

MINUTES OF THE 427th MEETING
OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Meadows Office Building
Cooperstown, NY

September 6, 2007
6:00 P.M.

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. Chairman Ron Streek called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

a. Members present were Ron Streek, Tom Clarke, Joanna Ahern, Philip Durkin, Wendy Mitteager, Doug Ghode and Flo Loomis.

Also present were Terry Bliss, Karen Sullivan, Psalm Wyckoff– staff.

Guests included Everett Miller, Tom Pritchard, Wayne Benjamin, Philip Lewis, and June Barwick.

3. Reading of the minutes.

a. Upon a motion by Tom Clarke, seconded by Wendy Mitteager, and unanimously approved, the Board waived the reading of the minutes of August 2, 2007 and accepted as is.

4. Report of Communications

a. A letter from the Westford Planning Board with a signed 239 review waiver attached was received by the County Planning Department (the Department). The letter will be discussed further under Item 7.

5. Report of Committees

There were no standing committees to report.

6. Old Business

a. Karen Sullivan presented a power point with photos taken on the legislative tour of wind turbine farms in New York.

b. Recommendation for filling the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Renee Walker. The vacancy will be filled by the Chairman of the County Board of Representatives (BOR). Interested individuals submit their name and statement of qualification (SOQ) to the Board. Individuals are recruited by current board members. The Board can interview and offer recommendations to the Chairman of the BOR. This practice is consistent with the bylaws and the General Municipal Law (GML).

There are currently two interested individuals on file, Everett Miller and Marcia Membrino, for the Board to consider. The Board may elect to post a notice in the paper, although it is not required by the bylaws or the GML. Kevin Hodne, Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs

Committee, expressed an opinion that publishing a notice may be helpful. The question was raised: Does anyone on the Board have any other candidates in mind? None were offered for consideration. At the direction of the Board, the Department will publish the notice of the vacancy and notify Don Lindberg. Terry Bliss had already drafted a notice, which was summarized for the Board. The notice requests that interested individuals submit the required letter of interest and SOQ to the Department by the end of September.

c. Status of the proposed Hampton Inn in the Town of Hartwick. The Town is still reviewing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for completeness. Final decision will not be made until SEQR process is concluded.

7. New Business

a. Terry Bliss summarized the Board's bylaws and suggested that the Board may wish to review the bylaws and amend them, if desired, including the process for recruiting and filling vacancies. Amendments to the bylaws will have to be approved the BOR.

b. Westford has submitted a signed 239 review waiver. The Chairman of the Board must also sign the waiver. The stipulations of the waiver were read and discussion followed. It was decided that since the document is the standard waiver between the Board and other towns, there is no reason to modify the stipulations. Upon a motion by Joanna Ahern, seconded by Doug Gohde, and unanimously approved, the Board approved the waiver, which was then signed by Ron Streek.

8. Referrals

a.i. Planner Psalm Wyckoff presented Referral #10-07-02 from the Hartwick Planning Board for an application by Leatherstocking Cooperative Insurance for site plan approval to convert a residence into an office on County Route 11. The Board discussed various aspects of the proposal including access onto the property and sewage disposal plans. Upon a motion by Wendy Mitteager, seconded by Joanna Ahern and unanimously approved (8-0 vote), the Board found no county impacts and remanded the application to the town for local considerations.

a.ii. Planner Psalm Wyckoff presented Referral #10-07-02 from the Westford Planning Board for an application by Gerald and Diana Nichols for subdivision approval of a minor subdivision of 82.6 acres located on County Route 34 and Joslyn Road. The Board discussed various aspects of the proposal including access onto the property. Upon a motion by Joanna Ahern, seconded by Flo Loomis and unanimously approved (8-0 vote), the Board found no county impacts and remanded the application to the town for local considerations.

9. Report from the County Planning Director

Terry Bliss reported on up coming meetings with the Towns of Burlington, Maryland, and Cherry Valley. The Department may host a workshop on internet resources for local planners. Status reports were given on the Agricultural District No. 2 review, 30 day agricultural district enrollment, the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant application for the Ringwood Farm, the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program, Household Hazardous Waste Day, the

Transportation RFP, the Flood programs (Buyout, Phase II). Sustainable Otsego and its goals of promoting sustainable practices and responsible use of resources was discussed. The proposed Otsego County Alternative Energy Policy, an advisory report to the IGA, was discussed. Strategies for moving forward with developing the policy were also discussed. The NYSERDA energy audit of the County facilities was mentioned. The Board would like to ask Doug Czerkies for an update. The agenda for next month's meeting will include a timeslot for evaluating the status of the Alternative Energy Policy.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 pm.

The Board will meet on October 4th at 6:00 pm at the Meadows Office Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Psalm Wyckoff
September 14, 2007

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