



Tompkins County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

121 East Court Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Edward C. Marx, AICP
Commissioner of Planning
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AGENDA
PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, October 24, 2012
9:00 AM
Scott Heyman Conference Room, 125 E. Court St.

Call to Order & Changes to the Agenda	Mina Amundsen
Biggs Development Proposal – Update and Discussion	Ed Marx
2012 Planning Department Work Program Update	Ed Marx
Commissioner’s Report	Ed Marx
Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2012	Mina Amundsen
Announcements	Members
Adjournment	Mina Amundsen

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: November 28
PAB will not meet in December.*

1 *Draft 9/26/2012*

2
3 **PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**
4 **Wednesday, September 26, 2012**
5 **SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**
6 **125 East Court Street**

7 **draft MINUTES**

8
9 **Members Present** – Mina Amundsen, Todd Bittner, Will Burbank, Dick Coogan, John
10 Gutenberger, David Kay, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Gay Nicholson, Monika Roth, Kathy
11 Schlather, Andy Zepp

12 **Members Excused** -- Martha Armstrong, Michelle Berry, Sue Cosentini, Rick Couture, Fernando
13 de Aragon, Dave Herrick, John Spence, Rob Steuteville, Scott Whitham,

14 **Others Present** – Joan Jurkowich (TCPD), Ed Marx (Commissioner of Planning & Community
15 Sustainability), Leslie Schill (TCPD), Kathy Wilsea (TCPD)

16
17 **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by the Chair, Mina Amundsen. There were no
18 changes to the agenda.

19
20 **Cleaner Greener Regional Sustainability Plan Update** – Leslie Schill presented a slide show on the
21 Regional Sustainability Plan. Regional boundary matches that established for the Regional Economic
22 Development Council, and each of the ten REDCs will be preparing a sustainability plan. Statewide there
23 will be \$90 million awarded over three years for Phase II implementation. The four partners working on our
24 plan are Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board, Southern Tier East Regional
25 Planning and Development Board, Tompkins County Planning Department and ICF Inc. (consultant). The
26 18 goals are on the website at cleanergreenersoutherntier.org. Natural gas drilling will be dealt with in a
27 separate, companion document. Ed Marx spoke of the difficulties of working with the eight counties that
28 were put together for the Southern Tier REDC with no central city, no recognition, two regional planning and
29 development boards, and uncertainty about how long this artificial boundary will last. But they hope to grow
30 into a regional working group.

31
32 The next phase of public outreach is scheduled for Thursday, 10/11/12 at 6:30 PM, at Tompkins County
33 Public Library. Leslie noted some PAB members may be invited to stakeholder meetings during the day,
34 where the topics will be working lands/open space and university innovation.

35
36 John Gutenberger asked if this entails lots of TCPD work, and do any of the funds stay here. Joan Jurkowich
37 said some funds stay here, and it has involved more work than anticipated because we are first in the process
38 and we are a disparate region. Ed said, in terms of the work program, TCPD sees this as a funding source for
39 other things we want to do. The project could only have a municipality apply for funding. Also,
40 sustainability issues need to be regional, and this is a way to engage other counties. Joan pointed out the plan
41 involves some projects we might have undertaken anyway. Ed added it is a valuable opportunity to work
42 with ICF Inc.

43
44 Andy Zepp asked how job creation opportunities look. Leslie said the team is now pulling together projects,
45 which will need to meet greenhouse gas indicators. ICF is crunching numbers now. The plan has to speak to
46 jobs or saving money to get the attention of municipalities. Ed feels there is huge job potential for energy
47 efficiency and technical development. Gay Nicholson commented she attended a meeting at Cornell about
48 the REDC plan, where there was discussion about the amount of funding going to bricks and mortar projects.
49 Some attendees there felt this sustainability plan will be better for people projects. Ed couldn't agree or
50 disagree, but said projects will need to be able to document direct energy reductions. Leslie pointed out that
51 \$30 million per year is spread over the ten regions, so the Southern Tier might not qualify for much.
52 Applications will have to go to other funding sources, too. Ed said the sustainability plan definitely includes
53 training and education/outreach. He suggested PAB members submit comments on the website in addition to

54 taking part in today's discussion. Leslie said the plan development team wants to show some scenarios for
55 how our region can build on the plan.

