

Agenda

Tompkins County Council of Governments

Thursday, December 15, 2016 3:00 PM

Scott Heyman Conference Room

- I. **Call to Order** I. Weiser
- II. **Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda**
- III. **Minutes Approval**
 - a. October 27, 2016
 - b. November 17, 2016
- IV. **Constitutional Convention: Update on Forum** R. John
- V. **Appointment of TCCOG Representative to TCAT Transit Services Committee**
- VI. **Selection of 2017 Leadership**
- VII. **Report from Subcommittees**
 - a. Emergency Services Task Force E. Thomas
 - 1. **Resolution:** Establishment of TCCOG Energy Task Force (ID #6746)
 - b. Sustainability Committee: Community Choice Aggregation Work Group and Energy Task Force
 - c. Transit Services Committee G. Monaghan
 - d. Cable Committee J. Leifer
- VIII. **Next Meeting Agenda Items**
 - a. Update on the buildout of broadband
 - b. Cradle to Career Discussion
 - c. Presentation of Energy Smart Community (Sharon Anderson)
 - d. Discussion of Highway Funding
 - e. TC3.Biz Supervisory Training
- IX. **Adjournment**

Subcommittee Meeting Dates

The **Energy Task Force** meets following TCCOG each month at 4:30 p.m. Next Mtg: January 26th
The **Emergency Services Task Force** meets the 2nd Tues. and 4th Weds. of each month at the **Department of Emergency Response on Brown Road**. Next Mtg.: January 10th and 25th
The **Community Choice Aggregation Work Group** will meet the 4th Friday of each month at the Ithaca Town Hall. Next Mtg: January 27th

Tompkins County Council of Governments
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, October 27, 2016 3:00 PM
 Scott Heyman Conference Room

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael Lane	Member, Tompkins County	Present	
Elizabeth Thomas	Co-Chair/Town of Ulysses	Present	
Laura Shawley	Member - Alternate, Town of Danby	Present	
Betty Conger	Member, Village of Groton	Present	3:08 PM
Irene Weiser	Co-Chair/Town of Caroline	Present	
Bill Goodman	Member - Alternate, Town of Ithaca	Present	3:11 PM
Kelly Smith	Member, Town of Groton	Present	
Jason Leifer	Member - Town of Dryden	Present	
Michael Murphy	Member, Village of Dryden	Present	3:10 PM
Mark Witmer	Alternate - Town of Caroline	Present	
Linda Woodard	Mayor	Present	
Ann Rider	Member, Town of Enfield	Present	4:22 AM
Martha Robertson	Legislator	Present	
Joe Mareane	Tompkins County Administrator	Present	
Michelle Pottorff	Legislature Office	Present	
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present	
Jay Franklin	Director of Assessment	Present	

Gary Stewart, Joel Malina, Cornell University; Gary Ferguson, Ithaca Downtown Alliance, Kelly Waters, Fingerlakes newspapers
 Municipalities not in attendance: Towns of Lansing and Newfield; Villages of Freeville, Trumansburg; City of Ithaca

Call to Order

Ms. Thomas, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda

Although the order of items revised slightly there were no additions to or deletions from the agenda.

Housing

Tompkins County Housing Needs Assessment (ID #6659)

Ms. Robertson provided the following PowerPoint presentation on the Tompkins County Housing Needs Assessment Model that was done by Ken Danter of Danter Associates to look at changes in our market since 2000; current unmet housing demand; and what can be expected by 2025.

Key Indicators

- Trends & projections in
- Labor force and employment

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- Population and household parameters
- Total college enrollment (she said this was not looked at in the last assessment and it is a major driver)
- Student employment
- Student housing on- and off-campus

Ms. Conger arrived at this time.

Methods

- Field Survey of market rate apartments 24 units and over
- Sample of rental units under 24 units
- Survey of organizations serving special populations
- Internet survey

Primary Research and Market Input

- Interviewed nearly 5,000 professionals, residents, and major employers
 - 262 property owners or managers
 - 41 other real estate professionals
 - 15 special needs housing providers
 - 4,509 respondents to internet survey

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Goodman arrived at this time.

