



Onondaga County Legislature

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JAMES J. ROWLEY
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI
Deputy Clerk

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PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – MAY 18, 2022 **TIM BURTIS, CHAIRMAN**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Gunnip, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Burtis

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Costa, Mr. Kwasnowski, Mr. Headd, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Beebe, Mr. DeSantis, Ms. Lesniak, Ms. Vilardi

Legislator Gunnip called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. *A motion was made by Mr. Knapp and seconded by Ms. Kuhn to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED*

1. CENTRAL NEW YORK REGIONAL MARKET AUTHORITY:

- a. Confirming Reappointments of Maria Mahar and Anthony Emmi to the Central New York Regional Market Authority (Maria Mahar, Anthony Emmi) (*Sponsored by Mr. Rowley*)

Mr. Rowley:

- Reappointments – Maria has been on the authority for quite some time – Anthony Emmi is a fruit and vegetable farmer – resumes are impressive and attached to the packet

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Garland to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

2. SYRACUSE ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY: Mr. Dan Kwasnowski, Director

- a. Calling for a Public Hearing for Renewal of Agricultural District No. 3, Towns of Camillus, Cicero, Clay, Elbridge, Lysander, Manlius and Van Buren (July 5, 2022, 12:53pm)

Mr. Kwasnowski:

- Annual adds to the Agricultural District – this year seems uneventful – motion for calling the public hearing and next month will be back – ones that are removed means someone has built a house and is no longer used for agriculture

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. Knapp to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- b. Calling for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Lands Within Certified Agricultural Districts Pursuant to Section 303-B of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law (July 5, 2022, 12:56pm)

Mr. Kwasnowski:

- This public hearing is for Agricultural District

Mr. Knapp:

- Property can be added to any district in any year – can't take parcels out of the district every year – only on the designated years

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. Garland to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- c. Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Agreements With the City of Syracuse, the Towns, and the Villages in Onondaga County for the Purpose of Waiving Onondaga County Planning Board Referrals Where There is no Inter-Community or County-Wide Impact

Mr. Kwasnowski:

- Megan Costa convinced me to push this forward – municipalities forward projects for review by the Onondaga County (“OC”) – currently everything comes to OC – see things that have a County wide impact
- Took a lot of items and removed them from Board review lists – staff takes a look at them – create a report and show the Board and provide recommendations – Board agreed that these smaller items delay projects up to a month or two – this resolution would reduce timing from 4-6 weeks to 2-3 weeks
- This resolution fully exempts certain actions from coming to OC Planning – took the list for administrative review and said the smaller items don’t have to come to County Planning
- Board agrees with this resolution – allows them to focus on items that have a County impact and frees up staff
- This was presented to Towns and Villages first – presented at a joint meeting for Town Supervisors and Village Mayors on March 16, 2022
- Answered Ms. Kuhn’s question regarding timing – the Legislature will vote on June 7, then authorized by the County Executive and then will go to Towns and Villages

Ms. Gunnip:

- Can’t see why anyone would disagree with this

Mr. Rowley:

- Anything we can do to make government more efficient is good to do –

Mr. Kwasnowski:

- Megan came up with the idea and the list – Towns and Villages are motivated to sign this agreement
- Answered Mr. Knapp’s question as to what’s still included –exempting small subdivisions less than three lots – more than 3 lots will still come to us – sheds, area variances will not come to OC – if it’s combined with site plan review it still has to come to OC – if no change to outside appearance then OC planning won’t see it
- New towers for telecommunications will still come to OC but swapping out equipment on existing towers would not come

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Kuhn to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- d. INFORMATIONAL: AG Plan Update

Mr. Kwasnowski:

- Town of LaFayette and Lysander participated in a municipality review - this is through the Legislature’s AFPB – OC has protected over 10k acres – still a small percentage – protecting farmland is important – NY looks at it as a long-term solution
- Water quality is impacted because protecting land around them
- Farms get a chunk of money that they would not have normally received – looking at Agri tourism – have value added products to the farm –same as solar creates a regular income – balancing act – this plan looks at a lot of these items – more than just continuing =what else could we do to help farms
- The greatest thing is when you have farmers that are busy but yet they still are coming to meetings = trying to figure out how OC can help
- Answered Ms. Kuhn’s question what is Agri tourism – organizations like Abbots, Beak and Skiff, Heritage Hill
- Energizes farmers to see what the Ag plan says about what can and can’t be done

Ms. Costa:

- Planning process – started talking to Towns and Villages last summer to gauge what interests were in farm land – took it a step further to see if they could do an audit – turned over policies and regulations – looked at by Cornell – Onondaga, Cicero, Manlius and LaFayette – taught us the regulations and answered the question if they are farm

friendly – we learned a lot – had a webinar for planning – created a toolbox for future use which is on agriculture.ongov.net

- Falls heavily on municipalities on regulating land
- 1997 was last time the Ag plan was done – didn’t have GPS then- this time identify ag resources and prioritize – see which lands are the most threatened – allows you to see the layers – resource for the AFPB and municipalities as they look at projects proposed such as solar - farmers and land trust communities
- Needs and opportunities – focus on ag economic development – take fruit and vegetables and package to sell- value added productions
- Support industry that will use the products, work with CenterState and Regional council as partners
- Protection of agriculture land - using the State land grant system – continue to be well mobilized to get monies
- Supporting labor in the next generation of farming – how do we nurture the next generation – tough nut to crack but important for long-term
- Agriculture in the environment – both support each other – large amount of waste that comes out of ag to include manure and plastic – looking at recycling opportunities
- In the process of looking through draft plan – presenting to Ag & Markets staff – they will review and then will bring to County Legislature for a public hearing and a vote
- Had a public meeting a month ago and received great input
- Answered Ms. Gunnip’s question regarding funding – yes, this plan help us get funding from NY and Federal – they don’t have a ton of money beyond the ag grants but will allow us to tap other sources like USDA

Mr. Kwasnowski:

- CNYRPB has some money – who can make sure the communities are getting the most for the money

Ms. Kuhn:

- Beak and Skiff would collaborate with the County? Mr. Kwasnowski answered just making them available – CE has made some monies available - we are in a good position to find more funding – just trying to find personnel to do this so it doesn’t fall through the cracks – have Soil and Water and Cornell Cooperative Extension (“CCE”) on board

Mr. Garland:

- Do you have any person in mind? Ms. Costa answered we aren’t looking until we have the funding

Ms. Gunnip

- Asked have you worked with Economic Development? Ms. Costa answered yes, have been working with Nate

Mr. Knapp:

- Dan, Megan and others have done a tremendous job – a lot of volunteers – have to have an updated plan to apply for this money – SOCPA has been applying for grants

A motion was made Ms. Gunnip, seconded by Ms. Kuhn to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
DATE: **MAY 18, 2022**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Tenisha Murphy	CE office
Megan Costa	SOCPA
Dan Kwasnowski	SOCPA
Janet Head	Comptroller's
Darcie Lesniak	leg
Jim Beebe	leg