



PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: WebEx and 74 Ontario St., 2nd Floor Committee Room 213

May 1, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

In Person: Supervisors David Phillips, Fred Lightfoote, Christopher Vastola, and Andrew Wickham arriving at 2:18 pm.
Necessarily Absent: Supervisor Jack Marren, William Namestnik, and Mark Venuti.

OTHERS PRESENT

In Person: BOS Chairman Todd Campbell, County Attorney Holly Adams, County Administrator Chris DeBolt, Deputy County Administrator Alissa Bub, Economic Developer Ryan Davis, Sustainability and Solid Waste Director Carla Jordan, Sr. Planner Regina Sousa, Planning Director Tom Harvey, Sr. Planners Linda Phillips and Thomas Lyon, Visitors Connection President Valarie Knoblauch, Visitors Connection Director of Operations Steve Laros, Cornell Cooperative Extension Director Tim Davis, Cornell Cooperative Extension Senior Resource Educator Russ Welsler, Casella General Manager Brian Sanders, Soil and Water Director Megan Webster, Reporter Dave Shaw, Abigail Marion, and Clerk to the Board Kristin Voss.

Via WebEx: Supervisors Peter Ingalsbe and Dan Marshall, Associate Planner Tim Jensen, Sr. Planner Julie Barry, Economic Specialist Sue Vary, Sustainability Assistant Kaitlynn McCumiskey, AJ Magnan, and Chris Lankenau and Isaac Kwon from Urban Partners.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Planning & Environmental Quality Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Phillips. A quorum was obtained at 2:18 pm no formal action was taking until after this time.

MINUTES

Supervisor Vastola made a motion to approve the minutes of the Planning and Environmental Quality Committee meeting held on April 10, 2023. Supervisor Lightfoote seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TEAM AGENCIES

- ♦ *Cornell Cooperative Extension*

Mr. Davis thanked the Planning Department for the support through their strategic planning process.

Mr. Welsler came today to talk about small and beginning farms.

Ontario County has a total of 833 farms. 235 small farms make up 28% of the total farms and they have sales less than \$2,500 a year. 43% of the farms have sales less than \$10,000. 406 are new and beginning farms with 16% selling directly to the consumer. Most of them have a niche market they are in. Such as cut flowers, chickens, strawberries, hops, mushrooms, etc. Many small and beginning farms are people coming back to the family farm that has been rented out for many years. Cornell Cooperative Extension offers beginning small farm training every few years and series of classes for different farming opportunities.

Supervisor Lightfoote noted that we are a very diverse agricultural county. We are lucky that we have help from Cornell Cooperative Extension and businesses to supply farms of all sizes.

♦ *Soil and Water*

Ms. Webster passed out their most recent newsletter. They have been busy with agricultural projects. They have 12 agricultural projects and 6 nonagricultural projects going on right now, and are looking to add an additional Conservation District Technician. They recently applied for a grant with Yates and Seneca Counties to work on erosion and settlement control measures. They also have many other grant applications out for agricultural projects. They have completed a Hemlock Wholly Adelgid spring treatment at Grimes Glen. They will do the same treatment at Briggs Gully in a few weeks. They also helped Cummings Natures Center with their treatment. They did a bio control release of Silver Flies at the Wesley Hill Reserve to treat the Hemlock Wholly Adelgid long term. This Thursday they will attend a regional Envirothon that will be held at FLCC. On May 24th and 25th the State will hold theirs at Hobart and William Smith. In 2024 Hobart and William Smith will be hosting the national Envirothon. They had a successful tree and shrub sale and have their fish sale coming up.

