

EAST AURORA PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

January 4, 2006

7:00 PM

Present: Dan Castle, Chairperson Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Kramer
 Lowell Dewey Deputy Clerk Treasurer Joyce Jezewski
 Michael Croft
 Daniel Bermingham
 Mary Jo Crone

Absent: Randolph West, Carol Smith

Public: James Bodziak, Supt. East Aurora Schools
 Cathy Ann Lorka, School Board Member
 Libby Weberg, Village Trustee

Chairman Dan Castle called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Castle welcomed James Bodziak and Cathy Ann Lorka to the meeting to discuss the proposed school expansion. Dan reviewed the background and the purpose of the planning commission, indicating it is comprised of seven people with diverse backgrounds. The planning commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Village Board of Trustees and reviews and recommends projects on land use planning, zoning, special permits and other special projects as they may arise.

Although the East Aurora School is not bound by the village code or legislative process, Chairman Castle asked for an informal meeting to discuss the school district's future plan for expansion.

Superintendent Bodziak thanked the planning commission for their invitation. He stated that the school district began an investigation and review of their facilities in 2002. A facilities committee was appointed that consisted of the school administrator, parents and folks from the community. Their goal was to address three major concerns; space, assets and traffic to determine how to best solve the space crunch. Supt. Bodziak discussed at length the many avenues that were pursued to see what would work best for the school and the community as a whole. Presently, the school board is pursuing eminent domain for five (5) acres of land currently located on the south side of Girard Avenue and owned by Fisher Price. Additionally, the school board is considering the purchase of the former Southside School building on Gleed Avenue. Supt. Bodziak anticipates that the school board might make its final decision next Wednesday. Eminent domain became a consideration when the school district and Fisher Price could not reach terms of agreement for the sale of the land. Originally, the school district was slated to purchase all 42 acres, but as time went on and plans reviewed and revised, it appeared that five (5) acres would meet the school's need for expansion of the Parkdale School facilities.

Dan Castle indicated that a review of the village's comprehensive plan might assist the school board in their determination.

Lowell Dewey indicated that the school district is subject to the storm water regulations in connecting to the Village's water and sewer lines. He also felt that the SEQR process and draft Environment Impact Statement (EIS) was done far too quickly for a large 87,500 square foot addition.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dan Castle indicated that the superintendent and school board is welcome back at any time to further review the proposed expansion with the planning commission.

Motion was made by Mike Croft to approve the minutes of September 7, 2005. Seconded by Daniel Bermingham and passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion made by Mike Croft to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Mary Jo Crone and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce M. Jezewski, CMC
Deputy Clerk Treasurer