

MINUTES
CAYUGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
July 25, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Keith Welch (Scipio), Vice-Chairman Tom Lloyd (Town of Cato); Robert Amerman, Jr. (Summerhill); Patricia Bianconi (Aurora); William Carmen (Niles); Slade Cox (Ira); Randall E. French (Village of Cato); George Hiza (Fleming); John Malenick (Montezuma); Harvey Mills (Victory); Jay Moose (Mentz); David Morris (Sennett); June Ouellette (Sterling); Darrin Rooker (Port Byron); Lydia Ruffini (Throop); Brian Schenck (Springport).

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Ganey (Brutus); Randy Lawrence (Scipio); Tom Olenych (Scipio); Kathy Taylor (Fleming); Mark Vorreuter (Scipio); Gabriel Holbrow (County Planning staff); Geoff Milz (County Planning staff); David Paoletta (County Planning staff).

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room (rooms 1 and 2) at the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, 1879 West Genesee Street Road in Aurelius.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Mr. Milz introduced Mr. Gabriel Holbrow and Mr. David Paoletta, two new members of the County Planning staff.

Each member introduced himself or herself.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2011 Meeting: Motion by Chairman Welch (Scipio) to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Amerman (Summerhill). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.
2. Review of Minutes of the GML 239-L, M & N Committee: The board discussed meeting minutes of the GML 239-L, M & N Committee for intermunicipal review of local land use actions from committee meetings on November 17 and December 15, 2011 and January 19, February 16, April 19, May 17 and June 21, 2012.

As the January and February committee meetings included review of local moratoria and bans of hydraulic fracturing, the board discussed hydrofracking and whether the board should have a position on the issue. Mr. Milz reminded the board that in its last meeting in November it considered forming a working group on hydrofracking but decided not to address the issue. Vice-Chairman Lloyd (Town of Cato) expressed his frustration with one-sided anti-fracking messages and expressed his sense of a need for objective, reliable information; and further offered his opinion that we will have to address the issue

eventually and now, when there is less pressure, might be the best time. Chairman Welch (Scipio) commented that there may be inter-county impacts on Cayuga County from hydrofracking in other counties.

In response to a question from Mr. Morris (Sennett), Mr. Milz (staff) clarified that comments in the 239 committee's decisions are merely advisory, while changes and denials are binding unless overruled by a supermajority at the referring agency.

3. Nomination of Secretary of the Board: As the previous nominee for the office of secretary was not a member of the board, the board remains without an official secretary. After a brief discussion, Chairman Welch (Scipio) made a motion to recommend to the Cayuga County Legislature the appointment of Mr. Amerman (Summerhill) to the position of Secretary of the Cayuga County Planning Board. Seconded by Mr. Malenick (Montezuma). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.
4. Ethics Working Group Report to Board: The board discussed the progress of the working group tasked with writing a model ethics law for towns and villages in the county. The working group has met twice and has included Chairman Welch (Scipio), Vice-Chairman Lloyd (Town of Cato), Mr. Michael Glowacki (Brutus), Mr. Malenick (Montezuma), and Ms. Ann Riddell (Village of Moravia). Board members were provided a copy of a document created for the working group which collects sample language from a range of local ethics laws in New York State.

Chairman Welch (Scipio) suggested that when the ethics working group has completed its task the board could form a working group to address hydrofracking. Further discussion of forming a hydrofracking working group was set aside to be revisited at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS: ISSUES OF COUNTYWIDE IMPORTANCE

1. Agricultural Districts Consolidation Plan: Mr. Paoletta (County Planning) is working to consolidate all of the county's agricultural districts into one and get them in compliance with the state Ag District program. An eight-year review of the consolidated district is planned to commence in the fall. Board members were provided a copy of the consolidation plan.

Mr. Malenick (Montezuma) discussed an issue in the Town of Montezuma where new property owners are allowing 60 to 80 chickens to range over other properties, causing a nuisance and attracting coyotes, in a residential area within an Ag/Res zoning district. The board discussed the difference between a state-certified Agricultural District and a local zoning district, and further discussed the authority of local zoning and the process for code enforcement.

