

**MINUTES**  
**CAYUGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**  
**April 4, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm in Caucus Room #1 on the sixth floor of the County Office Building.

The minutes from October 2006 were approved as submitted.

**Lake Distilling, LLC – Ethanol Plant in Venice**

Presented by: David Smith, Lake Distilling, LLC

Mr. Smith distributed a handout that summarized some of the important points of the operation. This facility, once built is supposed to be the greenest plant in North America. For fuel to run the plant, woodchips generated from tree tops left from timber harvesting. This wood is generally left on the ground to rot, but instead it will be chipped and used. The operation is also using sprouted wheat instead of corn. By using sprouted wheat, it gives a market to a crop that was previously un-marketed. In addition, the plant will pay the same price for sprouted wheat as the farmers get for wheat that has not sprouted. This will then have little to no impact on the food supplies locally available.

In addition to the production of ethanol, the plant will also produce vodka. Even though there is a considerably higher profit margin on the vodka, the market is more uncertain. However, since there is a strong market for the ethanol, most of the production will focus on the production of the ethanol.

There currently is no market for the ethanol upstate and this product will be shipped to Metropolitan NY City. The ethanol is then mixed with diesel fuel to create E85 bio-diesel.

The hope is to begin operations in the fall and hiring 20 to 25 employees.

**Regional Digester and Bioenergy Enterprise**

Presented by: Bruce Natale, Cayuga County Environmental Engineer on behalf of Jim Hotaling

In 1994 representatives from Soil and Water went to Denmark to tour a digester facility. Based on the information they brought back it was determined that it would be feasible to develop a digester at their facility. It would be a regional digester for local farmers that do not have the capital to build their own on site digester. The energy generated from the facility would be sufficient to power the County facilities on County House Road.

Is there really a problem with onsite storage of manure? Yes, typically in the form of odor issues associated with manure pits and spreading and potential nutrient loading of water bodies.

On farm digesters are an effective way to manage manure in that it reduces odor and pathogens within the manure, it is cost prohibitive for small farmers to afford and/or maintain.

For Community Digesters or Regional Digesters, it is seen more a business and given the economies of scale, make it more affordable for the local farmer.

The Regional Digester will be given waste from area farms and the food waste industry. This slurry is then heated to 100 degrees and held in the digester for 35 days. The biogas harvested from the waste will

be used to heat the Public Safety Building and Nursing Home and the electricity generated will be used to run these two facilities plus the Natural Resource Center. Any surplus energy will go to the NYSEG Grid. The byproducts from the digester (slurry) will travel through a separator. This will separate the liquid from the solids. The liquid can be used as an odor free, pathogen free fertilizer and will be stored in a pond on site until needed by the farmers. The dry solids will be piled on the compost pad and will be available to use for many projects.

Given that Cayuga County has a Public Utility Service Agency, it is estimated that the digester project will save the County \$397,000 per year on energy costs for the three buildings on County House Road.

The construction of this digester is expected to take 18 months to construct and become operational in spring 2008

### **Local Status Reports:**

T/Victory – Ms. Davis stated the Town is working on a Comprehensive Plan with the Central NY Regional Planning & Development Board. They have gotten some public participation. A proposal for a convenience store at the corner of State Routes 370 and Route 38 is under review. The Town is waiting for approval of a DOT driveway permit.

V/Fair Haven – Ms. LaFrance mentioned that the Village is working on a Joint Comprehensive Plan with the Town of Sterling. They have also started installing the sewers along Main St.

T/Cato – Mr. Lloyd reported that Comprehensive Plan is 9 months behind schedule, but is progressing.

T/Throop – Mr. Vitale shared with the group that the Town is continuing to work with Ms. D'Angelo from the County Planning Department on a Comprehensive Plan. The Town plans on writing a zoning law upon completion of the plan. The Planning Board is also working on comments on the City of Auburn's Landfill expansion.

V/Cayuga – Ms. Komenecki stated the Village was under a Boil Water Emergency for a number of weeks. In addition, the Village is still working on implementation of Comprehensive Plan by making regulation updates. The restaurant on Route 90 is reopening under new management and the Village is planning their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for August 3, 4 and 5<sup>th</sup>.

T/Locke – Mr. Crandall introduced himself and discussed the Town's establishment a "new" planning board. One of their first tasks will be to finish the Comprehensive Plan started by the previous board.

T/Brutus and V/Weedsport – Mr. Glowacki and Mr. Dziergas mentioned that the Town and Village are starting to work together on a new Joint Comprehensive Plan.

T/Summer Hill – Mr. Amerman stated that the Town is starting to work on a Comprehensive Plan.

T/Conquest – Mr. Powell discussed the problems the Town has had with a racetrack on the Wayne County side of the County line. Residents can hear the announcements all the way to Duck Lake. Savannah doesn't have a lot of laws and this will soon become a legal issue with the residents.

T/Niles - Mr. Edmunds stated the Town is working on a Comprehensive Plan with the Central NY Regional Planning & Development Board. They are in the visioning process now and have good participation.

V/Aurora – Mr. Taylor discussed the changes being made along the streetscape of the Village. Three pocket parks have been redeveloped and the sidewalks to them have been installed. The Post Office relocation project has been tentatively approved. The Village's Comprehensive Plan has been in the hands of the Village Attorney for 2 years. .

V/Cato – Ms. Sweetman reported that the Village will still have a convenience store and that the steel has arrived to begin construction of the history center. It is estimated that the history center will be completed in 2008.

T/Ira – Mr. Miller mentioned that the Town of Ira now has an interim Town Supervisor. Don Teeter was actively involved in the Comprehensive Plan. The plan is behind schedule and the Town is waiting for the interim director to handle it. The Town is going to have a pharmacy. It is being constructed as an addition onto the medical center on Route 370 near the Village of Meridian.

T/Sterling – Ms. Ouellette stated that the Village of Fair Haven and Town of Sterling are working on a Joint Comprehensive Plan. The community-wide surveys should be going out soon. The Town is currently reviewing two major subdivision applications, including one on the former surplus property. The Town is also reviewing two applications for PDD's for two pre-existing non-conforming campgrounds.

T/Moravia – Ms. Weaver reported that they are getting public water in some areas and that there have been discussion about getting a Comprehensive Plan done.

#### **Other Matters:**

Upcoming Recycling Events – This spring Cayuga County is holding a Propane Tank and Electronic Collection on May 19th 9am to noon at the Natural Resources Bldg on County House Road. This even is for household electronics and propane tanks. Household electronics includes Computers, TV's, DVD players, radios, microwaves and so on. There is a \$5 fee per computer monitor and TV (limit 2) but all other electronics are free. You can also bring propane tanks from 1-40 lb size for no charge.

Choose Site for June Meeting – Many suggestions were put forward for the location of the June meeting. These included the Towns of Niles, Moravia, Village of Fair Haven and the Agricultural Museum at Emerson Park. It was decided that since there was a training already scheduled the day after the meeting in Summer Hill, that we would have the County Planning Board Meeting before the training in Summer Hill on June7th.

The next meeting will be on June 7, 2007 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall in Summer Hill

Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.