

MINUTES OF THE 440th MEETING
OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Springfield Community Center
Springfield, NY

October 15, 2008
6:00 P.M.

1. A rescheduled meeting of the Otsego County Planning Board was called to order by Chairman Ron Streek at 6:12 pm at the Springfield Community Center in Springfield, NY.

2. The roll was called and the following members were recorded as present: Mark Babilonia, Tom Clarke, Phil Durkin, Scott Fickbohm, Ron Streek, and Flo Loomis. Also present were Terry Bliss, Karen Sullivan and Psalm Wyckoff, staff.

Betty Anne Schwerd and Jeff House were excused from the meeting.

3a. Upon a motion by Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Phil Durkin and unanimously approved (7-0 vote), the minutes of the September 4^h meeting were accepted as presented.

4. Terry Bliss reported, unofficially, Betty Anne Schwerd is resigning from the board. This will leave two vacancies

5. There were no committee reports.

6a. Terry Bliss reminded the board Sal Furnari is still an interested candidate, but that Richard Christman is no longer available as a candidate to fill one board vacancy. Scott Fickbohm and Terry Bliss both spoke with Tony Capraro and was informed Tony will not be able to accept a position on the board. Further discussion continued in regards to seeking candidates with experience in government process and the planning field. Upon a motion by Mark Babilonia, seconded by Flo Loomis and unanimously approved (7-0 vote), the board agreed to run another ad advertising the two vacancies.

6b. Terry Bliss recommend the board consider changing the regular monthly meeting to be able to utilize the larger meeting room in the EMS rooms. Upon a motion by Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Phil Durkin, and unanimously approved (7-0), the board agreed to change the board meeting from the first Thursday of each month to the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2008.

6c. The board members present, conducted a site visit of the Madison Square Garden project earlier this evening with the assistance of Mary Clark, Chairman of the Springfield planning board.

6d. Mark Babilonia reiterated his interest and encouraged the board to consider taking action steps to move forward with a recommended plan, agenda or timeline for the county board to take steps toward a Otsego County Climate Protection Plan. Mark referred to his previous handout and suggested the board review the five topics in his outline. An inventory or audit of current energy use will establish a baseline for the county. Mark is willing to put together an agenda or timeline to present to the IGA committee. He feels it is important to have representation from the committee. Ron Streek asked if the board should be looking at simple steps to improve energy consumption at the county level, or look at the full scale of things. Ron questioned if we may have greater impact by discussing small efficient changes with the maintenance department rather than going through the county board. Scott Fickbohm and Flo Loomis wondered where things stood in regards to getting an energy audit for the county. Terry Bliss informed the board the county vote in October to join ICLEI was close, but did not pass, and he is not sure exactly why. Terry suggested the board needs to have a firm understanding of their responsibilities. The worst thing to happen is to put a great deal of energy behind a project and not have the support of the county

representatives. Phil Durkin reminded the board, not much may happen before January because of budget reviews and the potential of changes to committee members and chairmanships. Upon a motion by Mark Babilonia, seconded by Scott Fickbohm, unanimously approved (7-0 vote), the board asked the county planning department to contact a representative from NYSERDA to give the county direction.

6e. There was no other old business brought by members.

7a. There was no new business brought by members.

8a. Psalm Wyckoff presented referral #05-08-03 from the Cooperstown Village Board of Trustees for proposed local law No. 6 of 2008 for an amendment to the Village of Cooperstown Zoning Law regarding the historical and architectural overlay district. Mark Babilonia questioned the process for reviewing a project first subject to obtaining a certificate of appropriateness by the architectural and historical review board. Terry Bliss clarified the process; an applicant subject to review by the architectural and historical review board, would seek a certificate of appropriateness prior to site plan approval from the planning board. The Village planning board would submit the 239 request, with an approved certificate of appropriateness and a site plan application to the county, prior to a decision on the site plan. Upon a motion by Ron Streek, seconded by Mark Babilonia and unanimously approved (7-0 vote) the board recommended approval of the zoning amendment.

8b. Psalm Wyckoff presented referral #05-08-04 from the Cooperstown Village Board of Trustees for proposed local law No. 7 of 2008 for an amendment to the Village of Cooperstown Zoning Law regarding the commercial zoning district. Following limited discussion, a motion by Mark Babilonia, seconded by Phil Durkin, and unanimously approved (7-0 vote), the board recommended approval of the zoning amendment.

9. Terry Bliss commented the department is busy with many things not necessarily on the agenda; transportation, solid waste and other items. The county board is split on the decision to join ICLEI. The initial discussions of sustainability began with a proposed wind farm in Cherry Valley, and the establishment of a county policy on alternative energy sources. The county planning board is empowered to move forward with studies for the county, but there needs to be clear understanding of the board's identity in the process.

Ron Streek reminded the board the public hearing for the Madison Square Garden project begins at 7 pm.

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sullivan
Sr. Planner