

WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Wayne County Planning Department provides a variety of services that contribute to a better quality of life for residents of the County. Recognizing that the return of tax dollars to the County is a priority, the staff of the Planning applies for relevant grants to improve the physical appearance of the County, repair and replace aging infrastructure, improve housing stock, enhance the agricultural economy and provide greater recreational choices, housing choices, and social opportunities for our residents. Although our most visible efforts involve the preparation and administration of grants, the staff also attends local meetings, provides technical assistance to residents and civic and business organizations and supports communities with their planning and improvement initiatives. Planning staff also provides classes throughout the year so local planning and zoning board members can comply with state training requirements. A synopsis of our activities for 2009 follows.

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

- ***NYS Snowmobile Trails Program*** – completed 2009-10 snowmobile grant-in-aid application which resulted in an award to Wayne County in the amount \$58,220.
- ***NYS Farmland Protection Program*** – completed and submitted five purchase of development rights federal proposals for property located in Williamson, Ontario, Macedon and Walworth. The proposals include 5 farms covering collectively 1407 acres of land and requesting \$939,112. Awards have not been announced.
- ***NY Main Street Program*** – completed an application requesting \$200,000 for a targeted façade and interior revitalization program focusing on a concentrated section of the Village of Sodus Downtown Business District. The project was not funded, however, the application will be improved and resubmitted in 2010.
- ***NYS Environmental Protection Fund*** – completed an application for funding in the amount of \$259,215 on behalf of the Sodus Bay Junior Sailing Association to acquire the property known locally as Pier Pointe East in Sodus Point. This project is consistent with goals identified in the Village of Sodus Point's Downtown Vision Plan and Design Principles. If awarded, the funds will be used to acquire the property and establish public access to Sodus Bay. Awards have not been announced.
- ***NYS Environmental Protection Fund*** – completed an application for funding in the amount of \$600,000 on behalf of Cracker Box Palace, Inc. to subsidize the costs associated with the purchase and preservation of Alasa Farms. Awards have not been announced.

- ***NYS Environmental Protection Fund*** – completed an application requesting \$600,000 to install erosion control measures along 1200 linear feet of Lake Ontario shoreline in B. Forman Park. Awards have not been announced.
- ***NYS DOT Transportation Enhancement Program*** – An application on behalf of the Towns of Arcadia and Lyons and the Village of Newark in the amount of \$896,513 (total project cost of \$1,122,513) was funded in 2009. Money will be used to construct the section of the statewide Erie Canal Trail between Route 88 in Newark and the western border of the Town of Lyons. Meetings were held between the partners to determine roles and responsibilities, administrative tasks and necessary agreements. Execution of the Master Federal Aid Agreement and intermunicipal agreements is pending.
- ***Local Government Efficiency Grant Program*** – Completed and submitted an application for \$900,000 to consolidate all town highway sign functions into the Wayne County Highway Department. The project was not funded.
- ***Genesee Transportation Council Priority Trails Advancement Program*** – Submitted an application requesting \$40,000 to conduct a study of the Route 104 corridor to identify potential routes to extend the multi-use trail that ends in Webster to Sodus in Wayne County. Project was funded.
- ***Genesee Transportation Council Priority Trails Advancement Program*** – Submitted an application requesting \$50,000 to study the Route 21 corridor between the Hamlet of Marion and the Hamlet of Pultneyville. The purpose of the study is to identify possible routes for a trail connecting these two communities. Project was funded.
- ***Congressional Funding Requests*** – Prepared and submitted the following funding requests to Congressman Maffei for inclusion in the Transportation Reauthorization Bill: Amtrak Station Design and Specifications - \$1.6 million; Alderman Road Intersection Realignment - \$240,000; Ridge Road Bridge over Salmon Creek - \$880,000. No awards have been announced.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

NYS Quality Communities Program

The Town of Galen as lead agency received \$40,000 in funds through a NYS Quality Communities Grant to develop a regional comprehensive plan. The Plan was adopted by the municipalities in December and a copy will be sent to NYS Quality Communities in January. This project is now complete and awaiting final reimbursement of grant funds.

