



**MINUTES**  
**August 18, 2021**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tiffany Beebee (Auburn); Gerald Scouten (Aurelius); Patricia Bianconi (Aurora); Dave Lipiska (Brutus); Debra Rose (Fair Haven); Ernesto Rivera (Fleming); Debbie Ross (Ledyard); Donald Francis (Locke); Richard Lowrey (Meridian); Carol Fordyce (Montezuma); Tamara Severson (Niles); Darrin Rooker (Port Byron); Henry T. Wilde (Springport); Brian Stout (Summerhill); Chris Yorkey (Union Springs); and Louise Hand (Victory).

**OTHERS PRESENT**

David Nelson (County Planning Staff).

Greg Colucci (County Planning Staff).

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

David Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS BY MEMBERS**

David Nelson introduced all members present.

**3. INTERNAL BUSINESS**

a. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2020 Meeting:

Motion by Darrin Rooker (Port Byron) to approve the minutes. Seconded by Patricia Bianconi (Aurora). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.

**4. ISSUES OF COUNTYWIDE IMPORTANCE**

a. County Planning Department Updates:

- Planners Greg Diebold and Jenna DeRario have started their positions with the department in recent months. The department is grateful to have their expertise.

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- Staff continues to work with the Town of Cato to update their Zoning Ordinance.
  - Staff continues to work on two Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs – one in the Village of Cayuga and the other in the Town of Sterling and Village of Fair Haven (joint project). The Village of Cayuga will host their first public meeting next month (September).
  - Staff is working on comprehensive plans for both the town and village of Moravia. We are aiming for completion later this year.
  - A comprehensive plan update is being drafted for Throop. Staff is working with the Town on this update.
  - The Victory Farmland Protection Plan is nearing completion.
  - Planner Jenna DeRario is undertaking the update of the Local Solid Waste Management Plan.
  - The Sterling Nature Center REDI project was bid in March but the low bidder withdrew due to escalating construction and materials prices. The project will be re-bid this fall with the County hopeful for better results.
- b. Review of Minutes of the GML 239-l, m & n Committee: No discussion
- c. Cannabis Adult Use Legalization Discussion: Effective January 1, 2022, cannabis adult use will be legal in New York State. Planning staff explained that there is an opt-out option for municipalities regarding on-site consumption and retail sale. There is no opt-out for cultivation. Municipalities have until December 31, 2021 to take action on the opt-out and must hold a referendum on the issue. The guidance received from NYS is to treat land use regulations regarding on-site consumption and retail sale the same as alcohol and tobacco sales and consumption. A short discussion regarding municipalities' options and the possible results followed.

## **5. LOCAL STATUS REPORTS**

### Union Springs:

- A new highway commercial zoning district has been adopted. This was done partially in preparation to cannabis legalization. Retail sale and on-site consumption will be allowed in this district.
- The Cayuga Nation casino has plans to expand. They have been working with the Planning Department to review.
- A 5 MW solar energy facility is under construction in the Village.

### Aurelius:

- The Town has three solar energy facilities to review in the near future (3 MW, 5 MW, and 20 MW).
- The River Road subdivision is proceeding. Eighty-two parcels have been sold.

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Summerhill:

- The comprehensive plan update has been approved. The Town is now drafting land use regulations for solar energy facilities.

Aurora:

- The Village is working on updating their comprehensive plan.

Brutus:

- The Town's water tower is being updated to accommodate two new water districts.
- The Town has purchased property to locate a joint administrative building with Weedsport.

Montezuma:

- The Town is working with the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge to extend a water line to the facility.
- Parking lot improvements for the Erie Canal Heritage Park are being completed.

Solar and Wind Training:

- A short discussion regarding the evening's training topic followed. Staff provided an overview of the issues that would be covered.

Adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by David Nelson (staff).