2. Survey of Subdivision Fees: At the request of Mr. Ron Podolak (Town of Owasco Planning Board Chair), in May Mr. Holbrow (County Planning) did a survey of subdivision fees for a sample of towns and villages in Cayuga, Onondaga, and Tompkins Counties. Board members were provided a copy of the survey results.
3. Hazard Mitigation Plan and Solid Waste Management Plan: Mr. Bruce Natale and Ms. Michele Wunderlich (County Planning) will be working on a county-wide all-hazards mitigation plan, which will address both natural and man-made hazards and will involve

public participation. Board members were encouraged to spread the word and solicit volunteers to represent their towns and villages in planning process. Mr. Natale and Ms. Wunderlich are also working on an update to the county's solid waste management plan.

4. Invasive Species Update: The board discussed invasive species in the county, including asian clams in Owasco Lake and threat from the emerald ash borer. Board members were provided with materials on the asian clam, hydrilla in the Cayuga Inlet, and other invasive species.

LOCAL STATUS REPORTS

Town of Sterling: Ms. Ouellette reported that the Town has been reviewing a lot of subdivisions and one PDD.

Town of Throop: Ms. Ruffini reported that the Town has been questioning what to do about hydrofracking. Her recommendation to the town board was to wait for litigation and regulations to settle down.

Village of Cato: Mr. French reported on the project to replace the village water tower, ongoing and currently ahead of schedule.

Town of Niles: Mr. Carmen reported on the project to replace the town garage which was destroyed by fire last winter, noting that the design of the new building will be a big improvement over the old building. He gave thanks and recognition to the neighboring towns which offered swift assistance during and after the garage fire. He reported that the Town is planning an inventory of road structure and condition which could be used as a baseline for decisions in case of heavy industry or hydrofracking.

Town of Summerhill: Mr. Amerman reported that the Town is working on a permit process and fee schedule for any work in the right-of-way of Town roads. The Town is also working on a road preservation law.

Town of Montezuma: Mr. Malenick reported on a joint water line project with the Village of Port Byron, the Town of Mentz and the state Thruway Authority, as well as progress on a park project and mural in the town.

Town of Cato: Vice-Chairman Lloyd reported on an incident at a town board meeting in January when the town highway superintendent used the racial slur N-word, bringing condemnation on the Town and possibly a federal lawsuit. Mr. Lloyd cautioned other Towns and Villages to watch language and avoid such trouble. Regarding racially derogatory language bringing condemnation and lawsuits, Mr. Vorreuter (Scipio) commented that this is rightfully so.

Town of Mentz: Mr. Moose reported on a grant for the town's Canal Park, next to the Veterans Park ball fields. He also reported on the water line project with the Village of Port Byron and the Town of Montezuma.

Town of Scipio: Chairman Welch reported on Town efforts to maintain a rural cemetery and keep cows out.

Mr. Olenych, Town of Scipio Planning Board Chair, reported on the planning board's subcommittee which is looking at hydrofracking. The subcommittee held a public forum

on the issue with speakers including David Slottje. The town board has passed a moratorium on horizontal hydraulic fracturing, while the planning board is also looking at forming a zoning subcommittee to rewrite the town's zoning laws from scratch.

A brief discussion followed on the speakers at Scipio's public forum and similar events, and on the difficulty of finding knowledgeable people who are not advocates for one side or the other of the issue.

Village of Aurora: Ms. Bianconi reported on revisions to the Abbott House project, including geothermal heating. The Village has been dealing with demolitions in the historic district, with commercial businesses in residential areas in the form of homes being rented out to short-term visitors, and with trash trucks traveling through the village. Ms. Bianconi reminded the board that next weekend is the Route 90 garage sale.

Village of Port Byron: Mr. Rooker reported that the Village is working with the Town of Mentz on a comprehensive plan.

Town of Fleming: Mr. Hiza reported that the Town has had a number of major subdivisions and is still working out sewer and water rates with the City of Auburn and surrounding towns.

Town of Victory: Mr. Mills reported that the Town has completed a comprehensive plan and is working on its zoning.

Town of Springport: Mr. Schenck reported that Town recently completed its Vision Plan and is starting on a master plan based on the visioning. The Town also reviewed proposed marina expansions.

Town of Sennett: Mr. Morris reported on new projects, including a church and a gravel mine.

Town of Ira: Mr. Cox reported that the Town has reviewed a number of subdivisions as well as a proposal for a motor-cross track.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Minutes submitted by Gabriel Holbrow (staff).