

MINUTES OF THE 420TH MEETING
OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Meadows Office Building
Cooperstown, NY

February 1, 2007
6:00 P.M.

1. The annual meeting of the Otsego County Planning Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Pritchard at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room of the Meadows Office Building near Cooperstown.
2. T. Pritchard asked members to introduce themselves. Other members present were J. Ahern, T. Clarke, B. Dixon, D. Gohde, W. Mitteager, T. Pritchard and R. Walker. Also present were Terry Bliss and Karen Sullivan – staff, County Representative Phil Durkin and guests. R. Streek was excused from the meeting.
3. Reading of the minutes.
 - a. Upon a motion by T. Clarke, seconded by D. Gohde and unanimously approved (8-0 vote), the board waived the reading of the minutes of the January 4, 2007 meeting and accepted them as presented.
 - 4a. Terry Bliss read a letter from County Representative Phil Durkin, expressing interest to serve on the County Planning Board. Terry presented a second letter of interest from Jeff House, current downtown developer for the City of Oneonta. Terry informed the board June Barwick has withdrawn her request as candidate. Upon further discussion, the board decided to invite Jeff House to attend the next County Planning Board meeting.
 - 4b Terry Bliss read a letter stating the Town of Springfield issued a negative declaration with approval of the site plan submitted by Harley Bontrager for referral #30-07-01.
 - 4c. Terry Bliss informed the board our office received a copy of the SEQRA findings for the Town of Cherry Valley’s Wind Turbine local law.
 - 5a. Nominating Committee, Joanna Ahern and Tom Clarke: Joanna Ahern gave the nominating committee report; Tom Pritchard to be Chairman; Ben Dixon, Vice Chairman, and Renee Walker, Secretary. Upon a motion by T. Clarke and seconded by J. Ahern and unanimously approved (8-0-0), recommendations by the committee were accepted and approved to accept Tom Pritchard as Chairman, Ben Dixon as Vice Chairman and Renee Walker as Secretary of the County Planning Board . Board discussed the question of secretary and recording of the minutes. T. Bliss said it truly is the responsibility of the Board secretary, but our department has fulfilled this need and is willing to continue with providing this service.
 - 6a. T. Pritchard handed out a brief summary report on “Planning for the future of Otsego County”. Upon further discussion, the board agreed to have a speaker come and present a non-biased presentation on alternative forms of energy. W. Mitteager agreed to look into this.
 - 6b. With no other old business, the board agreed to advance to item 8a.
8. Referrals
 - a. Referrals with No Identified County Impacts
 - i. Karen Sullivan presented referral # 07-07-01 from the Town of Edmeston Zoning Board of Appeals for an application by Thomas Cole for a use variance to place a double wide at 38 East Street in Edmeston. Upon a motion by T. Clarke, seconded by D. Gohde and unanimously

approved (8-0-0 vote), the board found no countywide impacts and remanded the application to the town for local decision. The board asked a letter be sent to the Town of Edmeston planning board to consider revisions to their zoning ordinance defining “double-wides” and “module units” in accordance with current building code definitions. Terry Bliss agreed to draft letter.

7a. T. Bliss read from the by-laws the standing committee positions, they are: Regional Liaison, Legislative Liaison, Special Committee, and Membership Committee. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to appoint the committee members. Southern Tier East requires a member from the county planning staff, city representative, and county board of representative.

7b. Tom Pritchard reported that Sara James of Sara James Associates, a specialist on the topic of self-sustainable communities, is asking the County to sponsor a presentation in Otsego County sometime in April. Board asked T. Pritchard to find out if a fee is involved.

7c. Terry Bliss presented the recent State law section 622 requiring 4 hours of annual training for planning and zoning board members. Terry explained a resolution by the County Board of Representatives is required in order to support the law. Upon further discussion, a motion was made by B. Dixon, seconded by J. Ahern and unanimously approved (8-0-0) to support a resolution by the County Board of Representatives requiring all County Planning Board members to adhere to the 4 hour requirement.

9. Terry Bliss had nothing further to add and deferred to the recent County Planning Board newsletter sent in January.

10. Upon a motion by Tom Clarke, seconded by Joanna Ahern and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sullivan
Sr. Planner