

MINUTES
CAYUGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
4/4/01

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm on the 6th floor of the County Office Building.

The minutes from December 6, 2000 were approved without changes.

Local Status Reports:

Ms. Southard – Town of Ira – Ira has just revised their sub-division laws. She has forwarded a copy of the new law to Cayuga County Planning.

Ms. Sweetman – Village of Cato – The three municipalities of Cato, Ira and Meridian have just completed an Economic Development package to distribute to potential commercial developers. So far the package has been distributed to the municipalities in the area, area businesses, Cayuga County Planning, Office of Tourism, and to one potential company. If anyone would like to obtain a copy of this packet, please contact the Village of Cato. This information is not on the web site.

Mr. Zabriskie – Town of Ledyard – The Village of Aurora and Wells College are currently working on a project that he couldn't discuss at this time, but would like to present on during the June meeting.

In the past, we have held the June meeting in different locations around the county. The board will be notified if the meeting will be held in a location other than the County Office Building.

Presentation by Town of Fleming in Regards to a New Town Plan:

Presentation given by Andrew Raus from Clark Patterson Assoc. (CPA). The presentation highlighted the reasons why the residents decided to create a comprehensive plan, what a comprehensive plan is, how it could benefit a municipality, and the details of the Fleming Comprehensive Plan.

Comments:

Ms. Southard – Town of Ira – This looks fine, but could a comprehensive plan be used for a town that does not have municipal sewer and water?

Mr. Raus – CPA – The best time to do a comprehensive plan is before there are municipal sewer and water in order to decide as a community whether or not you want these in the community and if so or not, how are you going to manage the town to meets those needs.

Mr. Zabriskie – Town of Ledyard – It appears as though some of the numbers in the plan -still haven't been solidified.

Mr. Raus and Mr. Young – CPA and town of Fleming – This plan is still going through public comment and still has an opportunity to change.

Mr. Young – Town of Fleming – The agricultural areas have the biggest change from current management according to this plan. There has really been no response from the public so either they have not noticed these changes, or they have no objections to them.

Mr. Reynolds – Town of Genoa – If the remainder of the farmland can not be developed according to zoning, who will buy the farmland if farming no longer becomes a profitable business in the area?

Mr. Young – Town of Fleming – This plan keeps the land in farming and does prohibit the farmer from selling more that one 2-acre lot for each 20 acres farmed based on the current plan. This idea was based partially on the source "Holding Our Ground". In addition, since the plan should be reviewed every twelve years, if in twelve years farming is no longer a profitable business, the town can change the plan and zoning laws at that time. In order to ensure that the farmers needs were being considered, a number of farmers were on the committee who wrote the plan in addition to other people from different sectors of the community.

A question was raised as to what the Cayuga County Land Use Plan recommends as the ideal plot size. It was thought to be one acre.

Mr. Raus – As far as he knows the state recommends a two acre lot if you need to obtain both septic and water on the property. If only one of these need to be obtained it is a one acre lot.

Ms. Friend – Town of Locke – Do you need to have zoning laws in place before you do a comprehensive plan?

Mr. Raus – CPA – No, infact it is better to do a comprehensive plan before you have zoning laws, that way the zoning laws can mimic the plan.

MOTION: To accept the plan as proposed.
Moved: Ms. Southard
2nd: Mr. Morris
Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Young – Town of Fleming – He attended the Purchasing Development Rights Conference at the Fairgrounds last week and feels that given the large role that farmland plays in our county and the increase in development, he feels the County should conduct informational meetings for farmers around the county and take a more active role in the PDR process.

Ms. D'Angelo – CC Planning Staff – She also attended the conference. She agrees that at some point in the future, these issues will need to be addressed, however, the planning board does not feel that this is the correct time to do this. Although there are large areas of farmland throughout the county, there may not be sufficient development pressures in order to win funding in this very competitive program. In the mean time, if anyone would like some information on the program, they can contact her and she will get information to them.

Renewal of Sennett Agricultural District No. 2:

Trish Ottley, from Cayuga County Planning, gave the presentation. Through the course of her presentation, she outlined what is an Ag. District, what is involved in the renewal process, and information directly pertaining to Ag. District No. 2.

Cayuga County Planning and Cornell Cooperative Extension in Cayuga County are working together to submit the Ag. District Renewal to the state's department of Ag and Markets. Ag. District No. 2 is unique in that it is the only Ag. District in Cayuga County that falls entirely within one municipality, Sennett. This Ag. District has about 5000 acres actively farmed, by about 14 farmers. This is the third time this Ag. District is being renewed and over the years these numbers have shown that the number of actively farmed acres has stayed around 5500, the number of farmers has approximately halved renewal period from 52 to 28 to 14.

Cornell Cooperative Extension sent out surveys to the landowners in the district and received a very poor response. Therefore, the numbers presented above were extrapolated based on the surveys returned and past renewals. In addition, there were no comments to change the perimeter of the district to include other parcels, or to remove parcels that are already within the district.

Based on this information, Ms. Ottley asked for a motion to endorse that no changes be made in the district and that the renewal process be forwarded to the legislature.

MOTION: To endorse the renewal of the Agricultural District No. 2 with no changes from the previous boundaries.
Moved: Mr. Reynolds
2nd: Ms. Southard
Vote: Unanimous

Follow up from December's Meeting:

Crosswalks

Trish Ottley presented the information that in order to place cones in your crosswalks you need to contact NYSDOT for a free permit. The DOT's main concern is that since these cones do not need to be out during the night, that there be someone placed in charge of

placing the cones out in the morning and bringing them back in at night. The municipality is responsible for purchasing the cones.

Comments:

The situation with the Weedsport Post Office is very dangerous for pedestrians. What are the rules for drivers as they approach the crosswalk? Do they have to stop? In addition, the parking situation is problematic. There is not enough legal parking spots and the handicapped space is on an incline making it hard for handicapped patrons to get in and out of their vehicles safely.

Annual Report:

Frank Howe – Cayuga County Planning Staff - presented the annual report. Copies of the report were placed in the handout packets at the meeting.

Other Matters:

Elbridge Telecommunication Towers – A newspaper clipping from the Citizen dated 2/10/01 talks about a moratorium that was placed on the construction of new telecommunication towers for 6 months while the town reviews its policy.

Town of Summer Hill Disposal Law – The town has passed a law restricting the disposal of septage, sewage sludge, and sludge for uses other than agricultural and permitted uses.

Town of Onondaga Cap on Professional Fees – A local law was upheld in the courts to cap the amount a municipality can be charged for services rendered to a project undertaken within the municipality.

If you would like a copy of any of the reports, please contact Amy D'Angelo at the Cayuga County Planning Department.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.