

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2018

2nd Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Complex, 49 ½ Court Street, Canton

I. Call to Order

K. Bellor called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

- a. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum. Members Present:** K. Bellor, K. Bisonette, J. Cameron, D. Chambers, W. Davis, D. Duff, D. Fay, M. Gazin, R. Hotte, D. Mullaney, M. McCluskey, B. Murray, M. Pennington. **Absent:** W. Palmer, and J. Timmerman. **Staff Present:** J. Pfothenhauer, J. Tenbusch.
- b. Adoption of the Agenda.** Pfothenhauer mentioned that two full reviews and one project that requires County Planning Board input will be discussed with the Board. The modified meeting agenda was unanimously adopted (Davis/Duff).
- c. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.** The December 14th meeting minutes were unanimously adopted (Gazin/Murray).

II. Public Forum None.

III. Land Use Training Session

Paul Hetzler from Cornell Cooperative Extension and John Tenbusch from the County Planning Office gave a detailed overview of the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in the County and the expected impacts the invasive species will have on the ash tree population. The pair spoke about the County's EAB Task Force and the initiatives they are undertaking to educate the public on the pest's arrival. The County Planning Board received an hour of training credit for the presentation.

IV. Project Reviews

- a. Projects Returned for Local Action.** Pfothenhauer discussed a site plan for a hair salon in the Village of Massena. The Board was in agreement that the project could be returned for local action.
- b. Full Reviews.** Pfothenhauer presented a full review for a sand pit on the Ekey Road in the town of Madrid. Staff recommended a return for local action with two non-binding recommendations: first that the local Board consult with the Town Highway Superintendent about whether or not the Ekey Road should be built up and extended to the western access point of the mine so that it can readily accommodate dump trucks; and

second, due to the pit's remote location, determine whether or not locked gates are needed at the access points. (Duff/Chambers; Bisonette abstained)

The Board also reviewed a use variance for a mattress and furniture store in the residential zone of the Village of Heuvelton. The Board determined that the development did have countywide significance and voted to deny the use variance (Murray/Cameron). The Board instructed staff to explain to the local municipality that the four legal tests for granting a use variance were not met and that the Village always has the alternative to rezone property.

V. Reports

- a. Executive Committee.** Bellor reported that the Executive Committee did not meet in December.
- b. Board of Legislators.** Fay reported that he is concerned that the County will sacrifice some of its assets, specifically staff, in the interest of reducing budget expenses.
- c. Highway Department.** Chambers stated that Highway Department had a good budget year. He also mentioned that a broken water main in the Village of Waddington resulted in the advancement of a bridge repair project in that community. Chambers also mentioned that NYSDOT will be holding an outreach meeting in January at St. Lawrence University to address the US Highway 11 bypass proposal between Canton and Potsdam.
- d. State of the County.** Davis reported that the Ogdensburg Airport had approximately 23,000 outbound passengers in 2017, which is more than the Watertown airport. He also mentioned that the Port is busy with salt and that the Port industrial park is at 91% capacity. Duff and Pfothenauer spoke about a State initiative to repair and replace deficient septic tanks. The County is eligible to receive \$225,000 annually for 5 years to address septic deficiencies along select waterbodies. Unfortunately there are no administration funds for the grant, which will make implementation difficult.
- e. Staff Report.** Pfothenauer highlighted some of the initiatives in the written Staff Report.

VI. Other Items

- a. Correspondence.** The Office received a notice of action from the Village of Massena.
- b. Next Meeting Dates.** The Executive Committee will meet at 4:15 pm on Thursday, January 25th in the Planning Office. The next Planning Board meeting will be on February 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room of the Public Safety Complex in Canton.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renee Hoffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Secretary

Minutes prepared by J. Pfothenauer

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