

**PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023
FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

Members Attending

Name		Representation	Name		Representation
Liddy Bargar	P	Human Services	Christine O'Malley	P	Cultural/Historic Preservation
Joe Bowes	P	Housing	C.J. Randall	P	Local Planning (non-urban)
Fernando de Aragón	P	Transportation	Leslie Schill	P	Education #2
Jordan Decker	P	Energy	Andy Zepp	P	Land Preserv./Public Land Mgmt.
Yamila Fournier	E	Built Environment			
George Frantz	P	Agriculture	Others Present		
David Herrick	P	Facilities/Infrastructure	Katie Borgella	P	Commissioner
David Kay	P	Local Planning (urban)	Abigail Conner	P	Environmental Planner
Thomas Knipe	A	Business	Joan Jurkowich	P	Planning Administrator
Anne Koreman	P	County Legislature	Darby Kiley	P	Associate Planner
Ernie McClatchie	E	Education #1	Kristin McCarthy	P	County Staff
Heather McDaniel	E	Economic Development	Megan McDonald	P	Deputy Commissioner
Gay Nicholson	P	At-Large			

Guests: Greg Hutnik

Call to Order/Agenda Review and Changes/Privilege of the Floor: Chair C.J. Randall called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. No changes to agenda or privilege of the floor. Members introduced themselves to guest Greg Hutnik, the new planner for the Town of Danby.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (August 2023): The draft August 2023 minutes were approved (moved by Anne Koreman, seconded by Leslie Schill) as submitted.

Report/Discussion: County Comprehensive Plan – Review of Conservation, Habitat Connectivity, and Harmful Algal Bloom Strategies– Abigail Conner & Darby Kiley, DPS

Darby and Abigail gave an overview of the Conservation Strategy (2012), the Habitat Connectivity Strategy (2018), and the Harmful Algal Bloom Strategy (2021). They discussed the key actions that have been implemented and are ongoing, as well as the key actions in progress. They also highlighted some of the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing the strategies, which have their roots in the 2007 Conservation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. Some of the key tools and concepts that emerged from the 2007 Conservation Plan include agricultural resource focus areas and natural features focus areas. Staff are currently considering whether to update any of the strategies before, after, or during the comprehensive plan update. They are also considering whether to incorporate any of the strategies directly into the updated comprehensive plan. Some of the factors that will be considered when making these decisions include new information, changes in understanding of the issues, and changes in state or federal policies, the economy, or technology. Some of the key points raised during the discussion included the need to reframe the strategies through a climate change/mitigation lens given changes in policy and funding; the impact of land values on implementation; and the importance of coordinating with partners. The group also discussed county road systems and wildlife migration, habitat connectivity, trail systems, and feasibility of transfer of development rights.

Report: Agricultural Easements and Riparian Protection Agreements Update – Abigail Conner, DPS

Abigail gave the annual update on the County's conservation easement and riparian buffer agreements. She reported that there are three easements co-held with the Town of Dryden, one co-held with the Town of Lansing,

and one held solely by the County in the Town of Lansing. There are also two riparian buffers in the Town of Caroline, one in the Town of Danby, one in the Town of Enfield, and one in the Town of Lansing. The County does annual outreach to the owners of easements and riparian buffers, sometimes coordinating visits with town planners, Soil & Water Conservation District staff, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The County successfully used ArcGIS field maps again this year, and in 2024 may explore the use of drones to monitor easements and riparian buffers. Abigail explained the monitoring process and shared that no violations were reported in 2023. Members asked questions about the availability and comprehensiveness of information about easements in public records.

Member Items

Members shared items of interest, including news that a critique of BlocPower written in *The American Prospect* is circulating via local listservs. The Planning, Energy and Environmental Quality legislative committee will be hearing about the potential sale of the Cargill salt mine at their next meeting. In addition, the County is hosting public outreach meetings related to the Strategic Operations Plan and other community engagement opportunities will be forthcoming. Members were also reminded that the October PAB meeting starts at 3:30pm and are encouraged to connect with Darby and Abigail if they have additional feedback regarding the strategies discussed today.

Adjournment: Chair C.J. Randall adjourned the meeting at 4:56pm.