

MINUTES
CAYUGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
April 3, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm in the Chambers of the County Legislature on the sixth floor of the County Office Building.

The minutes from December 5, 2001 were approved without changes.

Local Status Reports:

Village of Cato: Ms. Sweetman mentioned that the Village is currently going through a visioning process, similar to the one Town of Locke recently went through, with the end goal being development of an Economic Development Plan. The Village also recently amended its zoning law to tighten up the legislation and reduce confusion within the law.

Town of Fleming: Mr. Moore mentioned that the Town is currently working on an amendment to their zoning law to make it in compliance with their newly adopted comprehensive plan. Since the Town wants to incorporate some innovative techniques into their law and does not have prior experience with these provisions, their Town Board will be voting next week on whether or not to hire the County Planning Department as a consultant to help draft these sections of the law.

Village of Aurora: Mr. Zabriskie mentioned status of the Inn as moving forward. They are hoping to get it open this winter.

Per request of the Chair, Ms. D'Angelo was asked to speak to the role of the County Planning Department and the opportunities for municipalities to hire the department as a consultant.

The County Planning Department serves as a technical resource to the local municipalities within the County. They can help by attending periodic meetings, provide models for legislation, help with interpretations, train new board members, help orient a board at the start of a new program, help design application forms, and even go through a visioning process with the municipality. When a municipality requires more direct help with drafting a law or comprehensive plan, they can contact Dave Miller of our office and can usually reach an agreement that is mutually beneficial. The extra income helps support the time involved in working on these projects and we can usually provide these services for considerably less than a private consultant, saving the local community money.

Presentation: Update of Activities of The Institute for the Application of GeoSpatial Technology at Cayuga Community College

Presented by: Bob Brower, The Institute

The Institute is a separate 501 c (3) non-profit organization that was developed in order to open up for funding sources for the expansion on Geographic Information Technologies (GIT) in our area. RACNE (Regional Applications center of the North East) is a NASA funded organization and is part of the college.

GIT is composed of three technologies, remote sensing, global positioning systems (GPS), and geographic information systems (GIS). Using these technologies The Institute can take raw data and turn it into information, and take information and turn into knowledge. This allows decision makers to make better decisions.

The Institute is moving into a portion of the Lattimore Building in downtown Auburn. This move will encourage other private businesses to move into the building where there is a steady supply of students from internships. It is hoped by having these facilities within the student dorms it will draw more students to the college and to the area and set up internships with businesses within their own dorm buildings. The hope is that these relationships will help to bring more GIT private sector companies to our area.

Mr. Brower also showed a number of fly-overs that were developed using GIT, among these was a fly-over of ground-zero in New York City.

Presentation on Agricultural District #3

Presented by: Trish Ottley, Cayuga County Planning

Ms. Ottley outlined the provisions of the NYS Agricultural (Ag) District Law, what is involved in the Ag District Review process, and information directly pertaining to Ag. District No. 3.

Cayuga County Planning and Cornell Cooperative Extension in Cayuga County are working together to complete the Ag District Review, to be voted on by the Cayuga County Legislature, and certified by NYS Ag and Markets.

The Ag District was originally State certified in 1978 and encompasses land in Towns of Genoa, Venice, Scipio, and Ledyard. The nature of farming in this district is mostly large dairying, cash crop, vegetable and livestock farming.

Cayuga Cornell County Cooperative Extension completed an Ag District Review Profile of the 93,930 acres within Ag District #3, using 1997 Ag Census Data. It is estimated that 95% of the acreage in the district is in farms (89,230 acres). It is estimated 89,230 acres (85%) of this farmland is actively cropped (other 15% is non-tillable, woodland, ponds, etc.). The combination of owned & rented land (est. 20% acreage rented – 17,846 rented, 71,384 owned). Of the 89,230 acres of farmland, it is estimated that 20% is leased to farmers (17,846), and 80% farmed by the property owner. The number of farms decreased due to consolidation, although the number of acres in farming remained relatively constant.

No comments have been received to date for addition or removal of parcels during 2001/02 renewal period.

Based on this information, Ms. Ottley asked for a motion to endorse that no changes be made to the district boundary and that the review process move forward to the next step.

MOTION: To endorse the renewal of the Agricultural District No. 3 with no changes from the previous boundaries.

Moved: Mr. Towne
2nd: Mr. Edmonds
Vote: Unanimous

Presentation on Agricultural District #4

Presented by: Trish Ottley, Cayuga County Planning

Ms. Ottley outlined information directly pertaining to Ag. District No. 4. Cayuga County Planning and Cornell Cooperative Extension in Cayuga County are working together to complete the Ag District Review, to be voted on by the Cayuga County Legislature, and certified by NYS Ag and Markets.

The Ag District was originally State certified in 1978 and encompasses land in Towns of Brutus, Cato, and Ira, select parcels in Mentz and Sennett. The nature of farming in this district is mostly dairying, cash crop, and livestock farming. It is anticipated that there may be moderate residential development pressure in Brutus with proposed extension of water to along Pump and Chamberlain Roads.

Cayuga Cornell County Cooperative Extension completed an Ag District Review Profile of the 52,763 acres within Ag District #4, using 1997 Ag Census Data. It is estimated that 95% of the acreage in the district is in farms (50,120 acres). It is estimated 42,600 acres (85%) of this farmland is actively cropped (other 15% is non-tillable, woodland, ponds, etc.). The combination of owned & rented land (est. 20% acreage rented – 10,024 rented, 40,096 owned). Of the 89,230 acres of farmland, it is estimated that 20% is leased to farmers (10,024), and 80% farmed by the property owner. The number of farms decreased due to consolidation, although the number of acres in farming remained relatively constant.

Parcels to be removed during 2001/02 review period:

1. TM #34.00-1.53.2 (Town of Ira, Owner Ed Falsey)
2. Some parcels within the Town of Brutus water district along Pump Road (to be determined)

Based on this information, Ms. Ottley asked for a motion to approve district with removal of Falsey parcel and parcels to be determined by Brutus Town Board and subject to approval by the County Ag & Farmland Protection Board.

MOTION: To endorse the renewal of Ag District #4 with removal of Falsey parcel and parcels to be determined by Brutus Town Board, and subject to approval by the County Ag & Farmland Protection Board.

Moved: Mr. Fuller
2nd: Mr. Hatfiled
Vote: In favor: 14
Against: 0
Abstain: 2 (Ms. Michelman and Mr. Moose)

Presentation on Community Tree Planting Program

Presented by: Trish Ottley, Cayuga County Planning

The Community Tree Planting Program was developed by the National Tree Trust and is being administered in Cayuga County by Cayuga County Department of Planning and Development, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.

Booklets for the program were distributed. The instructions and order form are included within the booklet. Orders must be placed in quantities of 10.

Orders have to be submitted to County Planning no later than May 17th. The trees must be planted on public lands or along roadsides. The municipalities are responsible for maintenance of the trees only. This includes occasional watering during dry seasons and keeping an eye on the trees.

Other Matters

1. The first CCPB sponsored training session that was taught by the County Planning Staff was a great success. There were 34 attendees at the March training session and there are already 11 people signed up for the second training on April 17th for Introductory ZBA training.
2. There was a recent court decision that determined that all land-use laws (not just zoning laws) are subject to County review before they are adopted and variance granted under those laws are subject to GML 239 m. If you would like a copy of this court decision or more information, please contact Amy D'Angelo of County Planning at 253-1276.
3. Next meeting will be in Union Springs at the Village Hall in Frontenac Park at 4pm on June 5, 2002.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm.