

EAST AURORA PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING

May 3, 2011

6:30 PM

**PRESENT:**

Dan Castle, Chairman  
Lowell Dewey, Vice Chairman  
Stacy Oar  
Anne Redmond  
Robert Warhus  
Kristin Cameron  
Alternate Bud Babcock

**ABSENT:**

Frank Mesi

**Also Present:**

Code Enforcement Officer William Kramer

Others Present: Mayor Allan A. Kasprzak

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**General Meeting  
Welcoming Of New Members  
Elections for Chairman/Co-Chair Positions**

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Chairman, Dan Castle, opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and noted that a quorum was present for the meeting tonight.

Lowell Dewey made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the December 21, 2010 meeting for (316 Main Street – “Visual Impact Sign”), seconded by Stacy Oar with a unanimous vote to follow.

Stacy Oar made a motion to approve the minutes, as written for the December 21, 2010 meeting for (609 Oakwood Ave.-“The Bike Shop”), seconded by Lowell Dewey and passed unanimously.

Chairman, Dan Castle welcomed all the newly appointed members to the planning commission and noted the resignation of Carol Smith who was one of the longest members on the Planning Commission with 20 plus years. Donald Wynes and Laura Mehl also had resigned because of heavy work loads. At this time Dan Castle thought it would be a nice idea to have each member introduce and tell a little bit about themselves. Dan mentioned that he is currently the Chairman for the Planning Commission and has served on the commission for many years since (1995). He is a practicing planner by trade and works for an environmental firm in Lancaster.

Lowell Dewey, is a professional civil engineer and served on the Village Board for 10 years. He has served on the Planning Commission for several years as well.

Bud Babcock, mentioned that he has served on the Planning Commission since the late 1970's and is now a retired businessperson. He went on to explain that he is the alternate when a quorum is needed.

(New member) Anne Redmond, introduced herself and mentioned that she is relatively new to the area and has background in environmental engineering and currently works as a planner in the City of Rochester.

(New member) Robert Warhus, retired civil engineer & has served on the tree board for a number of years. Bob went on to mention that he feels his time on the Commission will be shortened since his house has been sold and he will be moving shortly.

Stacy Oar, mentioned that she is no longer the newbie on the commission and has served at least five years. She mentioned that she is a social worker by trade but is currently a stay at home Mom.

At this time, Mayor Allan Kasprzak mentioned that he has always been appreciative of the efforts of the Planning Commission, and of any of the boards, they are the most influential with development in the Village. He mentioned that the Planning Commission is a very important board and hopefully the Village Board listens to the Planning Commissions suggestions & recommendations when decisions are being made.

(New member) Kristin Cameron, is currently working as a civil engineer with Moog & has a degree in physics.

William Kramer introduced himself and told the Planning Commission members that he is the Code Enforcement Officer for the Village of East Aurora.

After the introductions were completed Chairman Castle thanked everyone for introducing themselves and went on to explain that he is very proud of the talents that are represented by all the Planning Commission members. He mentioned there are many planners & engineers serving on the Commission and everyone works well together and contributes with their own individual talents. He also mentioned that every project that comes in is reviewed individually and nothing is prejudged which is one of the rules that Dan feels all PC members should remember. Many projects are very cut & dried developments and the members may wonder why they are being asked to review them but there will also be projects that could use extra improvements suggestions, modifications & recommendations. Another rule that Dan feels is necessary is that everyone asks questions, that there is no such thing as a dumb question and because this is an advisory board to the Village Board we could and should ask questions when reviewing site plans. If the commission had the power to make decisions to approve site plan developments or subdivisions we would have to be a little bit more careful in what we weigh or questions that we ask because of litigation possibilities but because we are only an advisory board we should ask questions & make suggestions. The third and most important rule Dan feels is that the Planning Commission not become a political board. Everyone should keep in mind that when we are out in the community and talking about things it is all right to have an opinion and you can go to a meeting an express you opinion, but Dan urged all the members to not be political because that reflects back on all the decisions that we make, which may make us look un-credible.

Chairman, Dan Castle then mentioned that usually after the Organizational meeting in April, it is customary for the Planning Commission to nominate and elect both a Chairman & Co-Chairman. With that being said Lowell Dewey made a motion for Dan Castle to continue as Chairman, seconded by Robert Warhus and approved unanimously.

Stacy Oar nominated Lowell Dewey for Co-Chair, which was seconded by Robert Warhus and when put to vote, passed unanimously.

At this time handout sheets were distributed for the Planning Commission members to review and discuss on the Cazenovia Creek Sanctuary. Member, Robert Warhus mentioned that as a young boy, he was brought up on South Street and remembers the Cazenovia Creek as his play area.

Bud Babcock, member & liaison for the Cazenovia Creek Nature Sanctuary Committee spoke to the Planning Commission members on the developments that have already taken place in preparation of the sanctuary. He mentioned that the house at 445 South Street has been demolished, that initial signs are being discussed and boundaries and future trails are being identified. Plant growth, animals and historical connections are also being identified. The Village also needs to maintain positive neighbor relationships and we also need to develop an overall management plan. Discussion with the Planning Commission will continue as new developments arise on the Sanctuary.

Discussion will also start during the next meeting on June 7, 2011, for Design Standards (Guidelines) for the Village of East Aurora. It was suggested that Trustee Kevin Biggs be contacted regarding the work that he has been doing on the sinking ponds area, and possibly requesting his presence at that meeting for his input.

Lowell Dewey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM, seconded by Robert Warhus and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne M. Wolff  
Deputy Clerk