

EAST AURORA PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

February 2, 2005

7:00 PM

Present: Dan Castle, Chairman
Carol Smith, Co-chair
Mary Jo Crone
Dan Bermingham
Randolph West
Michael Croft
Lowell Dewey

Secretary: Joyce M. Jezewski, Deputy Clerk Treasurer

Co-Chairman Carol Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. (It was noted that Dan Castle would be arriving a few minutes late)

Motion by Dan Bermingham to approve the minutes of January 5, 2005.
Seconded by Mike Croft and unanimously carried.

Zoning Commission Update

Randy West briefed the Planning Commission on the status of the 90-day moratorium that the Zoning Commission has been working on as it relates to drive-thru restaurants.

Dan Castle arrived at 7:10 p.m. Mary Jo Crone arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Randy West distributed a copy of a memo that he sent to Betty Cheteney, on why the village should permanently disallow any new drive thru restaurants. Randy asked for the Planning Board's thoughts as it relates to this issue. Definitions were read from other municipal codes on "drive-thru's".

Some points considered by the Planning Board:

- Restrict drive-thru's for restaurants in general, not just fast food
- Legislation should establish a clean mechanism for the appeal process

Randy West was asked to convey these two points to the Zoning Commission.

Main Street Reconstruction Update

Dan Castle presented an overview of the New York State Department of Transportation's (NYS DOT) plans for the reconstruction of Main Street in the spring of 2007. NYS DOT prepared the road reconstruction plans, sectioning off Main Street as listed below and providing for two (2) design alternatives for each area, with the exception of Riley to Olean.

- Area encompassing the Circle to Maple
- Maple to Whaley
- Whaley to Riley
- Riley to Olean (theatre district)

NYS DOT provided four (4) design alternative plans for the Riley to Olean area, along with a proposal for reverse diagonal parking.

There are a number of areas that contain “bulb-outs”, which forces traffic to slow down. The disadvantage of these bulb-out areas is that the state will not plow them, thus making it the village’s responsibility.

The project will also give the Village the opportunity to update its infrastructure at the same time. The NYS DOT will assist with the design process; however, it is still the village’s responsibility for the cost of the infrastructure replacement.

Other points noted:

- Improving safety and traffic flow; adding pedestrian crosswalks and eliminating some curb cuts
- The red brick under the railroad viaduct at Riley Street will be removed to accommodate a standard 14-foot clearance. Although the brick will not be replaced, the community can save it to re-use or recycle in other areas of the village. Additionally, the NYS DOT will provide other bricked areas on Main Street in other areas. One suggestion was bricking each of the traffic intersections.

As the design plans have yet to be finalized, there is still time for public comment.

As an aside, the planning commission felt that there should be no parking on North Grove, between Main and Fillmore, during school days.

Carol Smith thanked Dan and Randy for the presentations and the time they spend on these committees.

Motion by Mary Jo Crone to adjourn the planning commission meeting at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Dan Castle and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce M. Jezewski, CMC
Deputy Clerk Treasurer