

MINUTES

PLANNING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Fred Lightfoote, Chairman

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

4:00 PM

Conference Room 205

Municipal Building

<p>Members Present Chair – Supervisor F. Lightfoote Vice Chair – Supervisor R. Green Supervisor D. Marshall Supervisor N. Teed Supervisor D. Vedora</p>	<p>Members Excused Supervisor J. Gallahan</p>	<p><u>Staff and Guests:</u> Tom Harvey, Planning Brian Young, Deputy County Administrator Reliefia Kramer, Planning Mike Manikowski, Economic Development Valerie Knoblauch, Tourism Tim Davis, OC CCE Marie Anselm, OC CCE Riley Abrahamson, CCE</p>
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TIME	TOPIC	NOTES & DISCUSSION
4:00 p.m.	<p>Opening of Meeting</p> <p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Chair Lightfoote opened the June 28, 2016 Planning and Research Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. Supervisor Gallahan was declared necessarily absent.</p> <p>Chair Lightfoote requested a motion to approve the June 7, 2016 minutes with one correction – Supervisor Teed was not present at the meeting.</p> <p><i>A motion was offered by Supervisor Marshall, and was seconded by Supervisor Green to approve the June 7, 2016 minutes with correction. All in f with Supervisor Teed abstaining because he was not present at the meeting, motion carried.</i></p>
4:02	<p>Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)</p>	<p>Chair Lightfoote welcomed Tim Davis, Marie Anselm, and Riley Abrahamson.</p> <p>Mr. Davis introduced Marie Anselm and Riley Abrahamson to the committee.</p> <p>Ms. Anselm told the committee that she works in Agriculture Economic Development for Ontario County CCE and discussed the work being done by Mr. Abrahamson, an intern for the agriculture program. She explained that Riley is working on is a work force development project.</p> <p>Mr. Abrahamson told the committee that he is going to be a junior next year at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Cornell studying communications. He explained that the project he is working on is researching and updating agricultural career cards. There are around sixty career cards each describing different careers in</p>

		<p>agriculture. He said they are one page pamphlets with job descriptions, median wage, and job outlook information. The cards also mention prominent colleges for each career. The information currently on the cards is about ten to fifteen years old. Mr. Abrahamson told the committee that they are also doing some video interviews with local professionals to record real life experiences related to those careers.</p> <p>Mr. Manikowski remarked that they helped fund the initial drafting of the career cards many years ago, and it was the first time anyone had put together a comprehensive description of careers available related to agriculture. In response to a question, Ms. Anselm told the committee that the career cards are available statewide, and they are used by many agencies.</p> <p>Mr. Davis said that they are trying to reach in to expand and make use of some of the internship opportunities at Cornell University for different projects. Currently they have reached out to The Society of Hispanic Engineers at Corning. They will be working on the D’Angeles property CCE owns to create more of an educational park concept. Over the years, what do we want to do with those eighty five acres? Where do they put an archery field, air rifle field, hiking trails? They are helping plan out a much larger long term project. Mr. Davis said through the ‘Engaged Cornell’ project, they are looking for projects across New York State to be able to place a college student supported by a faculty member working on the project. He said he thinks there are a lot of opportunities with other departments if we are looking for some support from faculty and intern work. He said they are trying to identify where those opportunities are. Mr. Davis told the committee that they have a tour coming up with the Engaged Cornell Program Director of Cooperative Extension on July 11th. Ontario County CCE has been engaging a lot of projects with interns. It has been very successful and we have been reaching outside of the College of Ag and Life Sciences and the College of Human Ecology for interns and faculty.</p> <p>Chair Lightfoote thanked Mr. Davis, Ms. Anselm, and Mr. Abraham.</p>
4:15	Tourism	<p>Chair Lightfoote welcomed Valerie Knoblauch and David Lee.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch discussed and recommends a resolution – Designating Ontario County Four Seasons Local Development Corporation, d.b.a. A Finger Lakes Visitors Connection, as the official tourism promotion agency for Ontario County.</p> <p>A motion was offered by Supervisor Marshall and was seconded by Supervisor Green to approve the above mentioned resolution. All in favor, motion passed.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch and Mr. Harvey discussed the Estimate of the Economic Impact of CMAC with the committee. Mr. Harvey said that CMAC adds about six million dollars to the local economy in a typical season. This information will be used to support a grant application being submitted by the Friends of CMAC. When the facility was first expanded, the main complaints we heard were about traffic. In 2008 a Traffic and Parking Management Plan was developed and as that has been implemented and refined over the years the Friends receive mostly positive comments about how well traffic is handled. The main complaint they get now is about the lack of adequate restrooms, especially for the larger shows. The grant application will seek funds to build a new restroom facility just outside the corner of the shell closest to the gymnasium to address the need and eliminate the use of port-a-potties.</p>