Population Growth

	2015	2025	growth
Population	105,160	110,705	5,545
Students in On-Campus Housing	13,112	13,531	419
Total Students	31,255	35,123	3,868
Population Net of Students	73,905	75,582	1,677

In-Commuters as a Percent of Employment 1990-2013

1990	2000	2010	2013
21.5%	24%	25.2%	25.6%

Ms. Robertson referred to the slide entitled “Market Rate Apartment Inventory” and stated the vacancy rate is 1.8% out of a total number of 5,727 units. A healthy housing market is 6.8%. The current vacancy rate means there are very few choices. She referred to existing versus target inventory and said there is a big need for one and two-bedroom units. IN addition to the need for single-family housing there is also an unmet demand for senior assisted housing. Ms. Robertson said if we had more places for seniors to go this would free up single-family houses.

Notes from the Internet Survey included the following comments: 22% of Tompkins County residents moved back to the County after living elsewhere; only 18% of respondents plan to leave Tompkins County after retirement; 58% of in-commuters would move into Tompkins County if housing were available and affordable; and 42% of in-commuters are planning to move within five years, and 26% are extremely or somewhat likely to move into Tompkins County. 83% would prefer to own their homes.

Ms. Robertson said TCCOG was an early supporter of the Housing Summit and encouraged members to attend on November 30-December 1, 2016.

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RESULT: COMPLETED

Minutes Approval

September 22, 2016

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Betty Conger, Member, Village of Groton
SECONDER: Irene Weiser, Co-Chair/Town of Caroline
AYES: Lane, Thomas, Shawley, Conger, Weiser, Goodman, Smith, Leifer, Murphy, Woodard, Rider

Update on Cradle to Career Program

Mr. Goodman said Cradles to Careers is an initiative Kirby Edmonds and the Dorothy Cotton Institute is involved in. They are trying to improve the outcomes for youth in the community and are defining that as pre-natal to age 24. It is a function mostly of social services, educational, and non-profit organization representatives that are looking at how to determine the impacts of programs that are monies are expended on and whether the programs are impacting the youth in the community. They work in conjunction with the Achieving Youth Results program and are trying to define the goals of what successful outcomes are for youth as they go through development stages. Mr. Goodman said they are hoping that TCCOG and local governments can have discussion about ways that local governments could help youth achieve these goals and meet goals.

Mr. Goodman asked what types of information members felt their municipal boards would find useful in order to figure out whether the programs that exist around youth recreation or any other monies spent are helping youth achieve goals. He said the Town of Ithaca participates in the Recreation Partnership and Joint Youth Commission so there are monies budgeted every year but as a town board they need to know how those funds are working to achieve the goals.

He suggested it might be helpful to have Kirby Edmonds attend a future meeting to talk about what various municipalities are doing in terms of youth programming. One particular issue he said many may not have thought about is one of the goals that they have for youth is providing safe and affordable housing and this is an issue that municipalities are may be able to have an impact on that would also have an the impact this has on youth.

It was suggested that an information session be held with Mr. Edmonds where time can be dedicated to discussing this in greater detail.

Downtown/Urban Housing Study

Mr. Ferguson, Executive Director of the Downtown Ithaca Alliance, distributed an overview of the Housing Study that they engaged in with the Danter Company for the purpose of identifying potential support levels for new market rate, tax credit and purpose-built student apartments as well as condominium development in the downtown Ithaca Effective Market Area (EMA), notably the urbanized area of Tompkins County.

