

Long Island Regional Planning Board

Summary Minutes

Meeting of May 1, 2007

Suffolk County Legislature Building, Veteran's Memorial Highway, Smithtown, NY

LIRPB Board Members Present:

James Larocca, Chair
John D. Cameron, Vice-Chair
V. Elaine Gross
James Large
Paul Tonna

Absent:

Theresa Sanders

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Arda Nazerian
Kevin Law
Raymond A. Ribeiro
Robert Brickman, representing Patricia Bourne
Thomas Isles
Janet Ioli, representing Hon. Joseph Sawicki
Elizabeth Botwin, representing Hon. Howard Weitzman

Michael E. White, Executive Director LIRPB, Present

Staff and Guests Present:

Seth Forman, LIRPB
Jackie Gross, Counsel, Nassau County Attorney's Office
Phyllis Seidman, Suffolk County Attorney's Office
Graham Long, Nassau County Planning
Todd Seidel, Nassau County Planning
Joe Gregela, Executive Director, Farm Bureau
Bob Yaro, Regional Plan Association
Shirley Seigel, League of Women Voters
Mr. Charles Hirsch
Jim Morgo, Suffolk County EDWH
Neal Lewis, Neighborhood Network

Meeting Commenced: 10:07 am

- Chair Larocca called the meeting to order.
- Chair Larocca asked for approval of the minutes of the April 2, 2007 meeting.

Minutes were approved unanimously, on motion of Paul Tonna, seconded by Elaine Gross.

Chair's Report

- Update on Planning Summit – October 2, 2007 Tentative Date

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director White reported on updates to budget/business plan, potential office space, and obtaining clerical support.
- Report on meetings and conferences attended and to be attended
- Update on Suffolk County Commission on Solid Waste (E.D. White represents the LIRPB on this S.C. Commission)
- Update on planning council legislation proposal (includes expansion to a 12 member council, with current members staying place and additional town and village representation. Legislation currently in draft stage; goal is to seek approval of symmetrical legislation from Nassau County and Suffolk County Legislatures.

Presentation by Joe Gregela, Executive Director of the Long Island Farm Bureau

- Mr. Gregela discussed issues relating to the agriculture industry on Long Island, major threats to the health of the industry, as well as potential solutions to problems, and solutions already in place.
 - Chair Larocca asked what specific interventions by public entities the Farm Bureau was seeking
- Mr. Gregela stated the main issue is maintaining profitability for Long Island farmers, and listed various tools to help do so.
- Mr. Gregela added the benefits to all Long Islanders of a healthy agriculture industry include the safe and superior quality of locally grown foods, and encouraged Long Island citizens and organizations to buy food grown on Long Island.

Presentation by Bob Yaro, Regional Plan Association

- Mr. Yaro discussed sustainable development and the PlaNYC 2030 sustainability plan, and described a frame-work for LIRPB collaboration in that effort.
- Development should be focused on areas that have existing infrastructure to support it, and the political will for dense growth.
 - Chair Larocca mentioned that under certain circumstances growth can cost a community, e.g. in school districts.
- Transit village zoning programs should be used.
- Long Island is not performing as well as the rest of the north-east in terms of sustainable development and economic growth.

Housing Initiatives Report: Michael White/ Jim Morgo

- Executive Director White discussed aspects of affordable housing initiatives and recommendations on how to set goals and get municipalities to meet such goals.

- Mr. Morgo discussed Suffolk County’s draft legislation setting goals for every municipality that controls land-use.
- The Board discussed sections of the housing initiatives plan in development and the formulation of a “Housing Strategies and Initiatives” policy paper.
- Elaine Gross discussed the need to keep affordable housing development integrated, and called attention to the possibility of an ‘affirmative marketing’ strategy.
- Vice-Chair Cameron suggested that the possibility for local residency requirements for affordable housing units is in part acceptable to encourage municipalities to follow through on their plans.
- Elaine Gross suggested local residency requirement should not encourage segregated housing.
- The Board discussed aspects of the plan and merits of such aspects.

Energy Agenda – Vice-Chair Cameron/ Michael White

[Chair Larocca recused himself on discussion of the Energy Agenda]

[Executive Director White presented an outline of Issues for Review, dated 4/30/07]

- Issues for further review discussed; short and long term assessments of energy needs as well as sources discussed.
- Short-term focus on new energy sources; long-term focus on increase and change in energy needs.
- The Board discussed the further need for interaction with the City of New York on all regional issues.

Public Portion

- Mr. Neal Lewis discussed the problem of the LIRPB’s prior Special Groundwater Protection Area study being ignored by local municipalities which are drafting Stormwater Control plans.
- Ms. Shirley Seigel discussed the need to focus on developing all alternative energy sources, preserving farm land, and water conservation.
- Mr. Charles Hirsch suggested that renewable energy sources were too expensive and impractical to pursue, and attention should be focused on making existing power generating equipment more efficient.

At 12:35 p.m., the meeting was adjourned unanimously, on motion of Elaine Gross, seconded by Vice-Chair Cameron.

Adjournment.

Next meeting to be held on **Tuesday, June 5, 2007** at 10:00 a.m. in Nassau County.

Prepared and submitted by: Graham Long, Planner, Nassau County - 5/14/2007