

**Orange County Planning Board  
Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2021**

**Board Member Participants:** E. McClung, M. Sweeton, E. Hart, C. Best, D. Niemotko

**Guest:** Carla Castillo

**Staff Participants:** A. Sorensen, J. Richmond, M. Tennermann, J. Ridgeway, K. Schmidt, E. Russell

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

The minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting were accepted as circulated.

Discussion was held on educational courses to be given by the Planning Federation. They would like to have a session on Carbon Sequestration. They are looking for suggestions for someone to teach this topic. C. Castillo will try to find someone. Also, Orange and Rockland could be a resource since they have some tree specialists.

**Review of General Municipal Law Planning and Zoning Permit Reviews** – M. Tennermann gave a summary of the GML 239 referrals from September 2021. There were 24 mandatory GML 239 referrals sent to the Department by municipalities throughout the County. A total of 234 dwelling units and 29,235 sq. ft. of non-residential development were proposed. There were three significant referrals in September: 1) Monroe (T) – Pallotti Village: Lead Agency for 178 multifamily units divided by age-restricted and mixed-income housing; 2) Newburgh (T) – Elm Farm Subdivision: Major Subdivision proposing 52 parcels for final approval; and 3) Warwick (T) – Snufftown Farm Market: Addition of farm market, event space, and on-farm brewery to existing farm operation.

**Presentation: Open Space**

Status Overview – The Planning Department is working with the Orange County Land Trust to update the existing Open Space Plan which was last adopted in 2004. During July, August and September stakeholder interviews were held with over 20 conservation partner agencies. The interviews were about an hour each and consisted of a specific set of questions to get a consistent input from the stakeholders. The interviews are almost complete and staff is working on cataloging the information. Also, they are working on data collection and analysis and mapping. The end product will be on a website. Topic areas to be addressed in the plan will include Agriculture, Biodiversity/Natural Resources, Built Environment, Historical/Cultural, Recreation, and Water Resources. Nine themes identified through the Stakeholder interviews will be interwoven throughout the topics: Accessibility, Climate Change, Connectivity, Economic Opportunity, Equity, Preservation & Protection, Quality of Life, Smart Growth and Stewardship. It will be an Arc GIS website. There will be different pages for each theme. The goal is to have existing conditions and trends, development recommendations, project locations, areas for protection, corridor connectivity, interactive maps and tech memos, which can be downloaded and printed. People will be able to follow the plan and get notified when progress is made. The focus is currently on public participation. A public survey is being developed, which is almost ready for public consumption. A media packet is being developed also to help with marketing. There will be draft language for social media posts. We will need Planning Board help to disseminate the survey to the public. This is the first opportunity for them to participate. J. Richmond asked if the emerging stakeholder priorities are consistent with the Board's priorities. Priorities are consistent with Cornwall CAC, Hudson Valley Regional Council, and Town of Blooming Grove. Discussion followed on inclusion of

Agriculture in Open Space Plan. M. Sweeton suggested including underground aquifers on water supply maps. Orange County Land Trust staff is working with Planning Department on this project.

**Department Updates:**

**TMA Certification**

Orange County Transportation Council is part of a larger transportation management area with two other counties. They go through a federal certification every four years. The certification meeting was interrupted last week due to the Federal furlough process. They are scheduled to reconvene on 10/15/21.

There is currently one vacancy on the Planning Board. It was determined that a member from Newburgh would round out the Board geographically. Please submit any suggestions to A. Sorensen.

The next meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled for November 9, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.