CASELLA

♦ *Update*

Mr. Brian Sanders presented the following updates:

- The site has held up well with all the rain
- The leachate storage tank and containment are complete. The piping and electrical for the tank should be completed this week so they can send the paperwork to DEC to sign off on. This was the last part of the consent order that needed to be completed
- They will be relocating the current access road soon
- They will be starting pond work soon
- The cell construction and final cap bid has been awarded

**SUSTAINABILITY AND
SOLID WASTE**

♦ *Resolution*

Sr. Planner, Regina Sousa, presented a resolution entitled, “Amendment to Contract with Brand Builders, LLC for Backyard Composting Program Support”.

◆ *Department Update*

Supervisor Lightfoote motioned to approve this resolution. Supervisor Vatsola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sustainability and Solid Waste Director, Carla Jordan, provided the following department updates:

- The department is in full swing of event season
- 641 residents attended the household hazardous waste event
- They have 790 tires registered so far for that collection event
- 225 residents have registered for the E-Waste event
- They sold out of composting units and have 68 people on a waitlist. The department will be placing another order soon

**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

◆ *Department Update*

Economic Developer, Ryan Davis, updated the committee on the following:

- They are coming to the end of the second round of Visit Ontario grant funding. The paperwork will be done by the end of the month payouts done by the end of June
- At the IDA meeting they had a lot of the conversation about housing. They approved phase II of housing on Gorham St. for 40 market rate rentals
- They are looking to update their uniform tax-exempt policy to allow a solar home project to become 100% affordable housing
- They are working on the Municipal and Developer Roundtable Workshops for housing that will be held next week
- They are trying to partner with FLCC and WDI(Workforce Development Institute) for workforce development training.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

◆ *Resolutions*

Sr. Planner, Thomas Lyon, presented the following resolution entitled, “Acceptance of the Clean Energy Communities Designation Grant from New York State Energy Research & Development Agency

Supervisor Lightfoote motioned to approve this resolution. Supervisor Wickham seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sr. Planner, Julie Barry, presented the following resolution entitled, “Resolution to Declare Lead Agency Status and Establish a Public Hearing for the 2022 Annual Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Land in

Ontario County Consolidated Agricultural District One”.

Supervisor Lightfoote motioned to approve this resolution. Supervisor Vastola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TOURISM

◆ *Update*

Visitors Connection President, Val Knoblauch, provided information on the data resources that they use to apply for grants; and be able to target the correct group of people to come to the county and when to draw them.

They are received a \$312,500 grant from Empire State Development to help bring more meetings and conferences to the county throughout the year. This is a no match required grant. They will be the lead agency of this grant but it will also be shared with Chautaugua Tourism Bureau, Cooperstown Tourism, Watkins Glen Tourism, and 1000 Island Tourism.

They were recently asked to speak at the Town of Victor Public Hearing to take over the vacant Lord & Taylors store space by eminent domain. They will be hosting the Tourism Alliance Partnership at the Visitor’s Center in Geneva. She also wrote a letter of support for the Town of Phelps for a grant that they are applying for. A new hotel investor is looking for property and data in the County. They are looking at how Airbnb’s are changing hotel needs and costs. Next year is the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

◆ *Presentation*

Chris Lankenau and Isaac Kwon from Urban Partners gave a presentation on the Ontario County housing needs assessment survey results. They were able to collect 1,058 surveys. They reviewed demographic and employment trends, housing cost burdens, housing supply analysis, for-sale and rental housing market analysis. Then they provided the responses from the survey for the question “what can the County do to improve housing accessibility for residence of all life stages”? and what household types were deemed high priority from survey respondents.

◆ *Update*

County Administrator, Chris DeBolt, provided the following updates:

- The Municipal housing study stakeholder meeting will be held on May 10th at Hobart and William Smith
- The RFQ for the landfill consultant is out
- The ARPA grant consultant kickoff meeting will be held tomorrow

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:07 PM, Supervisor Wickham made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Lightfoote, to go into executive session regarding discussion

on the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; motion carried.

At 3:18 PM, Supervisor Lightfoote made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Vastola, to leave executive session; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Wickham seconded by Supervisor Lightfoote, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristin A. Voss, Clerk to the Board

Approved