

Meeting Summary

**Town of Stillwater GEIS
Farmland & Open Space Protection Plan
July 25, 2007 7:00PM**

Attendees: Dave Anusesky, Alane Ball Chinian (Saratoga PLAN), Chris Martin (Saratoga National Historical Park), Jamie O'Neill (Saratoga County Planning), Bob Radliffe, Marty Dela Rosa

The following topics were discussed:

1. Chris Round began the meeting with introductions.
2. Chris Martin discussed Saratoga National Historical Park's (SNHP) current projects and management goals.
 - a. Grassland Management, and invasive species control
 - b. The importance of birding in the park (Special designation by the Audubon Society)
 - c. The increase in bicycling
 - d. The opening of Victory Woods to the public
 - e. The construction of a public dock in the northeast corner of the park and connecting various connecting trails
 - f. Joint planning efforts with the Erie Canal Heritage Corridor
3. Alane Ball Chinian discussed Saratoga PLAN's current preservation/conservation efforts.
 - a. Currently, Saratoga PLAN is drafting three applications for the County's preservation program
 - i. Sweeney Farm
 - ii. Himler/Stonecroft Farm
 - iii. Donated Moll Property in Bemis Heights
 - b. Saratoga Plan was awarded a NPS American Battlefield Protection Program grant in 2005, to protect scenic lands around the battlefield and craft a public plan to guide preservation efforts
 - i. Partnerships with the Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA)
 - ii. Visual Resource Inventory (provided by the SNHP)
 - iii. Significant Historical Resource Inventory
4. Jamie O'Neill discussed Saratoga County Planning efforts
 - a. County no longer has \$100,000 cap on Farmland Preservation Program initiatives.
 - b. The County will fund up to 90 percent of cost for farmland preservation initiatives.

5. Chris discussed the overall scope of work, and provided background information on the Town of Stillwater's General Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) as well. The development of a farmland and open space protection plan, Chris explained, could achieve several goals:
 - a. Extract town-wide development impact fees for environmental and cultural resource protection.
 - b. Provide a general policy statement for the Town with regards to present and future planning efforts.

6. Paul Cummings discussed The *Green Infrastructure Plan for Saratoga County*. The concepts of Green Infrastructure were explained as well. As a basis, the four major themes that were used in the County's Green Infrastructure Plan could/should be used in developing the Town of Stillwater plan:
 - a. Natural Systems
 - b. Recreation and Trails
 - c. Cultural Landscapes
 - d. Working Landscapes

7. Concerns regarding the short amount of time allotted for the planning process were raised. Committee members also expressed that they did not want to develop a plan that would not be effective.

8. Bob Radliffe made several points regarding farmland and opens space planning in the Town of Stillwater:
 - a. The irony of developing a Green Infrastructure/Smart Growth oriented plan in the backdrop of the Luther Forest Tech Park.
 - b. That in developing this plan, time is of the essence.
 - c. The final plan should be "results oriented."

9. Discussion regarding the following mapping needs:
 - a. A map that accurately portrays active agriculture uses.
 - b. A map that identifies historic sites/resources in the Town to highlight key cultural resources/areas.
 - c. A map that identifies already protected lands needs be developed.

10. Marty Dela Rosa offered to help identify active agricultural lands with the aid of the local agricultural community, using a map generated by TCC.

11. Several maps were examined to develop a resource inventory that was based on both Green Infrastructure components (i.e. hubs and links) and Green Infrastructure themes (i.e. Natural Systems, Recreation and Trails, Cultural Landscapes, Working Landscapes). Using the following maps, farms were identified, potential trails were highlighted, and key environmental resources were discussed.
 - a. Land Use
 - b. Land Cover
 - c. Topography and Elevation

- d. Soil Classifications
 - e. Active Agricultural Lands
 - f. Residential Build Out Projections
 - g. Water Resources
 - h. Zoning
12. A list of previous plans was provided, which included their respective website locations. A list of historic and recreational resources that had been identified within previous plans was provided as well. There were five plans identified:
- a. Green Infrastructure Plan for Saratoga County
 - b. Stillwater Comprehensive Plan
 - c. Stillwater Route 4 Corridor Plan
 - d. Champlain Canal Trial Concept Plan
 - e. Saratoga National Historical Park General Management Plan
13. The group discuss the need for public input early in the process and established several tentative dates: September 10th, 17th, or 18th

Next Meeting August 16, at 7:00pm (location: will be announced when finalized)

Follow Up:

1. TCC to send Marty D a Map of Active Agricultural lands that includes owners' last names.
2. Send Bob R a copy of selected maps
3. Send Alane B a copy of selected maps
4. Saratoga PLAN will provide NPS American Battlefield Protection Program resources.
5. The Chazen Companies (TCC) will develop three maps for the August 16th meeting: historic resources map, a more accurate active agricultural map, and already protected lands map

Notes prepared by P. Cummings.

Please report any errors or omissions no later than August 10, 2007 to pcummings@chazencompanies.com