



## **WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 2010 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 Department applies for grant funding 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 training classes throughout the year so local planning and zoning board members can comply with state training requirements. A synopsis of our activities for 2010 follows.

### **GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS**

**Google Fiber for Communities** – submitted an application on behalf of Wayne County. Award decisions have not been announced.

**NYS Snowmobile Trails Program** – completed 2009-10 snowmobile grant-in-aid application which resulted in an award to Wayne County in the amount \$59,750.

**NYS Farmland Protection Program** – awarded five purchase of development rights federal proposals for properties located in Williamson, Ontario, Macedon, Sodus and Walworth. The proposals include 5 farms covering collectively 1374 acres of land. Funding in the amount of \$939,112 was awarded. The federal grants will be used to match funding already awarded from the NYS Department of Ag and Markets for 4 of the farms. The \$607,000 awarded for the Alasa Farms project will match an award from the NYS Environmental Protection fund.

**NY Main Street Program** – resubmitted 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 grant was awarded.

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund** – completed an application for funding in the amount of \$57,428 on behalf of Cracker Box Palace, Inc. to prepare a Historic Structures Report for seventeen buildings on the Alasa Farms property. The grant was awarded.

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund** – Received an award of \$500,000 to subsidize the costs associated with the acquisition and preservation of Alasa Farms.

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund** – completed an application requesting \$400,000 to install erosion control measures along 1200 linear feet of Lake Ontario shoreline in B. Forman Park. The project did not receive funding, although the state indicated that it ranked high and encouraged the County to reapply in 2011.

**Community Development Block Grant Program** - Prepared and mailed an income survey to residents of Sewer District No. 1 in the Town of Savannah in preparation for a Small Cities grant to be submitted in May of 2011.

**TIGER Grant** - Provided technical assistance for a grant submitted by Seneca County for funds to subsidize the purchase of the Norfolk Southern owned Corning Secondary railroad line that runs from the CSXT mainline to the City of Geneva.

#### **GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

**NYSERDA Energy Efficiency Lighting Grant** – prepare reports and related documents associated with administration of this grant for Wayne County.

**NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program** – Wayne County was awarded \$240,000 for a three year program to continue the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Four Point Main Street Program. The grant will be administered in partnership with the Western Erie Canal Alliance. The Genesee Finger Lakes Planning Council will participate by historic restoration guidelines for the participating communities. The workplan and partners were finalized in 2010. The project will kick-off in 2011 and last for a period of three years.

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund** – Assisted Cracker Box Palace, Inc. with the administrative requirements associated with the \$500,000 grant award they received to subsidize the acquisition of Alasa Farms.

#### **Snowmobile Program**

Oversee all paperwork for mileage reimbursement from New York State for approximately 172 miles of snowmobile trails in Wayne County. Distributed \$63,610 to four snowmobile clubs in Wayne County for trail maintenance and development. Updated all contracts between the snowmobile clubs and the County. Became the second County in the state to test online tracking of snowmobile club expenses and volunteer hour logs.

Assisted the Sheriff in establishing a Wayne County Justice training program for snowmobiles.

**NYS Multi-Modal Grant**

This funding (originally \$1 million) is used to advance the Amtrak Passenger Station Project in Lyons. In connection with the above referenced TIGER application, the Planning staff worked with a grant consultant and a rail consultant to development information in preparation for future funding opportunities associated with this project. Unfortunately the project has been in a holding pattern awaiting the results of a study from Amtrak to determine if there is a market for passenger rail in the Finger Lakes Region.

**Alasa Farms Preservation Project**

Worked with the Genesee Land Trust and Cracker Box Palace, Inc. to obtain adequate funding to purchase and preserve the 617 acre historic Shaker Property commonly known as Alasa Farms. State and Federal grants totaling \$1.1 million have been awarded so far. A nomination was prepared and submitted to the Preservation League of New York to list Alasa Farms as one of their “Seven to Save” historic properties. The nomination was successful and in January of 2010 Alasa Farms was one of only seven properties across New York State to receive this important designation. State and federal conservation easement language was negotiated and finalized. Contracts for state, federal and foundation funding were also reviewed and executed in preparation for a closing on or before February 28, 2011.

**H.G. Hotchkiss Essential Oil Company Plant Restoration**

The County secured a total of \$981,978 for the restoration of building. Primary funding for this project comes from the four grants below.

<b>Grant Source</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
Erie Canal Greenways (C100826)	\$224,787	December 31, 2011
Environmental Protection Fund (406018)	\$75,000	December 31, 2012
SAFETEA-LU (4754.21)	\$413,000	December 19, 2016
Save America’s Treasures (36-05-ML-0239)	\$197,221	June 30, 2011

The County signed an agreement on February 1, 2010 to transfer ownership of the Hotchkiss Building to the Village of Lyons after restoration work is completed. On August 9, 2010, the Board of Supervisors authorized an additional agreement with the Village of Lyons to remove and take title to all personal property from the building in preparation for restoration activities.

On July 9, 2010, the Board of Supervisors authorized a design contract with Saratoga Associates for an amount not to exceed \$147,000. Watchdog Building Partners was retained to perform construction management services at a cost not to exceed \$37,900 on September 21, 2010.

Design documents were completed and provided to each of the four granting agencies. A hearing on the designs was held by the Wayne County Board of Supervisors on November 3, 2010. The designs were also submitted to SHPO.

The loss of the Save America's Treasures Grant required the development of a new construction budget. This reduced budget still allowed for the completion of major structural work items. Barring any complications or delays, work was scheduled to be completed by the close of 2011.

