

MINUTES OF THE 432nd MEETING  
OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Meadows Office Building  
Cooperstown, NY

February 7, 2008  
6:00 P.M.

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1. The regular meeting of the Otsego County Planning Board (the Board) opened at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room of the Meadows Office Building near Cooperstown. Terry Bliss informed the Board that February is officially the annual meeting during which officers are elected. Chair, Ron Streek called the meeting to order. Terry Bliss informed the board Doug Ghode officially resigned due to family commitments.

2. Roll Call

a. Members present were Tom Clarke, Jeff House, Joanna Ahern, Mark Babilonia, Ron Streek and Wendy Mitteager. Flo Loomis entered at 6:10 pm. Phil Durkin was excused.

Also present were Terry Bliss, Karen Sullivan, and Psalm Wyckoff– staff. Martha Clarvoe and Adrian Kuzminski for Sustainable Otsego and two students from Oneonta State College.

3. Reading of the minutes.

a. The minutes of the January 3, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Jeff House recommended the word **disapproved** be **replaced with the word approved** in the last paragraph of the January minutes: *“Upon a motion by Jeff House, seconded by Flo Loomis, and unanimously **approved**, the board disapproved the proposed addition to an existing spa containing guest rooms and restaurant facilities located at 241 Main Street (U.S. Route 20) for lack of information necessary to render a decision.* Upon a motion by Tom Clarke, seconded by Joanna Ahern, and unanimously approved, the board agreed to approve the minutes with the amendment as noted and change the minutes of the January meeting.

4. Report of Communications

4.a. T. Bliss read a letter from the Susquehanna River Basin identifying a notice of application from the Cooperstown Dreams Park to draw 124,000 gallons of water per day from the Susquehanna River and the Burditt Creek. Discussion included the following concerns:

- What is motivating the request from the Dreams Park?
- Is there any or will there be any monitoring of the run off?
- What, if any authority does the County have and are there any other reviews necessary?

T. Bliss agreed to address a letter to the Susquehanna River Basin.

The Board unanimously decided to move to item 6.iii on the agenda to accommodate Adrian Kuzminski from the Otsego County Sustainability group.

6.a.iii. Discussion about inter-relationship with Sustainable Otsego

A. Kuzminski updated the board on the meeting between IGA , OCCA, the Environmental Action group and Sustainable Otsego. The coalition asked the IGA to support the establishment of a committee by the Board of Representative to address issues of sustainability and energy conservation for Otsego County. A. Kuzminski said the request was before the Board of Representatives. The Board of Representatives has made no final decision. The purview of such a committee is unknown since there are so many interested and overlapping groups. Board members asked Mr. Kuzminski to explain what he meant by sustainability. Mr. Kuzminski said it is more of an understanding of our resources and trying to achieve a better balance between conservation and consumption and that we need to reduce our vulnerability with things such as import replacement. One board member cautioned attitudes of go-it-alone versus interdependence. Jeff House mentioned the issue of sustainability is going to take some work and it will not happen overnight. The Board of Representatives, who have the authority to legislate,

will not act quickly, needing time to determine everyone's role in this. One short term goal will be to complete an energy audit of county buildings or to obtain a copy of the NYSERDA audit.

Martha Clarvoe presented information on the Cities for Climate Protection. CCP provides software to conduct a self-energy audit with membership. The City of Oneonta is a member and OCCA is encouraging the Village of Cooperstown to join.

## 5. Report of Committees

Joanna Ahern of the nominating committee suggested reelection of the current officers.

Upon a motion by Mark Babilonia seconded by Flo Loomis, the board members agreed to adopt by consent the current officers for 2008; Chairman, Ron Streek; Vice-Chair, Wendy Mitteager; Secretary, Flo Loomis.

## 6. Old Business

### 6.a.i. Report on meeting with county IGA committee on 1/17

J. House and F. Loomis attended the IGA meeting to discuss the planning board's approach to an energy policy.

### 6. a.ii Review outline of energy topics.

T.Bliss presented a brief outline of the how and why the county planning board was asked to develop a countywide energy policy. The June 06 minutes shows the Board's support to look at wind turbines and try to establish a policy toward wind turbines. The Board now is struggling with its role and the Board needs to consider the following in order to move forward:

1. Does the Board want to act as a reviewing board only, and if so how does this relate to an energy policy?

or,

2. Does the Board want to be more pro-active to help develop a policy and if they do, what issues to they want to take on?

J. House suggested the Board consider focusing on a couple of goals since the topic of sustainability and energy is so huge. J. House also suggested that county energy efficiency may be the purview of other departments such as buildings and grounds and highway. R. Streek agrees the board's needs to take on one item and establish a policy. F. Loomis expressed the opinion that the County should deal with its own house before telling others what to do. M. Babilonia presented the board with a county climate protection plan and asked the board to place this on the agenda for next month. M. Babilonia also suggested that the Board's job is to help the county . The Board must get past the roadblock and be willing to make efforts to get training and education on energy topics. The Board needs to get a handle on their role of implanting policy versus law. R. Streek suggested the Board should look at what they can trigger and make happen. Upon a motion by Jeff House, seconded by F. Loomis, and unanimously approved, the board will place the climate protection plan on the March agenda. R Streek suggested each member come prepared with a specific plan stating what each member feels the planning board can actually make happen.

### 6.b. Other business

M. Babilonia asked the status of the county's support of the required 4 hours of training for county planning board members and presented draft resolutions to approve the spring training workshops hosted by the Planning Department for training credits for IGA's consideration. T.Bliss said he submitted the resolution supporting the requirement of 4 hours of training to the IGA committing in March 07. The IGA committee agreed with the concept, but felt it should not be mandatory. Consequently, no action was taken. T.Bliss offered to resubmit the resolutions to IGA, as presented by M. Babilonia. Upon a motion by Jeff House, seconded by Joanna Ahern, unanimously approved, the board agreed to place this topic of discussion on the March agenda.

## 7. New Business

### 7.a. Proposed agreement for reduction of GML Section 239 referrals from (V) Cherry Valley

Upon a motion by Joann Ahern, seconded by Tom Clarke, approved (5-0) (Jeff House excused), the board agreed to accept the 239 waiver for review by the Village of Cherry Valley.

8. Referrals

8.a. No identified county impacts

8.a.i. Psalm Wyckoff, Planner presented referral #13-08-01 from the Town of Maryland for a five lot subdivision of properties owned by Mark Sostack and Timothy Walke. Property contains 55 acres and is located on Co. Rt. 41 and Ridge Road. Following discussion, upon a motion by T. Clarke, seconded by W. Mitteager, unanimously approved, the board found no countywide impacts and remanded the application to the town for local decision.

9. Report from the County Planning Director

T. Bliss reminded the members of upcoming workshops scheduled for February 27, March 19 and 26.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 7:45

10. a. The Board will meet on March 6, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Meadows Office Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sullivan