

TOWN OF CHATHAM TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

Sept. 3, 2009

On Sept 3, 2009 a Town of Chatham, Town Board Workshop meeting was held at 7:00pm. Present were: Supervisor – Jesse DeGroot, Councilperson – Bob Balcom, Councilperson– Don Hegeman, Councilperson – Jean Rohde
Absent was Councilperson– Beth Ann Rippel

RES. #81-09 to declare a negative declaration concerning Comprehensive Plan and to adopt the addenda to the full EAF.

Councilperson Don Hegeman offered Res. #81 and moved its adoption that

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham duly appointed a Comprehensive Planning Committee to develop a draft Town Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Planning Committee conducted a study of the Town of Chatham that included a full inventory of physical, natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive Planning Committee solicited and utilized the input of the public through a written survey, visioning workshops, news articles, public meetings, focus groups, and multiple public hearing to formulate the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes the long-term vision, goals, objectives and strategies to guide the orderly growth of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Plan also includes studies of past and present land uses, demographic statistics public opinions, and recommendations for the town to use and/or implement in order to reach the stated goals and objectives of the town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board submitted the Draft Comprehensive Plan to the Columbia County Planning Board as required by NYS General Municipal Law 239-m and the proposed action does not require any other permits or approvals from other State and Federal agencies prior to adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board declared itself Lead Agency and conducted an environmental assessment according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, after consideration of the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part I and Part II finds that

Implementation of plan will positively assist Chatham in reaching goals of maintaining open space, rural landscapes, and the environment.

The plan recognizes natural features and sensitive environmental areas that need protection in the future.

The plan make recommendations on ways the town can maintain its agricultural land, historic, aesthetic character and rural landscapes, which are primary goals for the community.

The plan includes an inventory of agricultural land and historic resources and offers general methods to protect these important resources.

The plan recommends implementation of a variety of tools such as strengthening zoning, site plan review and subdivision local laws to protect critical resources and to accomplish the goals established in the plan.

The plan was developed with significant public input.

The plan was developed using detailed analysis via a GIS to locate, identify, and understand environmental conditions such as streams, wetlands, steep slopes, floodplains, and soils.

The plan is an environmentally based plan and was developed in large part by understanding development patterns in relation to the environmental features of the town and future policies of the town were established to protect and enhance these environmental features.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chatham Town Board hereby declares that adoption of the Town of Chatham Comprehensive Plan described herein, will not have any significant negative environmental impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes filing of a negative declaration (attached hereto), according to SEQRA, 6NYCRR Part 617; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute the Environmental Assessment Form and to adopt the addenda to the full EAF.

Councilperson Jean Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, DeGroot, Balcom, Rohde, Hegeman

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #82-09 to adopt the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Rohde offered Res. #82 and moved its adoption that

WHEREAS a Comprehensive Plan is a statutorily recognized instrument under Town Law 272-a for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development in a town; and

WHEREAS, a properly crafted comprehensive plan assists with the protection of the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chatham Town Board identified that a comprehensive plan was needed to properly plan growth and development, protect the environment and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the community and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chatham convened a Comprehensive Plan Committee to study the town, collect data and prepare a draft comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the town engaged in an extensive effort to solicit public and community input into the comprehensive planning process over a multi-year period; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the public input and the efforts of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, a draft comprehensive plan was prepared and submitted for Town Board consideration; and

WHEREAS, one public hearing was held by the Comprehensive Plan Committee to solicit input from the community as per Town Law 272-a; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the draft Comprehensive Plan and conducted multiple public hearing thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham has caused to be prepared a Long Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) pursuant to the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617); and

WHEREAS, The Town Board has duly considered the contents of the EAF and completed Parts 2 thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has identified the relevant areas of environmental inquiry and taken a hard look at them; and

WHEREAS, THE Town Board has issued a negative declaration under SEQRA thereby complying with the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has completed requirement of NYS General Municipal Law 239-m by forwarding a copy of the draft plan to the Columbia County Planning Department and having received a response therefrom, recommending that the proposed plan be approved and finding that the approval thereof is a "local issue";

NOW THEREFORE , BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN

BOARD OF CHATHAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby determines that the Town Comprehensive Plan, attached hereto and made a part hereof, (original is on file with the Town Clerk) is hereby adopted as the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Chatham. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, DeGroot, Balcom, Rohde, Hegeman

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #83-09 to authorize Tal Rappleyea to file the Negative Declaration for.

Supervisor DeGroot offered Res. #83 and moved its adoption to authorize Tal Rappleyea to file the Negative Declaration form with DEC office and the commissioner of DEC. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, DeGroot, Balcom, Rohde, Hegeman

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #84-09 to authorize B & L to help prepare Crellin EPF grant.

Councilman Rohde offered Res. #84 and moved its adoption to authorize B&L, Barton and Loguidice, to help prep the Crellin EPF grant for a total not to exceed \$3,000. Motion seconded by Don Hegeman.

Vote; ayes, DeGroot, Balcom, Hegeman, Rohde

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

Motion was made by Councilperson Rohde, seconded by Councilman Don Hegeman to adjourn.