out how to push projects forward. Ed said best chances are expected to go to
 24 demonstration projects that could then be applied throughout the region, or spreading existing projects throughout the
 25 region. Projects must have an emission reduction component that does not duplicate current NYSERDA programs.

26

27 **Finger Lakes Land Trust Request for Funding from the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and**
 28 **Recreational Resource Protection (Bock project in Enfield)** – Ed provided background on this capital fund, which
 29 was originally funded with some rollover and foreclosure income. The foreclosure properties have all been sold to State
 30 Parks. Current balance is a little over \$10,000. Andy Zepp provided information on the current project. It has been in
 31 the Bock family for around 200 years, and the preservation area has woodlands, meadows, and trails, and is within a
 32 Natural Features Focus Area and the Emerald Necklace Open Space greenbelt. The Bock family offered the land to
 33 FLLT, which proposed the partnership with Finger Lakes Trail Conference and trail management by Cayuga Trails
 34 Club, with FLLT holding the easement for protection. This concept was then approved by the family. Enfield passed a
 35 resolution of support, which is important because the land is being conveyed to a not-for-profit organization and comes
 36 off the tax rolls. The road frontage is getting very suburbanized, and this will be a step to getting the trails off the road.
 37 David Kay asked why this is an appropriate use of the capital fund. Ed responded the fund was established to protect
 38 resources within NFFAs and stream corridors, and trail corridors. The location of this trail corridor within a NFFA and
 39 the Emerald Necklace is important, and it has lots of recreational potential. Todd Bittner asked if the forest is in a
 40 Unique Natural Area, which will be checked and added to the resolution for the County Legislature if appropriate. This
 41 funding request is for stewardship.

43 Martha summarized the request before PAB today, which was moved by David Kay and seconded by Rick Couture. In
44 discussion, it was decided to specify the grant is for stewardship and that was accepted as a friendly amendment.
45

46 **Action:** Planning Advisory Board recommends a grant from the Capital Fund in the amount of \$7,500 to Finger Lakes
47 Land Trust for stewardship purposes to protect the Bock property in the Town of Enfield, for protection of the trail
48 corridor, old growth forest, and other resource values with a permanent easement. Voice **vote:** Yes 11/ No 0/
49 Abstention 1 (Zepp).
50

51 **Update Process for the Comprehensive Plan** – Joan Jurkowich carried on discussion from the last meeting. How do
52 we update the Comp Plan action items? The 2004 TCPD and partner actions were mostly completed. Other agencies’
53 work was not as complete. So in the update should we have two lists – County and County partnership actions, then
54 ideas (not called actions) for other agencies. Last time action items were only included if we got agreement from a lead
55 agency, but this time some ideas will only be included as recommendations. We have had some success developing
56 strategies, and will incorporate more this time. Strategies are shorter term and prescriptive. An example is the Black
57 Diamond Trail, which was not a County project, but we had a role to play. Kathy Schlather suggested the second list
58 could be stakeholder participation, with focus on the goal. Dooley commented she would not want them completely
59 separate in the plan. Ed said with fewer staff, TCPD is unable to follow up on projects outside the department. Some
60 things we track and report on. It can be frustrating when there is no progress, but these are not our projects. Joan said
61 although we want the Comp Plan to have a wish list, we can’t be too pie-in-the-sky. Ed pointed out development of
62 detailed strategies can lead to action by others. Comp Plan action might specify development of a strategy. Target for
63 completion and adoption is the end of 2014.
64

65 **Commissioner’s Report** – Ed Marx reported the Blueway Trail Plan meeting will take place tonight at the Public
66 Library. ▪ Notice of Funding Availability for the Housing Fund was released last week, with due date of 5/23. ▪ The
67 Aurora Pocket Neighborhood is holding open houses 4/27 and 5/4 from noon to 5PM. EcoVillage is progressing and
68 the first houses in the new phase will be complete in June. EVI will also have an open house. In September there will
69 be a major presentation to the community on code possibilities for more efficient buildings. Tentative date is 9/30.
70 They are gearing up to do reporting on Climate Showcase Communities locally, regionally and nationally. ▪ At
71 Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative on 4/26, two Cornell University interns will present on their energy road
72 map research. ▪ The Sustainability Center is open in the Human Services Annex. On Thursday evening they will have
73 an intergenerational dialog on solid waste. Grand Opening will be 5/9, 4 to 6 PM. ▪ In County Government, the airport
74 is trying to keep the control tower open, and our US senators are advocating for us. Flight schedules remain in place,
75 and the tower closure would not affect safety. ▪ The Capital Plan Review Committee is reviewing the future of the Old
76 Library. Once the Community Justice Center is moved, the building will be vacant. Move of the Legislature to the Old
77 Courthouse will meet all space needs except for CJC. ▪ Concerning Biggs A, Ed and the developers have visited the
78 Ithaca Town Board a couple times, but have received no solid feedback. Discussion will continue at the next Town
79 Board Meeting. The team is willing to have a community meeting and answer questions.
80

81 **Approval of Minutes from 11/28/2012, 1/23/2013, 2/27/2013** – All drafts moved together by Dick Coogan, seconded
82 by Fernando De Aragon and passed by unanimous voice vote. Final minutes are available on the Planning Department
83 website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ under Advisory Boards.
84

85 **Announcements** – Andy thanked supporters who helped make the handicapped boardwalk at the Berntsson-Millier
86 tract in the Town of Dryden happen. Ribbon cutting will take place 5/30 at 3PM.
87 David Kay announced Streets Alive will take place on 5/5 from 1 to 4 PM. Fernando said the last event had about 2,000
88 people. The location has been expanded this time.
89 Fernando reported the Regional Transportation Study is coming to an end. They will hold a meeting at TC3 for
90 community leaders. Some recommendations are specific, some more general. Some good ideas came out of this
91 process. The participants got to know each other and share ideas. Recommended projects have some overlap with the
92 Cleaner Greener Regional Sustainability Plan, and he will check the Plan recommendations. One priority is to continue
93 Ride Share.
94

95 **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.
96

97 Respectfully submitted,
98 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
99 Tompkins County Planning Department
100

101 Minutes adopted by PAB on __, 2013.