

MINUTES
CAYUGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
June 5, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm in the Union Springs Village Hall in Frontenac Park.

The minutes from April 3, 2002 were approved without changes.

Presentation: Update of Activities in the Village of Union Springs

Presented by: Kim Willis, Planning Board Chair

In 1983 the Village introduced the Land Use and Policy Development Statement that was five years in the making. The plan had items added to it, but it was never updated. Currently the board is working on a new comprehensive plan for the Village.

Last year the Planning Board was restructured with new members. The new board stated goals of the board and developed an action plan to achieve those goals.

They put out a survey last fall to see if people's opinions changed from the last survey that was done in 1981. The response rate was approximately 25% with some surprising results. Over 30% wanted major changes within the Village. Almost 100% wanted growth of businesses with almost 50% wanting major growth of businesses, however 77% wanted small population growth. The most common types of businesses desired were restaurants and lodging.

The Planning Board has set 5 goals for itself:

1. Verify the direction they want to take through a survey of residents.
2. Update the Plan
3. Update Zoning Law
4. Open lines of communication on every level
5. Help find ways to execute the plan.

The Board is making progress towards accomplishment of these goals. They have completed the survey and are making progress in updating their plan. One thing they want to add to the plan is to have a provision that requires yearly review of the plan and laws to make sure they still meet the needs of the Village. They feel that plans should be a living document and a continual work in progress.

The Village has made numerous improvements through the years. The Village Park has been the focal point of a lot of growth and improvement. Within the last few years, the Village renovated and moved its offices into the railroad station. The Village barn was built and the old creamery building was torn down. Excavation work has been done and parking has been added. The free boat launch was added as well as the public restroom facility. A basketball court has also been added and a new playground put in. We have also added the gazebo, a pavilion and a number of picnic tables. The Village has planted trees on the main street as well as put out flower barrels every spring. The water and sewer system is being improved

and expanded upon. The Village has addresses water quality with the installation of air strippers and is now looking to add another well to enhance the Village's water resources.

We feel that Union Springs has a lot of potential and their desire to embrace tourism falls in line with the direction that the County has taken and the designation of the Route 90 as a scenic byway. We are looking for opportunities to improve the appearance of the Village.

We hope to have a plan from Thoma Development Corp. within the next couple of months to let us know what grants we qualify for to accomplish some our objectives.

Sincere thanks for coming to our Village and allowing us to host this meeting.

Presentation: Scenic Route 90 Economic Development Plan

Presented by: Trish Ottley, Cayuga County Planning and Development

Marketing and promotion are essential to the success of a byway; potential visitors must be made aware of the scenic byway, its resources, and its location. A number of agencies and groups in Cayuga County are partnering to promote Scenic Route 90 in a variety of ways, including the most recent success story by the Town of Summer Hill to secure State grant funds for development of a Scenic Route 90 Visitor Center at the existing Town Hall. The Visitor Center will welcome travelers to the Route 90 Scenic Byway, provide a formal rest stop, public restrooms, scenic overlook area, brochure display rack, vending area, and computer kiosk station.

Accommodating tourism – providing the traveling public with desired services and facilities - is also essential to the success of a byway. County Planning applied for and was awarded a grant through New York State Small Cities to develop a Strategic Economic Development Plan for the waterfront villages of the Byway – Cayuga, Union Springs, and Aurora. We are in the midst of planning, and estimate the plan will be complete mid-2003.

The Strategic Economic Development Plan will identify opportunities for existing businesses to take advantage of visitors to major byway attractions such as the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, the Erie Canal, and the municipal waterfront parks, in order that they may capture a greater percentage of the spending power of visitors to these major attractions. We will also identify opportunities to plan events that celebrate the natural, historic, and recreational resources of Scenic Route 90, in and around the waterfront villages.