He said they drilled down into more detail in the study and did a market study that looked at the demand of housing in the downtown area. There have been a few of these studies done over recent years

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to try to get an understanding of the marketplace that would benefit everyone in the process to get a sense of what is and isn't possible in the market. He said there continues to be a great demand for housing in all areas and this aligns with the housing needs assessment reported on earlier by Ms. Robertson. The study looked at the five year demand for housing units and concluded that roughly 1,000 rental units can be accepted into the downtown market at various price points and are particularly high at the low and mid-range price levels of the market. The second area of interest is for-sale units and there appears to be a demand for 300-350 for-sale housing over the next five years. This is the first time in the Danter studies that they have identified a sizable amount of demand in for-sale units. The caveat is that most of the demand is in the \$200,000-\$300,000 price range. The third area is in student housing and a separate demand for purpose-built student housing in the range of 1,000 units.

The conclusions of the study included:

- Downtown Ithaca is a popular residential area for students, business professionals and seniors in the market. We need affordable housing for these groups. The overall shortage of rental housing has served to support higher rents.
- Although new housing projects were built in downtown recently, 72.6% of the market-rate units surveyed were constructed and opened before 1990.
- Building student purpose housing and condominiums will free up space at existing rental properties that were intended to house families.
- Downtown Ithaca EMA needs more low-income and affordable housing: currently, there are a total of 9 existing Tax Credit developments in the downtown Ithaca EMA. These 9 developments contain a total of 837 Tax Credit units. The overall occupancy rate amongst the Tax Credit units is 97.4%.
- Some yet-to-be-created public programs will be necessary to provide middle income rental and affordable condominium products. A strategy encourage non-student rental housing development at moderate rents should be considered.

Mr. Ferguson said the track record for the community building for sale condominium housing in the community is not very good and is a challenge for a number of reasons. He thinks helping to promote the industry to take a more solid look at building condominiums is something they would be very interested in. He also believes there needs to be some sort of subsidy or assistance program to encourage the marketplace to build middle-income housing.

Mr. Lane asked what Mr. Ferguson would envision a subsidy program for this housing downtown and raised the issue of fairness. Mr. Ferguson agreed there is an issue of equity and said they are doing some research into what is being done around the country as this is a problem for many areas. He said building in urbanized areas is generally more expensive so this may provide an opportunity for this.

Ms. Thomas spoke of the value in attending the Housing Summit and the importance of keeping this issue in the forefront and municipalities working together to move forward on these issues.

Shared Services

Resolution No. (ID # 6660) - ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING THE REPORT OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURTS TASK FORCE AND THANKING ITS MEMBERS FOR THEIR SERVICE (ID #6660)

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Mr. Mareane said Ray Schlater, Chair of the Municipal Courts Task Force, attend a meeting a couple of months ago and presented the findings included in the Task Force's report that took a long time to develop. The report is very insiteful and gives specific recommendations on what can be done to achieve the vision of the Task Force which is to improve the efficiency of the system and the evenhandedness of justice in the system. He said the resolution is intended to help the Task Force to move from the exploration stage to the implementation phase and this will be important for the County which has a significant role in the follow-up which includes asking the State for third County Court Judge.

Ms. Weiser called attending to the wording "commits itself to implementing the recommendations" and said she wanted to be sure that everyone understands this and asked how this will be done. Ms. Thomas said some of the recommendations will need municipal action. She suggested the Task Force be reconvened, in addition to more municipal officials, to move items forward. Mr. Leifer said the only recommendation that a municipality has authority over would be is changing the date of town board meetings; municipalities can take action to support recommendations but does not have authority over them.

Mr. lane said it will be difficult with the town justices in particular as they are very used to the current way of doing things. Many of them were very supportive of the Task Force but some were not. It talks about a change in the way things are done, including DWI cases leaving town court but does not ask for a replacement of those courts by a district court so their jobs will not go away. He thinks this is an area where this process where need help from town officials in talking with the justices and ensuring them that even though things may change it is not as if they are becoming redundant.

