

MINUTES
CAYUGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
September 19, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Keith Welch (Scipio); Secretary Robert Amerman, Jr. (Summerhill); John Berry (Genoa); Patricia Bianconi (Aurora); William Carmen (Niles); Slade Cox (Ira); Randall E. French (Village of Cato); Michael Glowacki (Brutus); George Hiza (Fleming); John Malenick (Montezuma); Harvey Mills (Victory); Jay Moose (Mentz); David Morris (Sennett).

OTHERS PRESENT

John Potter (Montezuma); Cindy Stephenson (Town of Cato); Nancy Sweet (Weedsport); Gabriel Holbrow (County Planning staff); Geoff Milz (County Planning staff).

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm in the Conference Room (rooms 1 and 2) at the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, 1879 West Genesee Street Road in Aurelius.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Each person present introduced himself or herself.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2012 Meeting: Motion by Chairman Welch (Scipio) to approve the minutes. Seconded by Secretary Amerman (Summerhill). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.
2. Review of Minutes of the GML 239-L, M & N Committee: Mr. Holbrow (staff) gave a report on the activity of the county's committee for intermunicipal review of local land use actions under GML 239-L, M & N since the last planning board meeting in July. The review committee did not meet in July or August because there was no business before the committee. Official minutes were not yet available for the meeting on September 18, but the board briefly discussed that three minor subdivisions of agricultural land in Locke were approved at that meeting.
3. Nomination of Vice-Chairman of the Board: Due to the resignation of the previous Vice-Chairman Tom Lloyd (Town of Cato), the board has a vacancy for the office of vice-chairman. Chairman Welch (Scipio) made a motion to recommend to the Cayuga County Legislature the appointment of Ms. Bianconi (Aurora) to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Cayuga County Planning Board. Seconded by Mr. Malenick (Montezuma). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: ISSUES OF COUNTYWIDE IMPORTANCE

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan: Mr. Bruce Natale and Ms. Michele Wunderlich (County Planning) are working on a county-wide all-hazards mitigation plan to address both natural and man-made hazards. This plan will make the County and all municipalities within it eligible for pre- and post-disaster grants from FEMA, but the County and all municipalities must actively participate and formally adopt the plan. Board members were provided with a copy of a letter addressed to Mayors and Town Supervisors with information about the plan.

In response to a question from Mr. Malenick (Montezuma), Mr. Holbrow (staff) and Mr. Milz (staff) clarified that plan is not anticipated to increase Towns' obligations to respond or provide resources in a disaster; rather the purpose of the plan is to identify how best to use current resources and to identify gaps in resources that FEMA grants can help fill.

2. Water Quality Strategic Plan: The Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency is engaged in a strategic plan to guide its work for the next one to three years. The agency has formed four working groups—Sediment and Nutrients, Invasive Species, Coliform Bacteria, and Solid and Hazardous Wastes—to generate and prioritizes strategies and actions to preserve the quality of our water.
3. Blueway Trail: Cayuga, Tompkins, and Seneca Counties are looking at existing and potential amenities for paddlers and boaters on Cayuga Lake, including access points, marinas, and relevant services along both sides of the entire length of the lake.
4. Waste Collection Events: Board members were provided with a flyer advertising two waste collection events free to Cayuga County residents: a home electronics collection on September 22 and household hazardous waste drop-off on October 27.
5. Geoff Milz Departing: Mr. Milz (staff) announced that he is leaving his position at Cayuga County to return to Cincinnati. Board members expressed their appreciation and offered best wishes for Geoff and his family.

LOCAL STATUS REPORTS

Town of Montezuma: Mr. Malenick gave an update on the joint water line project, reporting that the Towns of Montezuma and Mentz had approved the engineering consultant Barton & Loguidice to do the plan for the project. The Village of Port Byron is also on board with the project, which is funded in part with a \$2 million grant and zero-interest loan.

Mr. Malenick discussed the Town's need for an update to its comprehensive plan, zoning and other land-use laws, which he reports are outdated and ambiguous. The Town of Montezuma solicited a proposal from Barton & Loguidice, which came back with a two-to three-year process and approximately \$37,000 for a comprehensive plan and \$30,000 to update zoning. Mr. Malenick asked other board members about the process and costs for doing comprehensive plans and updating land-use laws in their towns and villages.

Mr. Cox recalled that the Town of Ira had used Barton & Loguidice a few years back.

Chairman Welch mentioned that the Town of Scipio had help from the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, but noted that Regional Planning is currently low on resources and unlikely to be able to provide assistance on comprehensive plans now. The Town of Scipio's comprehensive plan process took three and a half years, and

the town is just now getting to a zoning update one and half years since the adoption of the plan. Chairman Welch also recommended that a comprehensive plan get as much involvement as possible as earlier on as possible, to avoid getting people up to speed and slowing down the process at the end.

