

Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 9-7-17
Thursday, June 29, 2017 3:00 PM
Legislature Chambers

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Martha Robertson	Chair	Present
Dooley Kiefer	Vice Chair	Present
Michael Sigler	Member	Present
David McKenna	Member	Present
Carol Chock	Member	Excused
Katrina McCloy	Deputy Clerk, Legislature	Present
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present
Ed Marx	Planning and Sustainability Commissioner	Present
Katie Borgella	Deputy Planning & Sustainability Commissioner	Present
Scott Doyle	Planner, Tompkins County Planning Department	Present
Megan McDonald	Senior Planner	Present
Michael Stamm	President, TCAD	Present
Margaret Frank	TCAD	Present
Brian Eden	Environmental Management Council	Present

Call to Order

Ms. Robertson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present to speak.

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Chair's Report

Ms. Robertson and Mr. Mareane said the search for the new Commissioner of the Planning and Sustainability Department has begun and the search committee has been established. Mr. Mareane distributed copies of the job posting and said it will be posted through August 4th. Interviews will begin the later part of August and he will keep the Committee informed.

Mr. Mareane stated Mr. Marx's official date of retirement is August 25th and the new Commissioner will likely not start until late September or October and Ms. Borgella has agreed to fill-in on an interim basis during that time.

Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD)

Tompkins County Area Development June 2017 Report (ID #7123)

Ms. Kiefer inquired what would be done to a company who was found out of compliance with the IDA's Energy Incentive Program requirements. Mr. Stamm stated the IDA would withdraw the

incentives and pull the approval for any future incentives. The IDA has provided these incentives for the Ithaca Computing Center and City Center. Ms. Kiefer requested the Committee be kept up-to-date if the commitments are not met.

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Planning and Sustainability Department

Resolution No. - Endorsing the Tompkins County Housing Strategy (ID #7126)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Sigler, Member
SECONDER:	Dooley Kiefer, Vice Chair
AYES:	Robertson, Kiefer, Sigler, McKenna
EXCUSED:	Chock

WHEREAS, an inadequate supply and variety of housing options are long-standing challenges in Tompkins County that significantly impact the physical, psychological, social, and economic health and stability of many individuals and families, and

WHEREAS, the first Tompkins County Housing Strategy endorsed by the County Legislature in June 2007 established housing goals through 2014 and led to the development of the Community Housing Development Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan states the principle that the county “should be a place where housing is affordable, safe, energy efficient, and appealing,” and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County will not be able to meet its goals that range from greenhouse gas emissions reduction and sustainability to economic prosperity and safe and efficient transportation systems without an adequate supply and variety of housing, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has conducted extensive public outreach to share information and gather input on housing issues and potential approaches to address community housing needs, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County completed the Housing Needs Assessment in November 2016, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County and its partners in the community developed and hosted the Tompkins County Housing Summit in November and December 2016, which provided insights and community input regarding barriers to meeting our local housing needs and ideas to overcome those barriers, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County further explored the County’s role in housing through its Legislature and Department Heads retreat in March 2017, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has prepared a new Housing Strategy incorporating input and information gathered through recent housing efforts to establish targets and approaches to address community housing needs over the next ten years, and

WHEREAS, there are no financial implications associated with endorsing this Strategy although implementation of the Strategy is anticipated to have financial implications that would be reviewed by the Legislature prior to implementation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature endorses the Tompkins County Housing Strategy, dated June 2017.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Resolution No. - Making a Negative Determination of Environmental Significance in Relation to Resolution No. ___ of 2017: Appropriating Funds from the Tompkins County Natural Infrastructure Capital Project for the Lounsbery Tract - Six Mile Creek Source Water Protection Project (ID #7131)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Sigler, Member
SECONDER:	David McKenna, Member
AYES:	Robertson, Kiefer, Sigler, McKenna
EXCUSED:	Chock

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. ___ of 2017 the County allocates funding from the Tompkins County Natural Infrastructure Capital Project funds for the purpose of supporting the acquisition and easement on the 125-acre Six Mile Creek Source Water Protection Project (Town of Caroline tax parcel 9.-1-39.2), and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature has reviewed and accepted as adequate the Environmental Assessment Forms with respect to these actions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That Resolution No. ___ of 2017 is an unlisted action,

RESOLVED, further, That the Legislature hereby makes a negative determination of environmental significance in regard to Resolution No. ___ of 2017.