Ms. Weiser said she wants to be sure this work actually gets done and Ms. Thomas said there is a very strong foundation with this and it puts this project ahead of many others. She strongly believes there is a commitment and feels positively that this will move forward.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Lane, Member, Tompkins County
SECONDER:	Irene Weiser, Co-Chair/Town of Caroline
AYES:	Lane, Thomas, Shawley, Conger, Weiser, Goodman, Smith, Leifer, Murphy, Woodard, Rider

WHEREAS, by Resolution 001-2015, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) established a Citizen’s Panel to review the current structure and operations of the municipal court system for the purpose of identifying potential ways and means to sustain and improve the efficiency of operations and quality of justice provided by the town and village courts, and

WHEREAS, the Citizen’s Panel, which came to be known as the Municipal Courts Task Force (“Task Force”), was comprised of two town justices, a city court judge, the District Attorney, two members of the local defense bar, and two town supervisors, and

WHEREAS, over the course of the year taken to fulfill its charge, the Task Force:

- Met 25 times;
- Heard the testimony of 33 individuals including the heads of the NYS Magistrates Association and NYS Public Defenders Association; local magistrates and judges;

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defense and prosecution attorneys; Nassau County District Court officials; the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office; the Superintendent of the Ithaca City School District; OAR; and members of the general public;

- Solicited the views of many other constituencies and stakeholders;
- Received and reviewed dozens of letters, emails and written submissions from members of the public; and
- Reviewed reports of prior efforts to reform the New York State court system and other studies and documents that pertain to court consolidation and organization; and

WHEREAS, based on the insights developed over the course of their review, and the expertise of the panel members themselves, the Task Force arrived at a series of findings and recommendations intended to reduce justice court caseloads, streamline operations, and to establish more uniform approaches to bail for lower level offenses that are presented in "A Report by the Tompkins County Municipal Courts Task Force" issued in July, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the major recommendations of the Task Force are to:

1. Establish a countywide DWI Court;
2. Establish a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program;
3. Establish a Countywide Youth Court;
4. Further investigate a Mental Health Court;
5. Improve electronic access and use more technology to streamline operations
6. Coordinate local court schedules;
7. Release defendants on their own recognizance (ROR) or on realistic bail;
8. Provide "rap sheets" at arraignment and provide written decisions;
9. Use confessions of judgments and allow for partial payments with respect to fines, surcharges, and restitution;
10. Establish an easily accessible website that sets forth clear policies and standards for plea-bargaining vehicle and traffic-level offenses;
11. Establish a countywide after-hours centralized arraignment program;
12. Establish on a statewide basis clear bail limits for misdemeanor and lower level offenses;
13. Provide for automatic transfer of cases to lawyer-trained justices upon request of defendants; and

WHEREAS, the Report also encouraged further court consolidations and shared services as allowed by current law, and described an aspirational model of a single, countywide criminal court, and

WHEREAS, TCCOG finds that the Task Force has fulfilled its charge and undertook its mission with seriousness, civility, intellectual honesty, and the highest standards of quality, and

WHEREAS, TCCOG further finds that the recommendations set forth by the Task Force would contribute to reduced caseloads and streamlined operations in the justice courts and criminal justice system, thereby creating opportunities for cost reductions, and would also contribute to more even-handed justice across all of the municipal courts in Tompkins County, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That TCCOG accepts and adopts the "Report of the Tompkins County Municipal Courts Task Force" and commits itself to facilitating the implementation of its recommendations,

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RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG extends its gratitude and appreciation to Raymond Schlather, Chair of the Task Force, Hon. Gwen Wilkinson, Hon. Scott Miller, Hon. Betty Poole, Hon. Glenn Galbreath, Hon. Elizabeth Thomas, Hon. Jason Leifer, and Mark Solomon, Esq., Joe Mareane, County Administrator, and County staff, for their remarkable dedication to fulfilling the charge of the Task Force and for their outstanding contributions to an issue of great importance to the municipalities of Tompkins County.

* * * * *

Discussion of Shared Interests and Opportunities with Cornell University

Joel Malina spoke of many issues that Cornell University has been working on in partnership with local municipalities.