The Strategic Economic Development Plan will additionally identify gaps in service along Scenic Route 90 – under-represented or absent business sectors that are deemed necessary to encourage longer visitor stays. Such sectors may include restaurants, overnight accommodations and transient dockage facilities. We will examine existing infrastructure, including the availability of parking, commercial space, and public utilities to support these under-represented businesses. Finally, we will develop incentives and identify funding sources to attract businesses to the waterfront villages along Route 90.

Closing these gaps in service is one step toward increasing tourism, and subsequently tax revenue, along Scenic Route 90. Anticipating and meeting the needs of the traveling public will enable the municipalities and businesses along Scenic State Route 90 to capture the real economic benefits that a State Scenic Byway designation may afford.

****Correction:** The proposed Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway is still under review by the NYS Legislature. The bill to designate it as an official State Scenic Byway has passed the Senate and is now under

consideration by the Assembly. When passed, it will require the signature of Gov. Pataki to finalize the designation. The Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway Committee is hopeful that this will occur in the near future.

Presentation: Planning Issues Related to destiNY USA Project in Syracuse

Presented by: Dave Miller, Director of Cayuga County Planning and Development

DestiNY USA is a tourism destination combining retail, recreation, sports, entertainment, dining and hospitality based on a theme of Upstate New York's landmarks and natural wonders.

The project is now estimated to cost 2.2 billion dollars to construct and will cover an area from the existing Carousel Mall to just north of Clinton Square. This project will be larger than the area of the City of Auburn and therefore in itself will be like a city. It will supply the expected types of minimum wage jobs, but will also support full-time planners, GIS, emergency care, police force (security), lawyers, etc.

The regional impacts of this project can not yet be realized. Traditionally when there has been business expansion in Syracuse it has had an impact on Ira, Cato, Brutus, Sennett and Auburn. It is likely that the destiNY USA project will also affect those areas. No numbers have yet been given as to how many people will move into Cayuga County, but it could be expected to be around 5 – 6 thousand.

DestiNY USA is expected to draw 40 million visitors annually, including 10 million out-of-state visitors and more than 2 million international tourists.

The project is comprised of a 65 acre glass enclosed park, 90,000 sq ft salt water aquarium, 800,000 sq ft indoor sports and recreation complex, 400 retailers, 30 restaurants, 4000 hotel rooms and a 1200' historically accurate and interactive re-creation of the Erie Canal.

They are currently working on rail lines to get people from the surrounding area to destiNY USA and to get people staying at destiNY USA to surrounding areas. Currently 8 counties own the railroad in our region and hope to seek funds to upgrade that railroad to passenger train quality.

What can local governments do to take advantage of the potential benefits of destiNY USA?

Clean up. The best thing that local governments can do is make their communities more inviting. Even though people who live locally may realize that in this dark alley and in this shabby building is a wonderful restaurant, people who are unfamiliar to the area will be less likely to explore dark alleys and shabby buildings. Having good aesthetics and signage to try and encourage travelers to stop and explore their communities and business is the best way to take advantage of the opportunities that will arise.

Dave recommended that communities that need their land use plans or regulations amended should contact County Planning staff at 253-1276 if assistance is needed.

Local Status Reports:

None were reported

Other Matters

1. As follow-up to last month's meeting, a packet was handed out to members showing which municipalities have an intermunicipal agreement with the County and how to determine what actions are subject to County Review per GML239.

2. A change was made to the agenda to convene a session of the GML 239 Committee on Local Land Use Issues.

The session was called to order at 5:45 PM. The following members were present: Karl Rindfleisch , Garry Towne, Dave Morris, Steve Zabriskie and Amy D'Angelo of the planning staff were present.

The following municipal matter was considered:

1. Town of Groton Local Law #1-2002 Zoning Amendment - Town of Groton.

Action –	Recommendation: No Comment - Local Concern Only
Motion –	Rindfleisch
Second –	Morris
Vote:	<i>Unanimous</i>

Session was adjourned at 5:55pm.

The next meeting will be on October 2, 2002 at 7:30 pm in the Cayuga County Legislative Chambers on the 5th floor of the County Office Building.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.