Snowmobile Program

Oversee all paperwork for mileage reimbursement from New York State for approximately 174 miles of snowmobile trails in Wayne County. Distributed \$61,275 to four snowmobile clubs in Wayne County for trail maintenance and development.

NYS Multi-Modal Grant

This funding (originally \$1 million) is used to advance the Amtrak Passenger Station Project in Lyons. In 2009, the engineering consultants completed an options study with five track and signal alternatives to be considered by CSXT. The engineering agreement with CSXT was also updated. Options are under review by CSXT and a final recommendation will be forthcoming in 2010.

NYS Department of Ag and Markets Municipal Planning Grant

The Town of Butler was awarded \$25,000 to develop an Ag and Farmland protection plan, comprehensive plan and land use law. Administered grant on behalf of the Town, to include submission of all reports and reimbursement requests.

Town of Huron Community Development Block Grant - Septic System Rehabilitation Program

This project is now complete and is waiting for monitoring by the Office of Community Renewal before closeout documents can be submitted. This grant used \$207,363.13 to assist 15 income eligible properties in obtaining new septic systems.

Village of Sodus Main Street Revitalization Program

Completed the administration of this \$280,000 program, which resulted in the rehabilitation three (3) owner-occupied units and twenty (20) renter-occupied units. Funds were also used to install an antique-style street clock and crosswalks in the downtown area.

H.G. Hotchkiss Essential Oil Company Plant Restoration

Extended the following contracts in anticipation of an agreement between the Village of Lyons and Wayne County for the Village to assume ownership of the building once it is restored. The project should move forward in 2010. *SAFETEA-LU* (\$413,000); *Erie Canal Greenway* (\$224,787); *Save America's Treasures* (\$197,221); *NYS EPF* (\$75,000).

Clyde Downtown Revitalization Program

This project is now complete and is waiting for the monitoring report from NYS to submit closeout documents. Through this grant the Clyde Chamber utilized \$200,000 in matching funds to renovate 13 facades, 6 commercial buildings, 2 residential units and create 3 murals.

Savannah Downtown Revitalization Program

With \$187,986 in assistance from the NY Main Street Program, the Savannah Chamber of Commerce will soon complete exterior and interior improvements to 5 buildings, including 5 residential units and 4 commercial spaces. The program will closeout in 2010.

Northern Rail Trail Corridor

The County received permission from the state to use the full \$70,000 on the re-decking of the trail bridge in the Village of Red Creek. This project is now complete and awaiting final reimbursement of grant funds. This grant for \$70,000 in Recreational Trails Grant

was supplemented by additional funding from the Lakeshore Snowdevils Snowmobile club.

Edgett Street Bridge Restoration

Because no agency agreed to assume ownership of the bridge from the State, the NYS Department of Transportation issued a letter in 2009 indicating their intent to close the bridge to future pedestrian or other trail traffic and to withdraw grant funds.

Clyde River Flow Restoration Project

A permit was obtained from the NYSDEC for the “snag and pick” phase of the project, which was completed in 2009. The Design Report necessary to satisfy NYS and Federal Highway Administration requirements for the \$950,000 federal appropriation was completed. Construction drawings for the channel and bridge work are under final review by NYS DOT. US Army Corps of Engineers and DEC permits are submitted and should be issued in the first quarter of 2010.

Sodus Point Park Project

Completed project construction in early summer of 2007. Project components included a new bathhouse; new beach and erosion control revetment; new sidewalks and greenway path. Reimbursement of \$171,000 was received from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The remaining \$19,000 due will be provided subsequent to the submission of a contract amendment and final expense documentation. Closeout is expected in early 2010.