- The search Committee for a new President should be complete by the end of the year;
- The Maplewood project: an extremely well-attended public hearing was held last week and a number of letters were submitted. This is an important project that is important to the College and the mutual concern of affordable housing, and a huge step forward in sustainability as the project will be built without the use of any fossil fuels, and construction will begin soon.
- The College is pleased to be participating and financially supporting the Housing Summit;
- He is a member of the Senior Leader Climate Action Group (SLAG) that was tasked to put together a report to lay out options and costs that would help them get to their committed carbon neutrality goal of 2035. A key element will be a project of Earth Source Heat which is focused on using enhanced geothermal energy which is the heat well-below the earth, to heat the Campus. This would eliminate nearly 110,000 metric tons of carbon and would enable the College to get off fossil fuels altogether. He said it is an exciting, yet unproven technology which is why they need other options. The report is available on the Cornell website.
- The College has been a proud partner with the County in making sure the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport remains the jewel of the region. Interim President Rawlings, at the request of Airport Manager, Mike Hall, taped a testimonial about the importance of the Airport to Cornell and is being used by Mr. Hall in his conversations with Airlines. He said they have been very pleased with his leadership of the Airport.
- He spoke of 2015-2016 Ithaca campus job numbers and said there was an increase of 150 regular jobs and 260 jobs overall which is a 1% increase. Although this is good he hopes this will increase even more next year. He suggested additional questions could be followed up with Mary Opperman.
- Mr. Malina said his job includes communications, State and Federal relations, and community relations and reiterated his past offer that Charlie Kruzinsky who works in the Albany office should be used as a resource for TCCOG. He knows the system very well and if either can help to get a message to Albany they would be happy to facilitate a conversation.
- He commended Mr. Stewart and his team and said every year they coordinate the Town Gown awards which is way to salute the partnerships that exist in the region. He encouraged members to attend this year's ceremony on November 19th. They also recognize retiring community leaders and will be recognizing Kate Supron, former

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Village of Cayuga Heights Mayor, Gwen Wilkinson, former District Attorney, and Nathan Shinagawa, former County Legislator.

Report from Subcommittees:

Emergency Services Task Force

Ms. Weiser reported the Task Force now has representation from almost every town and efforts continue to find a representative from Enfield. They will be meeting twice a month with everyone represented at at least one of those meetings. She said the meetings take place during the evening and she is looking for options to provide meals to these emergency services providers. She asked if anyone has experience of advice on taking in-kind gifts on behalf of a government entity to let her know. If she is unsuccessful she may put forward a request for money from the TCCOG Reserve Fund for this.

Cable Committee

Mr. Leifer had nothing new to report at this time.

Ms. Rider arrived at this time.

Transit Services Committee

Mr. Monaghan had no report.

Sustainability Committee: Community Choice Aggregation Work Group and Energy Task Force

Ms. Weiser reported they continue to meet and heard from an expert from California who offered a variety of strategic ideas of how to pursue CCA. This month they will be talking with an attorney who works for a firm that is providing legal services to communities with Community Choice Aggregation programs. She encouraged municipalities who have not yet joined to do so as it will help having as many municipalities to achieve the greatest bulk pricing as well as achieving the Countywide sustainability goals. The Committee meets on the fourth Friday of each month at the Town of Ithaca at noon.

Energy Task Force

Ms. Thomas said a number of municipalities are working parallel to the County Planning Department's work on the Energy Road Map to move some of the goals forward. She said Cooperative Extension is being very helpful and welcomed anyone who would like to attend the meetings to do so. They will meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. following the TCCOG meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The following items will be included on the next or future agendas:

Planning for Forum on Constitutional Convention Process;
 Real Property Tax Exemptions: Options for Municipalities;
 Discussion of Highway Funding;
 Home Energy Score - I. Weiser (December); and
 Presentation on Trails Website

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

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 Scott Heyman Conference Room