Mr. Amerman reported that the Town of Summerhill had completed their own plan in nine months, with all of the work done by the planning board and secretary.

Mr. Hiza recalled attending many meetings for the Town of Fleming's comprehensive plan, although he was not yet on the town planning board. He reported that the town is very happy with the plan and is now working on a zoning update.

Mr. Milz (staff) recalled the consultants that various towns had used. The Town of Sennett worked with Thoma. The Town of Genoa mostly did it themselves but had assistance from Jeanie Gleisner of Regional Planning. CRA, an engineering and planning firm out of Buffalo, did a vision plan for the Town of Springport. Now Springport is working with George Frantz of the Cornell Department of City and Regional Planning to finish a comprehensive plan and zoning update.

Mr. Berry (Genoa) echoed that George Frantz is a good contact for finding students who are looking for research projects that might assist your town's planning efforts.

Ms. Sweet (Weedsport) recommended a series of workshops by the New York State Department of State (DOS) on comprehensive plans. She said she would share information about the workshops with the board staff to distribute to the board members.

Mr. Moose recalled that the Town of Mentz's comprehensive plan was done by the planning board themselves with some assistance from a consultant. He recommended that the plan does not have to be elaborate; it is really about expressing what you want the town to be.

Village of Cato: Mr. French reported that the village's water tower project is complete and the new tower is providing water.

Town of Summerhill: Mr. Amerman reported no new activity. The Town has been mostly quiet.

Town of Niles: Mr. Carmen reported that the new town highway barn is coming along and should be done by the end of fall.

Town of Fleming: Mr. Hiza reported that several major subdivisions are currently stalled for various reasons. Negotiations on sewer rates with the City of Auburn continue. He reported on a highway project in the town to mitigate water runoff and reduce sediment reaching the lake.

Town of Sennett: Mr. Morris mentioned that the planning board has been undertaking the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process on numerous projects, and asked a question about the short form Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) that is part of the process. When the EAF asks about potential impacts on endangered species, where can planning board or other agency find information on what endangered species might be in the area? Mr. Holbrow (staff) suggested that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) likely has this information, but offer to look into the matter and report back to the board.

Village of Aurora: Ms. Bianconi reported that the village has issued permits for a dock and other various building projects on the lake shore. Work on the Abbott House project continues,

including work on the geothermal facilities. She reported on a problem of a creek flooding a historic home during heavy rain storms, which the state Department of Transportation (DOT) and DEC have both said is not theirs to solve; the village is looking for how to manage such problems when the likely state agencies are not available to turn to.

Town of Scipio: Chairman Welch reported that the Town is setting up committees to do a zoning update. He discussed the difficulty of getting people to commit time or even show up to public meetings. The town board held a public hearing on whether to take an easement over private land in order to maintain a public cemetery. The board has chosen to engage with the issue and is going forward with taking the easement.

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

Town of Ira: Mr. Cox discussed challenges with zoning for a motor-cross track created a few years ago. Reaction in the town to the track has been mostly positive. The difficulty is that the Town created a planned development district (PDD) as a separate zone to accommodate the track, which means that any change in operation requires a change in the zoning law. The Town is looking at changing the zoning designation to allow the track by a special permit within one of the pre-existing zoning districts instead of only by PDD. Mr. Milz (staff) noted that the Town must watch out to make sure that changing the rules would not let everyone or anyone build a race track, which might not be as well managed or as positively received as the existing one.

Town of Cato: Ms. Stephenson introduced herself as the new nominee from the Town of Cato to the county planning board, pending official appointment.

Town of Brutus: Mr. Glowacki reported that home sales are down. He discussed an issue of whether a water access is sufficient for a subdivision. A farm property divided by the Thruway has access only by the barge canal on one side of the highway. The landowner is considering splitting off the far side of the property, leaving the new parcel with only water access.

Town of Mentz: Mr. Moose reported that the Town is working on a water agreement with the Village of Port Byron and the Town of Montezuma. The Veterans' Memorial is moving ahead, thanks to large donations from the public.

Town of Genoa: Mr. Berry reported that the planning board has sent a draft of the comprehensive plan to the town board and is waiting for the response. There are a lot of silage trucks and a lot of farming activity in the town. The Genoa rural cemetery is expanding acreage thanks to a lot of volunteer work.

Village of Weedsport: Ms. Sweet reported on the progress of the Town of Brutus and Village of Weedsport Comprehensive Plan Committee, which had its second earlier this month.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chairman Welch (Scipio) to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Cox (Ira).
Adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Minutes submitted by Gabriel Holbrow (staff).