		<p>Chair Lightfoote thanked Ms. Knoblauch.</p>
<p>4:25</p>	<p>Planning</p>	<p>Mr. Harvey and Ms. Knoblauch discussed Airbnb occupancy tax with the committee. Mr. Harvey reported that the County Treasurer, Gary Baxter, had a previous engagement but wanted the committee to know that Tompkins County reached an agreement with Airbnb to have Airbnb collect Tompkins County’s occupancy tax. Mr. Baxter also sent along a copy of new state legislation wherein rentals of fewer than 30 days are prohibited from being listed if the owners are not present, and establishes a fine of up to \$7,500 for violations.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch explained what an Airbnb is and its origin. She said that the Airbnb’s stock value is now larger than the largest hotel chain, and it grew that big in just a few years. It is a huge company. Under the Ontario County occupancy tax local law only facilities with more than four units are subject to the tax. Ms. Knoblauch said the people who own more than four rooms, want everyone taxed equally. It is about equity and fairness. She explained that to change the County’s local law the P&R Committee would have to initiate the process with the Board of Supervisors who would request authorization from the state. She said that would need to be started this summer to get it to the next legislative session.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch said that in she contacted Yates County Chamber of Commerce because they do tax all vacation rentals, campground lodges, tourist homes, condominiums, cottages, and cabins. They use a combination of town regulation and self-regulation (they report each other) for compliance.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch told the committee that she and Mr. Harvey will be meeting with County Administrator Mary Krause, Director of Finance, Mary Gates, Treasurer, Gary Baxter, and County Attorney, Gary Curtiss to discuss the Occupancy Tax Law further. They will come back to the committee with more information on the estimate of rental units that might be affected by a change in the law. Mr. Harvey asked if the committee was interested in having the analysis done for a potential change in the county’s occupancy tax law. The committee’s general consensus was that they wanted more information.</p> <p>Mr. Harvey discussed the revisions to General Municipal Law 239 and 711. He said a downstate county with large county sewer and water districts wanted the revisions. The proposed revisions require a municipality considering an annexation, i.e., a parcel into a village or move a parcel into the city and out of a town, the annexation proposal now has to be referred to the County Planning Board if the annexation would involve provision of sewer and water service at either the county or local municipal level. The problem with the legislation is that it contains no guidance – Is it sewer and water for an existing project or for existing users? Is it for buildings that are already there, or for a development application that is being proposed, or for a potential project at any time in the future? Mr. Harvey said that there are several municipalities that now contract in Ontario with Monroe County Water Authority. It isn’t clear whether the provision of water from an independent authority would trigger the review? Some municipalities contract for water and sewer services while others transferred ownership of the district to Monroe County Water Authority. Again, the legislation isn’t clear how those situations impact the need for referral to the County Planning Board. It is a poorly thought out band aid on a statute that already needs</p>

		<p>some work. At the same time, the statute isn't likely to generate much work as Mr. Harvey reported in his 30 years with the County he's only seen three annexations across the whole county.</p> <p>Mr. Harvey gave a general update of Planning activities for the committee. He said that Betsy Landre did a great job giving a presentation at the Honeoye Valley Association Annual Conference.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch requested to share something with the committee. She said that last week Tourism received the PRISM Award from the Rochester Public Relations Society. Tourism was recognized for one of last year's event, the Midwest Travel Writers Association for the best media relations/not for profit category. Ms. Knoblauch also said that the Dallas News had an article on the Finger Lakes wine industry and the native American history.</p> <p>Mr. Manikowski updated the committee on how state policy is effecting economic development. He said that he met with a large business to discuss how the minimum wage situation will affect them. Mr. Manikowski is trying to help them in dealing with their operating costs over a five year projected period. He said that it is not just the entry level employees; it is the wage compression that will take place inside the business.</p> <p>Mr. Manikowski said that it looks like Cheribundi will be staying in Ontario County. He said that the state really came through with a grant to help retain Cheribundi. Mr. Manikowski said that they are now working with a craft cider business.</p>	
4:50	Adjournment	<p>There being no further business for discussion, Chair Lightfoote requested a motion to adjourn.</p> <p><i>Motion to adjourn made by Chair Marshall, seconded by Supervisor Teed at 4:50 p.m. Motion carried.</i></p>	

Respectfully Submitted,

Reliefia Kramer