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Elizabeth Thomas	Co-Chair/Town of Ulysses	Present	
Irene Weiser	Co-Chair/Town of Caroline	Present	
Bill Goodman	Member - Alternate, Town of Ithaca	Present	
Ann Rider	Member, Town of Enfield	Present	3:26 PM
Kelly Smith	Member, Town of Groton	Present	
Michael Murphy	Member, Village of Dryden	Present	3:26 PM
Linda Woodard	Mayor	Present	
Gerry Monaghan	Alternate - Village of Lansing	Present	
Michelle Pottorff	Legislature Office	Present	
Jay Franklin	Director of Assessment	Present	
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present	

Guests: Kelly Waters, Fingerlakes Community News

Municipalities Not Present: Tompkins County, City of Ithaca, Towns of Danby, Dryden, Lansing, and Newfield; Villages of Groton, Freeville, and Trumansburg

Call to Order

Ms. Weiser, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda

The report on TC3.biz Supervisory Training was deferred to the next meeting.

County Administration

TC3.biz Supervisory Training (ID #6691)

RESULT:	DEFERRED	Next: 1/26/2017 3:00 PM
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Minutes Approval - October 27, 2016

Due to lack of quorum the approval of the October 27, 2016 minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

RESULT:	DEFERRED
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County Assessment Department

Real Property Tax Exemptions (ID #6693)

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Mr. Franklin said Tompkins County is unique in that it went to Countywide Assessment in 1970; prior to that every town appointed its own assessor. He said he and his staff are available to assist municipalities with issues related to assessment. He reported on tax exemptions that are available to municipalities but noted the County's Assessment Department does not advocate for or against any exemption, their role is to provide information on available exemptions and to explain the financial implications and to guide municipalities through the administrative aspects. Mr. Franklin said all property that is defined as real property under the Real Property Tax Law is taxable unless otherwise noted by some exemption. There are approximately 250 exemptions that would be applicable to the Real Property Tax.

Exempts fall into a couple of different categories and some are mandated to be applied. For the County's tax base approximately 91% of the exemptions (35.5% of the property) are mandated (e.g. Cornell, churches). There are exemptions that may be opted in or out of and these total approximately 9% of the overall exemptions (3.7% of the property value). Locally there is very little control over what can be exempted from the property tax and these are typically senior, business, and veterans exemptions.

Ms. Weiser asked if the State provides any type of exemption for fire or EMS volunteers. Mr. Franklin said there is a tax abatement off of village taxes. The Village of Groton used to administer this but there is also an income tax credit that is available to firefighters and that is greater than the real property tax credit. A choice has to be made between the two and it is only available in village fire departments. Because of the income tax credit they stopped administering this approximately 15 years ago. In order to propose a tax exemption a sponsor in both houses of the State Legislature would be needed. Ms. Weiser noted the income tax credit would only benefit those who have an income and some individuals who would fall into this category are retired or may not have income. Mr. Franklin said he has heard it is easier to get an exemption approved for a single municipality as opposed to getting a broader exemption passed that may have budget implications for the State. There are several exemptions and each municipality can opt in or out of any of them.

Ms. Smith asked if any exemptions are given automatically. Mr. Franklin said each exemption must be applied for and taxpayers must prove their eligibility, including senior exemptions.

Mr. Franklin spoke of the green-building exemption and stated it can be for a house or a building and allows for an exemption depending upon its status (typically LEED but can be tied to any other energy rating system). It provides for a 100% exemption for the first three years and then slowly goes down thereafter. The County placed a capped on it at \$100,000; towns could also adopt its own limits or choose not to have a limit at all.

Mr. Franklin provided information on the available exemptions and the status of which municipalities have opted in or out. He said the Department's website contains information on all exemptions offered on Tompkins County and information on each of them. He extended an offer to any member to contact him with questions.

