



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**DAVID H. KNAPP**  
Chairman

**MELANIE VILARDI**  
Deputy Clerk

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## **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - AUGUST 11, 2021** **KEVIN HOLMQUIST, CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, Dr. Kelly**

**ABSENT: Mr. Kinne, Mr. Williams**

**ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Kuhn; Mr. Frateschi, Ms. Primo, Mr. Kwasnowski, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Lesniak, Ms. Velasco, Ms. Vilardi**

Chairman Holmquist called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. *A motion was made by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan and seconded by Dr. Kelly to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan and seconded by Dr. Kelly to approve the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED.*

### **C. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND LOCAL LAWS:**

#### **1. SYRACUSE ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY: Dan Kwasnowski, Director**

##### **a. Informational: Budget Update**

Mr. Kwasnowski:

- Full planning program currently running – presenting some challenges on the City side
- Local waterfront plan for the City – Loop the Lake, Roth steel – City projects but Onondaga County (“OC”) helps
- Lake front will be coming on strong with focus groups – exciting with 81 going on which is a big question mark
- Zoning office understaffed because of retirement – in process of hiring someone
- Farmland Protection Plan – just completed the municipal assessment – selected four towns and worked on the plans – reorganized schedule because of farmers’ planting schedule
- New format of website – color and font choices – home base for the plan – status and updates – should be up and running by Spring
- Hourigans received a \$4.2M award – key projects on the landscape in Elbridge, Van Buren, and Spafford – program money usually spent on the farm – great program and planning tool
- Fall 2021 - Engage farmers with municipal tool box, website, engaging public, materials distributed at Empire Farm Days
- Plan Onondaga – logo came from consultants – this plan has two phases – this year and next year
- County has had strong plans for many years – similar themes – mobility, housing, and ag have all been included in plans since 1965 – synthesis has changed – defining the steps – project oriented – what is the county level – SOCPA’s job is to oversee County level issues
- Infrastructure, development, and asking what are the opportunities – strong community centers are very important – a lot of centers within OC
- Ag from a planning perspective – green ways and blue ways – how to enhance property values – how are we protecting scenery
- Mobility is key – how do we move people around – how could we serve people better – age depends on needs
- Housing and neighborhood – want affordable housing plans – need a plan to support – city as a whole needs a housing study
- Great reasons to attract people to the neighborhood – how could we improve the neighborhoods
- More economic development with Hancock Air Park

- Phase 1 started with focus groups – met with Town and Village leaders and included city – had good turnout – great opportunity to see what people had to share – post it note brainstorming
- Take those ideas and make project initiatives – build a greenway from the beginning
- Next phase will be related to each theme – will be similar process for developers and not for profits
- Fall will have public hearings – will have a presentation as a starting point and let public respond
- End of year will have draft plan and vision – show how they intertwine together
- Story map is a project software – historically have created maps – can integrate with maps – works well to present planning
- 34 focus groups in the city – shout out to Tenesha for coordinating
- Creating a story map for each town – easy to manage – consultant will use data to tie in and show what the community is trying to do and how the data supports this – will continually update with new data
- Story map will put a polish on presentation for all – real estate agents – simple but nice
- Story map will need maintenance over time – will discuss adding a person for maintaining equipment at budget time – will work on job description
- Phase 2 will continue public engagement – staying away from public hearings and having more open houses – transit initiatives, housing, bigger ideas that will come out of this, deeper dive into which areas we want to develop, what do we need to get this done – present in the Spring – hoping to have a plan by next year’s budget schedule
- Organizing annual planning consortium – will present plan to all members – March 2022
- Town planning grants program – LaFayette is underway, Elbridge including the villages, Marcellus and Skaneateles just received proposals

Mrs. Abbott-Kenan:

- Consider planning from a child’s point of view – need a place for children to keep people here - Village of Skaneateles has no public bathrooms – what once was an ice cream store and library is now a bar – think it’s a point people miss – if we could incorporate their viewpoints – love to see this included in plans - Skaneateles Charlie Major Nature trail allows fishing and swimming – village doesn’t allow bicycles
- Mandana – small development for hamlet opportunities

Mr. Kwasnowski:

- Ithaca commons and Dryden – diorama effect – want it to be perfect and forget that people actually live here
- Age friendly grants – all ages and some have similar needs – include strollers, wheelchairs and bicycles
- Other communities – connected by trails – OC trying to retrofit – plenty of opportunity

Ms. Kuhn:

- Southside did a walk through with all ages and came up with things no one thought of – get out of the room and into the space – went to the neighborhood and received input from those that live there

Mrs. Abbott-Kenan:

- Important to look and assess – OC putting money into villages and increasing traffic
- Very new brewery in Marcellus

Mr. Holmquist:

- Appreciate the bottoms up approach and haven’t heard a discouraging word – makes a huge difference – appreciate all you and your stakeholders do to help this community

***A motion was made at by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, seconded by Dr. Kelly to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

### ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **AUGUST 11, 2021**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Dan Kuznoski	SocPA
MB/2, in a	CE
Yvette Velasco	LAW
Tenasha Murphy	CE
Darcie Lesniak	leg