

**Orange County Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2019**

Members Present: E. McClung, M. Sweeton, D. Niemotko, T. Gottlieb, J. Joy, S. Turner

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Members Present: Kelly Collins – Sustainable Warwick; Elinor Hart – OCLT and Blooming Grove CAC

Staff: D. Church, J. Richmond, F Budde, K. Schmidt, E. Russell

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM, M. Sweeton, Acting Chairperson.

A motion was made by D. Niemotko and seconded by S. Turner to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2019 meeting, approved.

Planning Department Updates

Education Recommendations from Recent OC Municipal Planning Federation Board Chairs Meeting – The OCMFP is planning a series of education programs for fall. The topic for the annual dinner is hemp. One of the board members has a contact who is an expert on this subject. He will speak about producing CBD products, disposing of the waste after the oil is produced, etc. There are approximately 150 acres now devoted to this type of use. There are questions about how it is zoned and how it is classified. The dinner is scheduled for the last Thursday in September at Delanceys. They are also planning a session with an O&R representative, who will do a presentation on solar. If you have any other suggestions for educational sessions, relay them to D. Church or Planning staff.

LEED Community Certification – D. Church attended a training session in Washington, DC. The County was among the first municipalities from around the Country to be selected. We will try to have the County among the first to be certified. There will be a list of actions and points which is still being defined. It is sponsored by USGBC.

F. Budde prepared the GML 239 Referrals report for the month of June, 2019. There were 40 mandatory GML 239 referrals sent to the Department by municipalities throughout the County. A total of 56 dwelling units and 64 thousand square feet of nonresidential development were proposed. Notable referrals include: T/Warwick – 62-unit hotel and six 8-unit cottages; V/Walden submitted an update to their comprehensive plan, emphasizing preservation of open space, historic buildings and overall village character; V/Warwick and T/Warwick – 18 multi-family dwelling units and 24 single-family dwelling units.

Climate Smart Communities Task Force

D. Church explained the background of the Task Force and the Climate Smart Communities program. Orange County was among the first to be certified as a Climate Smart Community Task Force. After five years, we are now up for recertification. K. Schmitt discussed the list of action items. She said we now have 195 points toward bronze and only 120 are required. We are in good shape to recertify as bronze. Coming up in September, the discussion will be what to work on next towards silver certification. Reach out to K. Schmitt with ideas for next steps. Planning Department is going to proceed with Greenhouse Gas Inventory through a grant application. That will be a large amount of points. The Natural Resource Inventory was sent to board members for review. It is also located on the Orange County Website. A motion was made by D. Niemotko and seconded by S. Turner, that the Orange County Planning Board approve the Natural Resource Inventory, approved. K. Schmidt will provide background on LEED certification. The quality of life parameters that we will be measured by are poverty rates, asthma, air quality, etc. She will also send out the points table again showing what was already finished.

The August Planning Board meeting is cancelled. The next meeting of the Planning Board will be held on September 10, 2019. The Climate Smart Communities Task Force will also be meeting at that time. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.