

**Orange County Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021**

Board Member Participants: E. McClung, M. Sweeton, T. Gottlieb, C. Best, S. Turner, D. Niemotko
Guest: Legislator Barry Cheney; Carla Castillo
Staff Participants: A. Sorensen, J. Richmond, M. Tennermann, K. Schmidt, E. Russell

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

The minutes from the January 5, 2021 meeting were accepted as circulated.

Board members Michael Sweeton, Cleveland Best, Elaine McClung and Stuart Turner have been reappointed. There are currently two Board openings which should be filled soon.

Review of General Municipal Law Planning and Zoning Permit Reviews – M. Tennermann gave a summary of the GML 239 referrals from January and February 2021. There were 50 mandatory GML 239 referrals sent to the Department by municipalities throughout the County for the month of January and 34 for the month of February. The trend this year seems to be large housing projects. We have received four applications for projects with between 200 and 250 units. The full report will be emailed soon.

Department Updates:

Continued Discussion on County Comprehensive Plan Updates:

Open Space – The department has started the process of reviewing the 2004 Open Space Plan. We will be working on this plan update inhouse and are developing a list of partners including this Planning Board. We will be working with the Planning Board as the plan is developed.

County-wide Resiliency Plan -

The RFP was issued for this project and we received eight responses. Planning Department is currently reviewing the proposals and will be holding interviews in the coming weeks and project should be underway in the coming months. We will be developing an advisory group to work with us and will keep the Planning Board advised. County DPW and Emergency Management will also be working on this project.

West Point Military Installation Resiliency (MIR) Grant and Study –

We are working with West Point on the Military Installation Resiliency project. The first phase includes the supply of power and to ensure resilient power supply to West Point and surrounding communities. We are currently working on preparation of RFP to select a consultant firm. The second phase will include resiliency of natural gas to these important facilities.

Role of Orange County Planning Board

Discussion was held on the role of the Planning Board. The Planning Board could play a helpful role working with the department on forming some basic policies. For example, with multi-family housing

projects, encourage inclusion of affordable housing. The Planning Board can continue in the direction as in the past or make changes. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Joint Convening CSC Advisory Task Force and Orange County Planning Board

J. Richmond discussed the background of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force. The Task Force was formed back in 2019 as part of the County Climate Smart recertification process. The idea is we will use the Planning Board joint meetings as recording mechanisms and the working groups will work on several actions. There are currently three working committees: Energy/Transportation, Agriculture/Land Use, and Materials Management. K. Schmidt as Coordinator provided updates on the working groups progress. She said they are trying to form a Water Committee also. The Materials Management Group worked on compost education last year at farm markets. This year they want to expand and add gardening education. She discussed a new Local Law which requires patrons to request napkins, plastic silverware, etc. instead giving them routinely. It would help the small businesses and landfills. B. Cheney said that was going to Rules and Physical Services Committees in March. We are still waiting for funding for Greenhouse Gas Inventory Plan.

Carla Castillo, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, gave a presentation on the CEC Leadership Round Program. This is the second round of the NYSERDA program. By providing grants, coordinator support, and clear guidance for implementing a range of high-impact clean energy actions, NYSERDA is helping local governments save money, grow the local economy, and improve the environment. Carla is the Coordinator for this area and is available to help communities review the point estimator outline and complete the actions. She reviewed some of the high-impact actions.

The next meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled for April 6, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.