

Orange County Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2019

Members Present: E. McClung, T. Gottlieb, D. Niemotko, J. Wolfe, M. J. Guinchard, C. Best
Staff: J. Richmond, F Budde, M. Tennermann, E. Russell

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by D. Niemotko and seconded by M. Guinchard to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2018 meeting, approved.

Nomination forms were distributed for 2019 NYPF Awards. There are several different categories of awards. Let E. McClung know if you would like to submit any nominations.

F. Budde prepared a GML 239 Referrals Summary for December, 2018. There were 42 mandatory GML 239 referrals sent to the Department by municipalities throughout the County. A total of 1.126 million square feet of nonresidential development was proposed, as well as 13 dwelling units and 1 solar facility. Notable projects include: Town of Montgomery submitted a special use permit and draft environmental impact statement for a 1 million square foot warehouse from Bluewater Industrial Partners (aka Project Sailfish) neighboring NYS Route 17K, NYS Route 747 and I84; Town of Montgomery submitted a special use permit and site plan from Hawkins Estates for 89,090 sq. ft. of retail and office space located off Hawkins Drive near NYS Route 208; Town of Wawayanda submitted a special use permit and site plan from Oya Solar for 2 megawatt solar facility on Jogee Road between I84 and US Route 6.

There is interest in having solar information discussion at a future meeting. Orange County seems very popular for these facilities. We will try to schedule K. Schmidt to come to the next meeting to discuss solar issues.

Our goal is to keep Orange County a good place to live. With the comprehensive plan, we make it a priority to preserve open space. Priority growth area concept is how we are doing that. Growth is going to happen. The growth allows the County to thrive. Priority Growth Area concept directs growth to where it should be. We don't have the power to stop growth in other areas, but hope it will be minimal. There has been a slight increase in the number of farms and active farmers in the County. Part of this is due to support for farming through the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan which was adopted by the County in 2015. Farming is well supported in Orange County. Many proposed developments get referred to the County and the Planners prepare comments for the local board. The local board can override if the County disapproves because we don't have County-wide zoning. Each municipality has their own code. The municipal codes are supposed to go along with the County Comprehensive Plan. The County can try to drive policy, but as a home rule state we don't have control.

The first public hearing on the Draft Comprehensive Plan Update and Transportation Chapter 6 was held on December 11, 2018. E. Russell prepared a summary of the comments from the Public Hearing. Written comments were accepted through January 3, 2019. D. Church prepared a general summary overview compiling all public outreach to date. After hearing public comments, the mention of private funding for Legoland transportation was taken out. In the airport section, the reference to their master plan was deleted since we are not components of that and we don't want to be site specific. Those were the significant edits that came from the public comments. Several comments at the public hearing were about Legoland and don't have much impact on the actual text of these documents. The next step for plan approval is a legislative request to approve the updates to the County Comprehensive Plan, get on the February committee agenda and have the full legislature vote on it in March. We will request approval of the two plans, Orange County Legislature to act as lead agency and set a public hearing by legislature prior to adoption and resolution for adoption. Committee and full legislative approval is required. They might want to table it for a time for review. All legislators will receive a hard copy of the plan updates.

E. McClung said that at the NYPF meeting in April some of the Legoland attorneys will give a talk about the influence of social media on project applications.

The results of the consultants transportation survey is not yet available. The survey closed 12/31/18. They had about 1,300 participants. The consultants are processing and analyzing the data will will have a report sometime in February.

Discussion was held on agenda for future meetings of the board. Climate Smart Communities will be a topic at the next meeting. This board will act as advisors for the recertification process. K. Schmidt will prioritize the action items that may be realistic and easier to accomplish. J. Richmond said that a representative from DEC attended a Green Committee meeting and gave a presentation on the whole process. She said we can go through that process possibly at next month's meeting. We would also like a discussion on the definition of Priority Growth Areas. Designating a priority growth area is not always about more growth, but sometimes prioritizing infrastructure spending.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2019. Motion was made by M. J. Guinchard and seconded by D. Niemotko to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 PM, approved.