SEQR ACTION: Short EAF on file with the Clerk of the Legislature

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Resolution No. - Appropriating Funds from Tompkins County Natural Infrastructure Capital Project for the Lounsbery Tract - Six Mile Creek Water Protection Project (ID #7128)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David McKenna, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Sigler, Member
AYES:	Robertson, Kiefer, Sigler, McKenna
EXCUSED:	Chock

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature established the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project in 2017, and

WHEREAS, the current balance in the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project fund is \$200,000, and

WHEREAS, the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project is focused on protection, by acquisition, easement, restoration, and/or stabilization, of:

- Upper watershed forests and wetlands;
- Stream corridors and floodplains;
- Aquifer recharge areas, and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project are to:

- Protect and enhance those natural systems that can help to mitigate the impacts of intensive rainfall events that are expected to continue to increase as a result of climate change;
- Help decrease sediment loads in streams and Cayuga Lake;
- Protect overall water quality in streams, surficial aquifers, and Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Natural Infrastructure Capital project goal is to reduce risks of flooding and protect public and private water supplies, and

WHEREAS, the Project Selection Criteria and Process, accepted by the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee in February 2017, outlined the following evaluation criteria:

- The cost effectiveness of project in achieving the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project objectives;
- The ability for the project to leverage additional funding;
- The project's location within one of the Tompkins County Conservation Plan's Priority Protection areas or is of sufficient size to make a major contribution to protection of natural infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the project is to provide funding from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project fund to support the Six Mile Creek Source Water Protection Project - Lounsbery Tract, and

WHEREAS, the Six Mile Creek Source Water Protection Project - Lounsbery Tract,

- Protects and enhances 3,900 feet of Six Mile Creek stream corridor;
- Improves overall water quality and reduces flow rates to Six Mile Creek and the City of Ithaca's water source;
- Proposes leveraging funding from both the City of Ithaca's Six Mile Creek Watershed Protection Fund as well as the New York State Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Source Water Protection funding;
- Is of sufficient size to make a major contribution to protection of natural infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, support from the Natural Infrastructure Project fund is an important but modest component of the total funding needed to implement the Six Mile Creek Source Water Projection Project and acquire a perpetual easement held by the Finger Lakes Land Trust on the Lounsbery Tract, and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability and the Planning Advisory Board have recommended that the County Legislature authorize \$15,000 in funding from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project to support the Six Mile Creek Source Water Protection Project - Lounsbery Tract, contingent on the awarding of City of Ithaca and WQIP Source Water Protection Funding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That a total of \$15,000 in funding from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project be appropriated for the purpose of supporting the Six Mile Creek Source Water Protection Project - Lounsbery Tract project,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be authorized and directed to make an adjustment to the Planning Department budget from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project fund,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee be authorized to execute any contracts or agreements related to this project.

SEQR ACTION: Unlisted (Short EAF on file with the Clerk of the Legislature)

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Resolution No. - Making a Negative Determination of Environmental Significance in Relation to Resolution No. ___ of 2017: Appropriating Funds from the Tompkins County Natural Infrastructure Capital Project For The Etna Swamp - Brotherton Farm Protection Project (ID #7133)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David McKenna, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Sigler, Member
AYES:	Robertson, Kiefer, Sigler, McKenna
EXCUSED:	Chock

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. ___ of 2017 the County allocates funding from the Tompkins County Natural Infrastructure Capital Project funds for the purpose of supporting the easement on the 324-acre Etna Swamp - Brotherton Farm Project (Town of Dryden tax parcel 46.-1-4.22), and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature has reviewed and accepted as adequate the Environmental Assessment Forms with respect to these actions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That Resolution No. ___ of 2017 is an unlisted action,

RESOLVED, further, That the Legislature hereby makes a negative determination of environmental significance in regard to Resolution No. ___ of 2017.

SEQR ACTION: Short EAF on file with the Clerk of the Legislature

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Resolution No. - Appropriating Funds from Tompkins County Natural Infrastructure Capital Project for the Etna Swamp – Brotherton Farm Protection Project (ID #7129)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David McKenna, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Sigler, Member
AYES:	Robertson, Kiefer, Sigler, McKenna
EXCUSED:	Chock

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature established the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project in 2017, and

WHEREAS, as of June 29, 2017, the balance in the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project fund is \$200,000, and

WHEREAS, the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project is focused on protection, by acquisition, easement, restoration, and/or stabilization, of:

- Upper watershed forests and wetlands;
- Stream corridors and floodplains;
- Aquifer recharge areas, and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project is to:

- Protect and enhance those natural systems that can help to mitigate the impacts of intensive rainfall events that are expected to continue to increase as a result of climate change;
- Help decrease sediment loads in streams and Cayuga Lake;
- Protect overall water quality in streams, surficial aquifers, and Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Natural Infrastructure Capital project goal is to reduce risks of flooding and protect public and private water supplies, and

WHEREAS, the Project Selection Criteria and Process, accepted by the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee in February 2017, outlined the following evaluation criteria:

- The cost effectiveness of project in achieving the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project objectives;
- The ability for the project to leverage additional funding;
- The project is of sufficient size to make a major contribution to protection of natural infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the project is to provide funding from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project fund to support the Etna Swamp - Brotherton Farm Protection Project, and

WHEREAS, the Etna Swamp - Brotherton Farm Protection Project,

- Enhances the Unique Natural Area Etna Swamp (UNA-82) wetland area that feeds Fall Creek;
- Helps to decrease the sediment loads to Fall Creek;
- Leverages funding from the Finger Lakes Land Trust to develop and implement the permanent

conservation easement;

- Is of sufficient size to make a major contribution of natural infrastructure by formally protecting hydrologically sensitive areas in the Fall Creek corridor; and

WHEREAS, support from the Natural Infrastructure Project fund is an important but not sole component of the total funding needed to implement the Etna Swamp - Brotherton Farm Protection Project, and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability and the Planning Advisory Board have recommended that the County Legislature authorize \$20,000 in funding from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project to support the Etna Swamp - Brotherton Farm Protection Project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That a total of \$20,000 in funding from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project be appropriated for the purpose of supporting the Etna Swamp - Brotherton Farm Protection Project,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be authorized and directed to make an adjustment to the Planning Department budget from the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project fund for this project,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee be authorized to execute any contracts or agreements related to this project.

