

EAST AURORA PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

July 5, 2006 7:00 PM

Present:

Dan Castle, Chairperson
Daniel Bermingham
Randolph West
Lowell Dewey
Mary Jo Crone
Patrick McBurney
Stacy Oar

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Joyce Jezewski

Others Present: Libby Weberg, Betty Cheteny, Keith Bender, David DiPietro

Chairman Castle called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Planning Commission members were asked to introduce themselves. Chairman Castle noted for new members that the role of the planning commission is advisory only and that the final decision rests with the Village Board. The planning commission sees itself as a non-political entity, viewing each project on its own merits.

Motion by Mary Jo Crone, seconded by Dan Bermingham to approve the minutes of March 1, 2006. Motion Carried

There was no quorum for the April 5, 2006 meeting.

Chairman Castle invited Betty Cheteny to discuss her idea for a pocket park. Ms. Cheteny indicated to the commission that a good location for the pocket park would be the land on the corner of Riley and Fillmore (SBL 165.17-1-8 aka 636 East Fillmore). Currently, the land houses a somewhat dilapidated old brick garage. She feels this would be a good use for that area of land. It is a unique spot in that there is access to the creek, it's in a floodplain and nothing else could be built there and it is also adjacent to village owned land. It would be a simple, passive park that could be used by tourists, residents as well as fisher price children. It was also noted that the focal point of the park would be a sculpture.

Further discussion took place between planning commission members and Betty Cheteny. Some key items:

- Finding the owner of record – the property has been in limbo for some time; what is the status of the property; i.e. have taxes been paid?
- Can the village start proceedings to have the building demolished due to its state of disrepair and for safety reasons?
- Are there any underground storage tanks on the property?

- What about liability insurance?
- Maintenance of the pocket park – town or village?

Randy West noted it would be nice to have a park within walking distance of the downtown district. He also stated it would create an east/west destination versus the current linear north and south in the Village.

Chairman Castle stated that the planning commission would need more information on the project, including a design plan and layout. It would also need the endorsement of the Village Board. If nothing else, the village board should look at demolishing the building.

Motion by Lowell Dewey, seconded by Patrick McBurney to recommend to the Village Board that they pursue all means and methods to determine the owner of the blighted parcel and further, to take steps to demolish building pursuant to Village Code.

Motion by Dan Bermingham, seconded by Randy West to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce M. Jezewski, CMC
Deputy Clerk Treasurer