

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

Name	Representation	Name	Representation
Liddy Bargar	A Human Services	Christine O’Malley	P Cultural/Historic Preservation
Joe Bowes	P Housing	C.J. Randall	P Local Planning (non-urban)
Fernando de Aragón	P Transportation	Leslie Schill	P Education #2
Jordan Decker	E Energy	Andy Zepp	Land Preserv./Public Land Mgmt.
Yamila Fournier	P Built Environment		
George Frantz	P Agriculture	Others Present	
David Herrick	P Facilities/Infrastructure	Katie Borgella	P Commissioner
David Kay	P Local Planning (urban)	Terry Carroll	P Chief Sustainability Officer
Thomas Knipe	E Business	Hailley Delisle	P Sustainability Coordinator
Anne Koreman	P County Legislature	Kristin McCarthy	P County Staff
Ernie McClatchie	P Education #1	Megan McDonald	P Deputy Commissioner
Heather McDaniel	P Economic Development	Shawna Stevenson	P Housing & Community Development Planner
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 4:02pm. No privilege of the floor or changes to the agenda.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (April 2024): The draft April 2024 minutes were approved (moved by Leslie Schill, seconded by Heather McDaniel) as submitted. Motion carried.

Commissioner’s Report – Katie Borgella

Katie presented her report, which encompassed various departmental activities, and introduced Shawna, the new housing and community development planner. Shawna shared a bit about her background, highlighting her experience in climate change, resilience, and community engagement. Katie’s report covered several topics, including the NYS Consolidated Funding Application. Staff are seeking an additional \$75,000 grant from the New York State Non-Agricultural Non-Point Source Grant to fund a stream corridor assessment of Fall Creek. Moreover, the department is exploring an application for the Building Cleaner Communities program. Potential projects under consideration include a geothermal system at the Department of Emergency Response. Terry's involvement in a national membership advisory group for ICLEI USA was also noted.

Report/Discussion: Electricity Emergency Response Plan Overview – Hailley Delisle

Hailley presented the draft Electricity Emergency Response Plan, outlining the potential impact of increased electrification on electric grid outages in Tompkins County. She explained that the plan aims to analyze the effects of electrification and develop recommendations for preparing for and reducing the frequency of outages. Her presentation highlighted current trends in electrification, including the rise of electric vehicles and heat pumps, and supportive policies at the local, state, and federal levels. Data on grid outages from 2020 to 2023, obtained through collaboration with NYSEG, revealed an average of two outages per day over the past three years, with vegetation interference and equipment failure as the leading causes. Hailley proposed a two-pronged approach to address the challenges. First, reducing the impact of outages on the community by establishing resilience hubs, deploying mobile electric power banks, right-sizing backup systems, and educational campaigns to prepare

residents. Second, minimizing the likelihood of outages by collaborating with major energy consumers, participating in NYSEG rate cases, advocating for electrification with neighboring counties, and developing best practice guides for electrification technology installations. The presentation was followed by a discussion, during which concerns about cybersecurity, misinformation, and household preparedness were addressed. Next steps include finalizing the report, developing communication strategies, and exploring opportunities for bulk purchasing home electrification equipment.

Member Items

Heather highlighted an upcoming Consolidated Funding Application Workshop at Cinemapolis on June 20, which will provide valuable opportunities to engage with state agency representatives. Gay expressed concerns over NYSERDA's recent decision to halt funding for converting fossil fuel heating systems to heat pumps. Fernando shared an update on the upcoming long-range transportation plan. CJ reported on two items: the Cayuga Shores Wildlife Management Area (formerly Bell Station) in the Town of Lansing, and an upcoming training hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYSDEC on wetlands updates, highlighting recent regulatory changes and potential impacts on local policies.

Adjournment: Chair C.J. Randall adjourned the meeting at 4:49pm.