SEQR ACTION: Unlisted (Short EAF on file with the Clerk of the Legislature)

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Resolution No. - Making a Negative Determination of Environmental Significance in Relation to Resolution No. ___ of 2017: Appropriating Funds From the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection for the Emerald Necklace/Charles Spencer Preserve: Ott Tract Protection Project (ID #7130)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David McKenna, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Sigler, Member
AYES:	Robertson, Kiefer, Sigler, McKenna
EXCUSED:	Chock

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. ___ of 2017 the County allocates funding from the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection to the Finger Lakes Land Trust for the purpose of supporting the acquisition and easement on 157 acres of the Emerald Necklace/Charles Spencer Preserve: Ott Tract Protection Project (Town of Newfield tax parcel 33.-1-7.2), and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature has reviewed and accepted as adequate the Environmental Assessment Forms with respect to these actions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That Resolution No. ___ of 2017 is an unlisted action,

RESOLVED, further, That the Legislature hereby makes a negative determination of environmental significance in regard to Resolution No. of 2017.

SEQR ACTION: Short EAF on file with the Clerk of the Legislature

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Resolution No. - Appropriating Funds from the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection for the Emerald Necklace/Charles Spencer Preserve: Ott Tract Protection Project (ID #7127)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David McKenna, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Sigler, Member
AYES:	Robertson, Kiefer, Sigler, McKenna
EXCUSED:	Chock

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature established the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection by Resolution No. 217 of 2005, and

WHEREAS, the current balance in the Capital Reserve Fund is \$75,023.06, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Capital Reserve Fund is to support participation by Tompkins County in partnerships with other levels of government and private organizations to:

- protect and preserve the natural, scenic, and recreational resources found in the Agricultural Resource Focus Areas (ARFA) and Natural Features Focus Areas (NFFA) identified in the Comprehensive Plan;
- preserve and develop recreational trail corridors that cross municipal borders; and
- develop outdoor recreation facilities, within the focus areas, that are intended to serve all county residents, and

WHEREAS, the Program Guidelines for use of the Capital Reserve Fund call for proposed projects to substantially further at least one of the following objectives:

- Protect a stream buffer at least 330 feet in width,
- Provide public access to the Cayuga Lake shore,
- Protect land that is adjacent to permanently protected open space,
- Preserve land on an existing or potential intermunicipal trail corridor,
- Protect a high concentration of Prime Soils or Soils of Statewide Significance,
- Protect a Distinctive or Noteworthy view as identified in the Tompkins County Scenic Resources Inventory,
- Is located in a NFFA or ARFA as identified in the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan or serves as a potential link to connect resources within these areas,
- Protects corridor or habitat that can provide for connectivity between protected areas, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Land Trust has requested financial support from the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of preserving the 157-acre Jackson Hollow Road property (Town of Newfield Tax Parcel 33.-1-7.2) to connect and provide habitat linking important NFFAs as well as adjacent public open space resources, and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Hollow Road property:

- Protects a stream buffer of over 330 feet in width;
- Protects habitat that provides connectivity between NFFAs protected areas, and
- Connects to existing protected lands.

WHEREAS, support from the Capital Reserve Fund is an important but modest component of the total funding needed to complete the survey for the acquisition of the parcel, and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability and the Planning Advisory Board have recommended that the County Legislature authorize \$25,000 in funding from the Capital Reserve Fund to support the Emerald Necklace/Charles Spencer Preserve: Ott Tract Protection Project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That a total of \$25,000 in funding from the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection be appropriated for the purpose of supporting the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Emerald Necklace/Charles Spencer Preserve: Ott Tract Protection Project,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be authorized and directed to make an adjustment to the Planning and Sustainability Department budget (A8027.54400 - \$25,00) from the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee be authorized to execute any contracts or agreements related to this project.

SEQR ACTION: Unlisted (Short EAF on file with the Clerk of the Legislature)

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Commissioner's Report

Ms. Kiefer asked if the City of Ithaca informs the Planning and Sustainability Department about their dredging and spoil disposal projects. Mr. Marx stated they have not heard anything but will look into this.

Minutes Approval

June 1, 2017

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:	Michael Sigler, Member
SECONDER:	David McKenna, Member
AYES:	Robertson, Sigler, McKenna
NAYS:	Kiefer
EXCUSED:	Chock

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.