



**MINUTES**  
**July 17, 2013**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman Keith Welch (Scipio); Vice-Chairman Patricia Bianconi (Aurora); William Carman (Niles); Slade Cox (Ira); Chester Dziergas (Weedsport); Randall E. Frech (Village of Cato); David Morris (Sennett); June Ouelette (Sterling); Brian Schenck (Springport); Christopher Yorkey (Union Springs).

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Vernon Bishop (Sterling); Tim Ganey (Brutus); Joseph Verdi (Montezuma); Gabriel Holbrow (County Planning staff); Rima Shamieh (County Planning staff).

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Welch (Scipio) called the meeting 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.

**INTRODUCTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Each person present introduced himself or herself.

**INTERNAL BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Minutes from Meetings on March 13 and April 9, 2013: Board members noted that the date on the March minutes should be “March 12, 2013” instead of “March 12, 2012.” Motion by Mr. Frech (Village of Cato) to approve the minutes with the corrected year. Seconded by Mr. Morris (Sennett). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.
2. Review of Minutes of the GML 239-L, M & N Committee: Mr. Holbrow (staff) provided the Board with minutes of meetings on March 12, March 21, April 18, and June 20, 2013 of the county’s committee for intermunicipal review of local land use actions under GML §§239-1, m & n. Mr. Holbrow (staff) gave a short report on the activity of the committee at those meetings.

## **NEW BUSINESS: ISSUES OF COUNTYWIDE IMPORTANCE**

1. Milk Plant Construction: Construction is underway on the Cayuga Ingredients plant in the Cayuga County Industrial Park. The crane is visible from the back of the BOCES campus. The project is a multi-million dollar investment in the local economy, and has been supported by the Cayuga County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) with land, financing, sewer infrastructure, and an access road. The plant, which will produce value-added milk ingredients, is scheduled to open in fall 2014.
2. Agricultural District Consolidation: After the Board made its recommendation on the proposed agricultural district consolidation on April 9, the proposal was reviewed by the Cayuga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board on April 17, which recommended the additional removal of non-agriculture parcels, including cemeteries, roads, and town highway garages. The county legislature held a public hearing on June 25, and will consider adoption of the consolidated district boundary and annual inclusions as recommended at its next meeting on July 23. If the consolidation is approved by the legislature, the new district will have the formal name “Cayuga County Consolidated Agricultural District Number 5.”
3. Hazard Mitigation Plan: Cayuga County’s multi-jurisdictional all-hazards mitigation plan has been submitted to the state emergency management office. The plan is now awaiting approval from the state EMO and FEMA. The submitted draft is available online on the county’s website.
4. County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan: Ms. Shamieh (staff) provided the Board with a flyer on the county’s update to its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and introduced the planning effort. The plan will include two components. The first component will focus on land use and farmland protection. Ms. Shamieh plans to produce a packet for each town including the results of farm-friendly audits of local land use regulation. The packets will likely go out to towns and villages in September in order to get feedback by November. The second component of the plan will focus on agricultural economic development. Staff is currently working on an inventory of agricultural businesses and will be reaching out through interviews and focus groups to identify the needs and challenges of agricultural businesses. There will be three public meetings in November, 2013. The plan is scheduled to be complete in September 2014.

Chairman Welch (Scipio) commented that there seems to be a division in the farming community between large and very small farms and that there is not a lot of cooperation. Ms. Shamieh noted that the plan outreach will ask producers what their needs are and seek to address those needs, which may help bring them to the table. Chairman Welch further commented that an important issue for the plan will be to balance farmland protection with water quality goals. Ms. Shamieh acknowledged that water quality is an important issue that needs to be addressed, but said that it is not part of this plan. Mr. Schenck (Springport) asked if the several town plans for agriculture and farmland protection in the county have goals that align with the direction for the countywide plan. Ms. Shamieh replied that state approval and guidelines help align the goals of the plans and keep them consistent.

5. Trainings and Events: Board members were provided with flyers for trainings on aquatic invasive species on July 22 through 24, a training on regulating steep slopes on September 25, and three recycling events on September 21, October 26, and November 16.

## **LOCAL STATUS REPORTS**

Village of Cato: Mr. Frech reported the planning board has been resurrected as a result of whisperings about a new development that could bring money and jobs. The board has now met twice recently, and is considering updating the village comprehensive plan which is more than five years old.

Town of Ira: Mr. Cox reported that the town planning board reviewed an application for a radio tower, the first under the town's 2002 law. They are also working on recognizing special use permits for three or four existing businesses in the town that currently do not conform to the zoning law.

Town of Montezuma: Mr. Verdi reported that the Town has started work on comprehensive plan and that the Heritage Park project is in progress.

Town of Sterling: Ms. Ouelette reported that the zoning commission is nearly done with a review of the town zoning law and plans to submit a proposal to the town board in September.

Town of Springport: Mr. Schenck reported that the comprehensive plan committee has finished a draft of the plan and submitted it to the town board for review.

Village of Union Springs: Mr. Yorkey reported that the Village is revising its zoning laws. There was a public hearing in April, and a planning board meeting on the zoning rewrite that staff from county planning attended. The proposed revised zoning has gone to the board of trustees for adoption. Some of the major issues have been marinas and signage.

Village of Weedsport: Mr. Dziergas reported that things have been quiet.

Town of Brutus: Mr. Ganey reported that the Town is continuing to work on its comprehensive plan jointly with the Village of Weedsport. The new waterline serving homes east of the high school is about 95% complete.

Town of Sennett: Mr. Morris reported that the town planning board recently had its first meeting in four months to review a small subdivision.

Village of Aurora: Ms. Bianconi reported that the Village is looking at revising its zoning, particularly for short-term rentals. The project to rebuild the stairs at the village park is going ahead. Railings were added to the plan. A related project to improve the sidewalk in front of the post office and better define the parking lot entrance there is waiting for NYS DOT approval of the proposed curbing.

Town of Scipio: Mr. Welch reported that the Town is working on revising its zoning now that the comprehensive plan is complete. Building from discussions of the Town's current moratorium on fracking, the planning board proposed to the town board that the zoning broadly not permit any heavy industry other than farm-related uses. The Town is paying for the rezoning effort on its own and working with Jeanie Gleisner from the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.

Town of Niles: Mr. Carman reported that the planning board recently reviewed the town's comprehensive plan because it is a few years old. They were reasonably happy with it. The planning board has been setting aside a portion of its meetings to work on revising their application processes to make them clearer and less confusing. The board has already revised some forms and continues to try to improve the process. Mr. Holbrow (staff) asked if other boards use working meetings to work on such projects. Ms. Ouelette (Sterling) and Ms. Bianconi (Aurora) replied that both their boards try to set aside time for work on issues but that they nearly always have a full schedule of project reviews at their meetings.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Cox (Ira) to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Frech (Village of Cato).  
Adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Minutes submitted by Gabriel Holbrow (staff).

Minutes approved by the Board on November 13, 2013.