### **Savannah Downtown Revitalization Program**

With \$187,986 in assistance from the NY Main Street Program, the Savannah Chamber of Commerce completed exterior and interior improvements to 5 buildings, including 5 residential units and 4 commercial spaces. The Chamber, with the assistance of the Town of Savannah, completed the streetscape portion of the project by purchasing new historic streetlights for the downtown. Costs for the streetlights were reimbursed under the NY Main Street Program. Final monitoring and closeout is scheduled for the first quarter of 2011.

### **Clyde River Flow Restoration Project**

The goal of the project is to restore flow conditions on the river by removing debris, reestablishing a channel from Lyons-Marengo Road to Pond Brook and replacing the Lyons-Marengo Rd. culvert with a much larger culvert.

This project was awarded two grants from the state and federal government. A \$40,000 grant was used to identify the original channel for dredging purposes, identify and permit an upland spoils disposal site, prepare preliminary plans and permits for dredging and conduct repeated spoils testing as required by DEC. A \$950,000 grant from the federal government is used to prepare and complete plans for the bridge/culvert replacement, obtain necessary state and federal permits, prepare specifications and construct.

The "snag and pick" phase of the project was completed in early 2009. After nearly four years, all required US Army Corps of Engineers and NYS DEC permits have been obtained. Channel and bridge work will begin in 2011.

### **The following grant programs were successfully closed out:**

**Huron 2007 Community Development Block Grant (565HR125-07)** - This grant used \$207,363.13 to assist 15 properties in obtaining new septic systems.

### **New York Main Street - Downtown Clyde Revitalization Program (20050750)**

Through this grant the Clyde Chamber of used \$200,000 in matching funds to renovate 13 facades, 6 commercial buildings, 2 residential units and create 3 murals.

**Northern Corridor Rail Trail Project (RTP-03-FL-03)** - This grant for \$70,000 in Recreational Trails Grant was supplemented by additional funding from the Lakeshore Snowdevils Snowmobile club to re-deck the Village of Red Creek trail bridge.

**Galen – Clyde – Savannah Joint Master Plan, Quality Communities Grant (T-069938)** - The Town of Galen as lead agency received \$40,000 in funds through a Quality Communities Grant to develop a regional comprehensive plan.

### **MEMBER ITEM GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

- Maple Grove Cemetery - \$15,000
- Marion Town Museum Grant - \$30,000

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AND OTHER COMPUTER RELATED TASKS**

- 125 maps produced for Wayne County Planning Board referrals
- Salmon Creek Watershed Maps
- Savannah Zoning Map
- 2010 Snowmobile Trails Map
- Farm Stand and Century Maps for the Wayne County Fair

### **Wayne County Telecommunications Study**

Created 23 maps for use in the draft “Wayne County Telecommunications Inventory and Broadband Needs Assessment” Of these, there were 16 Industrial Focus Area maps showing telecommunication infrastructure over Pictometry aerials of each area in addition to 7 other countywide maps, each with different layers of telecommunication/broadband information.

### **CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE**

Convened a complete count committee to disseminate information to hard to reach populations about the importance of answering census questionnaires. Americorps volunteers assisted the committee in reaching these populations by distributing promotional materials in several languages.

### **WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

The Wayne County Planning Board reviewed 117 zoning and subdivision referrals in 2010 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.

### **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 2010 (January 1<sup>st</sup> –January 31<sup>st</sup>) resulted in one request for inclusion in the County’s Agricultural District. After research, it was determined the parcel did not meet the minimum qualifications for inclusion in the ag district, so the application was denied.

### **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Provided considerable assistance with the 2010 update of the Ag and Farmland Protection plan, including the amending the content of the plan to reflect current conditions and new policies advanced by New York State. Several illustrative maps were prepared for inclusion in the final updated plan. The new plan will be presented for review and approval in 2011.

### **RECREATIONWAYS MASTER PLAN**

Met with members of Trailworks and began the process involved in updating the 10 year old Wayne County Recreationways Master Plan.

### **TRAINING**

The Planning Department provided four training programs to local officials and citizen planners in Wayne County. Over 132 people attended these training sessions, which allowed local planning and zoning board members to conveniently and affordably fulfill state mandated training requirements. Topics covered were Introduction to Planning Boards, Introduction to the Zoning Board of Appeals, SEQR, and Site Plans, Special Permits and Historic Preservation.

### **SEQR REVIEWS**

In addition to providing general technical assistance for SEQR reviews to the County and various communities, the following reviews were completed in fulfillment of Wayne County's requirements under SEQR:

- Expansion of NYS Snowmobile Trail network in Wayne County
- Disposal of Surplus Property on East Port Bay Road in Wolcott
- Annual Ag District Review Period

### **GENERAL AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

- Assisted with the administration of the Alasa Farms/ Cracker Box Palace project
- Northeast Wayne Industrial Sustainability Park - met with developer regarding reuse of Florentine Hendrick School in Wolcott. If developed, the park would be powered by a methane digester with feedstock provided by the local farming community.
- Provided technical assistance regarding Lake Ontario Wine Trail law
- Represented Wayne Ag Development Board at American Farmland Trust Planning for Agriculture meeting
- Worked with Wayne Economic Development Corporation on agriculture related projects involving two firms and a potential \$12 million investment.
- Assisted Tourism Department with Apple Tasting Map
- Helped Tourism Department with Lake Ontario Wine Trail committee
- Coordinated Ag Development Board annual Wayne County farm bus tour

## **GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Information Sharing**

Responded to over 250 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
- 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
- Wayne County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
- PathStone Housing Action Corporation, Inc.
- Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation, Inc.
- Cracker Box Palace, Inc. Board of Directors
- Camp Beechwood Management Committee
- NYS Association for Solid Waste Management Board of Directors