MEMBER ITEM GRANT ADMINISTRATION

- Maple Grove Cemetery - \$15,000
- Town of Lyons Wind Energy Project - \$9,000
- Town of Lyons Veteran’s monument - \$25,000

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AND OTHER COMPUTER RELATED TASKS

- 132 maps produced for Wayne County Planning Board referrals
- Williamson School District Map
- Town of Sodus Zoning Map
- 13 maps for the Federal Farm and Ranchland Grant Application

WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

- The Wayne County Planning Board reviewed 132 zoning and subdivision referrals in 2009 over the course of 10 evening meetings. Photographs in the form of power point presentations and written Preview Committee comments are provided for each referral the Board reviews. Maps utilizing tax parcel boundaries, wetland boundaries, flood zones and orthoimagery are created and provided for the referrals that the board reviews. Pictometry images are also used extensively for reviews.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Assisted with the preparation of Wayne County's first Capital Improvement Plan by gathering relevant financial and project information, attending progress meetings and developing the preliminary spreadsheet.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REVIEW

The seven year agricultural review will not be necessary until 2015. In the interim, the state allows an annual ag district review period so landowners who may not have been included in the district have the opportunity to join. The annual review period does not allow parcel deletions.

The annual Agricultural District Review Period in 2009 (January 1st –January 31st) resulted in no additions to any of the County's Agricultural Districts.

TRAINING

The Planning Department provided two training programs to local officials and citizen planners in Wayne County. The topics were SEQR and Introduction to the Planning Board. Over 70 attended these training sessions, which allowed planning and zoning board members to affordably fulfill state mandated training requirements.

SEQR REVIEWS

Completed the following review in fulfillment of Wayne County's requirements under SEQR:

- Expansion of NYS Snowmobile Trail network in Wayne County
- Brantling Communication Tower
- Nursing Home Renovation Project
- Creager Island Bridge Project
- Disposal of Surplus Property in Wolcott

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Town of Rose Confined Animal Feeding Operations Committee
- Town of Butler Farmland Preservation Plan Committee
- Worked with Wayne Economic Development Corporation on agriculture related projects involving two firms.
- Prepared feasibility study regarding reuse of elementary school as regional municipal offices as part of northeast Wayne energy park concept proposal.
- Assisted Tourism Department with Apple Tasting Map
- Helped Tourism Department with Lake Ontario Wine Trail committee
- Prepared 2009-2010 Snowmobile Trails Map
- Assisted with the preparation of the Town of Butler Ag and Farmland protection plan, comprehensive plan and land use law. Attended five committee meetings, collated survey data and coordinated advertising the RFP for a consultant
- Met with 15 to 20 landowners/muck farmers to explore the possibility of utilizing PDR money for acquiring drainage easements and improving drainage of muck farms.

- Coordinated the Lake Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council and Ag Development Board annual Wayne County farm bus tour and picnic at Alasa Farms.
- Participated in the update of the Wayne County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Information Sharing

Responded to over 300 tax parcel map and data base, flood zone, census, agricultural district, wetland, zoning and other miscellaneous (scans, copies, downloads) requests from consultants/engineers, other planning departments, county departments, realtors, appraisers, Bishop Sheen and county constituents.

Ginna Drills

Members of the Planning Staff participated in required emergency preparedness exercises relative to the Ginna Nuclear Power Station.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Planning Staff is represented on the following public and non-profit Boards and organizations:

- Great Sodus Bay Watershed Intermunicipal Committee
- Galen-Clyde-Savannah Joint Master Plan Steering Committee
- Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council Planning Coordination Committee
- Genesee Transportation Council UPWP grant committee
- WEDC Microenterprise Loan Review Committee
- Wayne County Agricultural Development Board
- NY Farm Net Board of Directors
- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Protection Advisory Committee
- Growing New Farmers Consortium professional development committee
- American Farmland Trust Planning For Agriculture Update Advisory Committee
- Cornell Program Work Team for Agricultural Community Economic Development
- Lake Plains Resource Conservation and Development Board
- WC Soil and Water Ag Advisory Committee
- PathStone Housing Action Corporation, Inc.
- Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation, Inc.
- Lyons Main Street Program Board of Directors
- Cracker Box Palace Advisory Board
- NYS Association for Solid Waste Management Board of Directors

