

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Via Zoom
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

Name		Representation	Name		Representation
Liddy Bargar	P	Human Services	Christine O'Malley	P	Cultural/Historic Preservation
Joe Bowes	E	Housing	C.J. Randall	P	Local Planning (non-urban)
Fernando de Aragón	P	Transportation	Leslie Schill	P	Education #2
Jordan Decker	P	Energy	Andy Zepp	P	Land Preserv./Public Land Mgmt.
Yamila Fournier	P	Built Environment			
George Frantz	P	Agriculture	Others Present		
David Herrick	E	Facilities/Infrastructure	Katie Borgella	P	Commissioner
David Kay	P	Local Planning (urban)	Abigail Conner	P	Environmental Planner
Thomas Knipe	A	Business	Frank Doldo	P	Chief Transportation Officer
Anne Koreman	P	County Legislature	Joan Jurkowich	P	Planning Administrator
Ernie McClatchie	E	Education #1	Kristin McCarthy	P	County Staff
Heather McDaniel	A	Economic Development	Megan McDonald	P	Deputy Commissioner
Gay Nicholson	P	At-Large			

Guests: None

Call to Order/Agenda Review and Changes/Privilege of the Floor: Chair C.J. Randall called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (February 2023): The draft February 2023 minutes were approved (moved by Anne Koreman, seconded by Leslie Schill) as submitted.

Commissioner's Report and New Staff Introduction – *Katie Borgella, DPS*

Katie introduced the County's new chief transportation officer, Frank Doldo, who is focused on transit and mobility, the funding of transit, and ensuring things flow well between the County, State, and Federal Transit Administration. Frank shared that he previously served as regional mobility manager for three counties and a city in the Watertown area and is delighted to be with the Planning & Sustainability Department and County. Katie explained the transition from Dwight Mengel and the Department of Social Services and differences between this position and the work of the Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council.

Katie mentioned that last month department staff hosted in person and virtual workshops to share grant funding opportunities with municipalities. The workshops included the participation of three consultants who shared how their organizations can assist municipalities with applying for grants. FEMA held its Consultation Officers meeting on March 8 at the public library. The well-attended event covered importance of flood mapping, an overview of the National Flood Insurance Program, and the agency's plans to hold one or more public open houses in late April. Impacts are anticipated to be significant, particularly in the City of Ithaca, and the Planning & Sustainability Department is helping with information sharing.

Members encouraged staff to press FEMA for a presentation and in person/virtual hybrid meeting (which could be recorded), and not just offer an open house where residents need to walk in knowing questions to ask. Abigail and Darby have met with FEMA staff to share similar concerns, and they're reaching out to Monroe County, which recently went through this process. Katie also shared that Abigail led submission of a Building Resilient

Infrastructure and Communities Grant that would enable the department to bring in more experts for education in the fall.

Report: Updated Comprehensive Plan Measures – Joan Jurkovich, DPS

Joan shared that after the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, the department developed “indicators of success” to track progress. However, with the 2015 Comprehensive Plan this feature was pared down to “comprehensive plan measures,” which were published in 2018 and 2019 before interruption by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that data sources are recovering, she is proposing a periodic (approximately quarterly) web-based reporting system instead of an annual published document and shared samples based on recent data updates. Members asked for more effort to make the public aware it’s available when it is telling a story of something changing. Joan cautioned that since the data doesn’t derive from the County, we don’t necessarily know the causes of unusual glitches.

Report: 2022 TC 239 Development Review and County-held Riparian and Agricultural Easements Summary

– Abigail Conner, DPS

Abigail shared an overview of the GML 239 review process as well as conservation easements and riparian buffers. She shared 239-related activity and easement/buffer visits and monitoring from 2022. Her presentation covered timeline for 239 process and criteria for projects to be subject to County 239 review. The latter includes type of project (e.g., comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances or laws, site plans) or geographic location (e.g., municipal boundary, county- or state-owned land). She also detailed factors the review team take into consideration when reviewing submissions, such as floodplain development, traffic impacts to state or county roads, and more.

Member Items

C.J. mentioned wanting to get ahold of the model municipal law FEMA will require be adopted soon so it can be shared. Katie clarified for members that although the County is happy to talk with communities thinking about the Community Rating System, which reduces flood insurance costs but requires a substantial investment of effort from a community, it would be municipalities themselves that would pursue that status and is likely to make sense only for the City of Ithaca.

Adjournment: Chair C.J. Randall adjourned the meeting at 5:53pm.