RESULT: COMPLETED

Presentation on Trails Website

Ms. Thomas provided members with a presentation on the new "Out on the Trails" website which is a mapping website of all trails in Tompkins County. The website that will be eventually assigned will be www.ithacatrails.org after the testing stage is complete. She said the Tompkins County Parks and Trails Network has been meeting for years and pursued her suggestion of creating a trails website at her

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suggestion. She has been a long-time user of the trails and said they are important to one's mental and physical health, and this is a way to introduce tourists to the County's many natural assets that she believes needs to be maintained and promoted. She said she wrote a grant for tourism funding to pursue this in collaboration with over 20 partners. The main partners are Cornell, State Parks, Finger Lakes Land Trust, Finger Lakes Trails, Central New York Trails, Ithaca College, and other municipal trail organizations in the County. Todd Bitner, Cornell's Director of Natural Areas, and County Planning staff have also been very helpful.

Ms. Thomas noted that the website is not yet final but once complete it will be hosted by the Convention and Visitor's Bureau through the VisitIthaca.com website.

Report from Subcommittees

Transit Services Committee

Mr. Monaghan reported the hiring process for an Executive Director of TCAT is nearing completion with an offer being extended to a candidate for the position.

Emergency Services Task Force

Ms. Weiser reported the Task Force held its first meeting and had a good turnout with most municipalities being represented. They continue to look for someone to represent the Town of Enfield.

Sustainability Committee: Community Choice Aggregation Work Group and Energy Task Force Community Choice Aggregation

Ms. Weiser said discussions about how to move forward with this are getting interesting with big decisions being considered. She will be presenting a more formalized structure of the group to TCCOG at the next meeting that will include the appointment of members and a charge to the group.

Energy Task Force

Ms. Thomas reported the Committee meets after TCCOG and has been weighing what direction to move and focus on. The DEC Clean Energy Program or NYSEERDA's (New York State Energy Research Development Authority) Climate Smart Communities Program were discussed and it was decided the DEC's program would be easier to comply with and might apply to smaller municipalities better. Some areas they will be benchmarking include: doing energy audits of buildings, adopting a unified solar permit, and code enforcement training. She said they will also be formalizing the membership of the group and will be discussing what objectives to move forward with first.

Ms. Weiser said there are many energy initiatives taking place throughout the community and suggested giving thought to holding a forum for all elected officials to review all of the options. It was agreed the idea of pulling all municipalities together would be a worthwhile goal, however, pulling elected officials together at the same time would not be easy.

Cable Committee

There was no report from the Cable Committee.

Appointment of TCCOG Representative to TCAT Transit Services Committee

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

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Next Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were presented for inclusion on the next or future agendas:

Appointment of TCCOG Representative to TCAT Transit Services Committee
Election of 2017 Leadership
Update on the buildout of broadband
Cradle to Career Discussion
Planning for Forum on Constitutional Convention
Presentation of Energy Smart Community (Sharon Anderson)
Discussion of Highway Funding

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Tompkins County Council of Governments

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 12/15/16 03:00 PM

Department: Tompkins County Council of Governments

Category: Intermunicipal

Functional Category: Environmental

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. *DOC ID: 6746*

Establishment of TCCOG Energy Task Force

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2015, established a goal to reach the minimum of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 from 2008 levels, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels across all sectors, and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap (Roadmap) which, as one of its objectives will identify local actions that can be taken in the short- and long-term to achieve these goals, and

WHEREAS, immediate actions are critical to reduce the impacts of climate change, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) supports the Roadmap and will work with the County to assist municipalities to understand and take actions that can help achieve the Roadmap goals, and

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2016, TCCOG established the TCCOG Energy Task Force (ETF) for the purpose of gathering and sharing information on various initiatives and actions municipalities can pursue that are in-line with the County's Energy Roadmap and Tompkins County's goal of achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas by 2050, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the following are appointed as members of the TCCOG ETF:

Roxanne Marino	Terrance Carroll
CJ Randall	Irene Weiser
Megan McDonald	Joseph Wilson
Bill Goodman	Ed Marx
Nick Goldsmith	Dan Lamb
Darby Kiley	Ann Rider
Liz Thomas	Mark Witmer
Katie Borgella	Guillermo Metz

RESOLVED, further, That the TCCOG ETF will appoint its own Chair,

RESOLVED, further, That the TCCOG ETF will report back to TCCOG on a regular basis.