56
57 **Commissioner's Report** – Ed Marx reported proposals for the Biggs RFP are due 10/9. A meeting was held
58 on site for interested developers. He has had conversations with one developer. He is hearing it is very
59 challenging to meet the parameters of the RFP. He may ask some PAB members to help review proposals. ▪
60 The Likens request for funding from the Capital Reserve Fund passed at the County Legislature. ▪ Ed
61 reviewed comments made by staff to the Town of Ithaca on their draft Comprehensive Plan. ▪ Staff is
62 receiving 239 reviews from the City for West End development that have the potential to change the
63 cityscape, and staff has provided comments with suggestions for changes, particularly in parking. Joan
64 pointed out the West End Design Study is not being implemented. ▪ The Blue Way Trail Plan is underway
65 with the selected consultant. ▪ Ed just received notice from NYS Ag & Markets that we will be awarded
66 funding for an update of the Agriculture and Farmland Plan. ▪ The Conservation Strategy and Development
67 Focus Areas Strategy will go to the County Legislature next week, with presentations by staff. ▪ The draft
68 20-Year Capital Plan went to the Capital Review Committee last week. It proposes multi-year funding for
69 facilities maintenance. Replacement of the Public Safety Building was postponed.

70
71 Gay Nicholson asked for update on sewer and housing proposals in the Town of Lansing. Ed said there have
72 been some discussions of expansion of sewer service for housing on Warren Road north of the airport, and
73 the Town Center plan envisions about 200 housing units short term. The 300 housing units on Warren Road
74 are outside the Development Focus Area. Each proposal would need a sewer district. The project that gets
75 built first may draw the market away from the other. Gay said some citizens are trying to push through 190
76 units of senior housing with no consideration for energy efficiency or public input. Ed suggested citizens
77 encourage the Town of Lansing to contact TCPD and ask about implementation project funds for
78 Development Focus Areas.

79
80 **Approval of Minutes from August 22, 2012** – Minutes were moved by Andy Zepp, seconded by Dick
81 Coogan and accepted without change. Final minutes are available on the Planning Department website:
82 www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ under Advisory Boards.

83
84 **Appoint Nominating Committee for 2013 Officers** – Mina asked for volunteers, and Monika Roth, John
85 Gutenbergger and Kathy Schlather offered to work on finding a slate of officers for 2013.

86
87 **Select Date of November/December Meeting** – Since the regular November date (11/28) falls the week
88 after Thanksgiving, it will be used for the joint Nov/Dec meeting.

89
90 **Announcements** – John Gutenbergger reported the proposed housing on Honness Lane will be submitted for
91 sketch plan review soon. Many of the units are designed to be more affordable. Dooley Kiefer asked if
92 anyone had current information on the efforts to keep the community garden open in the City. Monika Roth
93 said the City passed a resolution that buys some time if a developer is identified, but doesn't suggest sites if
94 the gardens have to move. There are very few sites available that can match the size and access of the
95 gardens in the north end. CCE was already talking with the mayor's staff on policy for urban ag & gardening
96 in parks, so that will probably weave into the relocation work. She noted Merkels Flats is not on the table, as
97 there are plans for recreation and parking there for Ithaca City School District and GIAC. Todd Bittner
98 reported Ithaca is within the first DEC Deer Management Area, which encompasses 60,000 acres. Hunters
99 can register with DEC and harvest up to two antlerless deer per day on property where the owner has granted
100 permission to be in the program. Also, January 13-31 will be a special hunting period for antlerless deer.
101 This may serve as a pilot for other areas. More information is available on the Cornell Plantations website:
102 <http://www.cornellplantations.org/our-gardens/natural-areas/stewardship/deer>

103
104 **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.
105 Respectfully submitted,
106 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department
107 Minutes adopted by PAB on __, 2012.

108

109 **Membership:**

Mina Amundsen, At-Large
Martha Armstrong, Economic Dev.
Michelle Courtney Berry, At-Large
Todd Bittner, Natural Environment
Will Burbank, Planning Committee
Dick Coogan, Local Planning (non-urban)
Sue Cosentini, Business
Rick Couture, Education
Fernando de Aragon, Transportation
John Gutenberger, Education

Dave Herrick, Facilities/Infrastructure
David Kay, Local Planning (urban)
Dooley Kiefer, Associate Member
Gay Nicholson, At-Large
Monika Roth, Agriculture
Kathy Schlather, Human Services
John Spence, Housing
Rob Steuteville, Built Environment Design
Scott Whitham, Cultural & Historic Pres.
Andy Zepp, Land Pres./Public Land Mgmt.

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