



Project: Town of Dryden Comprehensive Plan **EDR Project No:** 19183
Meeting Date: 04/08/2020
Committee Members Present: John Kiefer, Chairperson; Craig Anderson; Joseph Wilson; ~~David Weinstein~~; Anthony Salerno; Alice Green; Ray Burger, Director of Planning Town of Dryden; the following members of the public: Jason Leifer, Town Supervisor, Dan Lamb, Town Deputy Supervisor; and the following members of the EDR Team: Jane Rice, Principal-in-Charge; Sam Gordon, Senior Project Manager

Discussion:

Review and Approval of 3/11/2019 Minutes

The Committee discussed the minutes from the 3/11/2019 meeting and the minutes were accepted as presented. The Chairperson reviewed the status of action items from the 3/11/2019 minutes, all action items were completed.

Community GHG Inventory and CAP: Update

Amanda Mazzoni, Senior Planner with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) a subconsultant to EDR, provided an overview of the status of the Town of Dryden Community Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory through a prepared slide presentation. They are awaiting specific agricultural emissions figures from Tompkins County; so these calculations are not yet complete. The inventory results note an overall 10% decrease in emissions, this is likely due to the fact that emissions associated with the electric grid decreased over the 5 years between 2013 and 2018 as the grid shifts away from higher carbon fuels (coal) towards natural gas, and the increase in renewable energy sources. There were also less heating degree days in 2019 as compared to 2013 (although there were **more** cooling degree days as 2018 was warmer overall). Overall transportation emissions declined slightly, even with a rise in total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the overall efficiency of the vehicles on the road improved between 2013 and 2018. Waste calculations are extrapolated from County level data (Tompkins), there is not more specific information available at the Town level. The data shows an overall increase in waste related emissions – but this data relates to what is happening on the County level, and it is difficult to know what the picture is specifically in the Town of Dryden.

Emissions figures were provided for the commercial/industrial sectors – typically data is not provided separately. Data is provided by local utilities through the “Utility Energy Registry¹” and combines information from both the commercial and industrial sectors. This information makes up all non-residential properties and would include school district and other educational institutions located within the Town. The data indicates an increase in natural gas usage between 2013 and 2018, this could be attributed to new facilities coming online at TC3 including new dormitory and athletic facilities, there has also been expansion at the George Junior facility within the Town.

Transportation data was provided by the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council and is based on counts that they conducted. Counts include all trips on road segments and so account for through-traffic which is typical. While VMT increased slightly between 2013 and 2018, overall emissions declined which is attributed to overall increases in

¹ <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Community-Energy-Use-Data>

fleet efficiency. The committee asked a question about the # of electric vehicles in operation in Dryden and whether that is having an effect on emissions; as well as whether electric vehicles are included in the calculations for overall fleet efficiencies. CNY RPDB will check on this.

Emissions associated with wastewater have been calculated based on the utilization of septic systems within the Town. Municipal sewage treatment happens within the City of Ithaca and therefore emissions associated with the municipal wastewater treatment system are not counted within the Dryden scope. Ray Burger offered that the Town of Dryden contributes approximately 2% of the emissions associated with the Ithaca wastewater treatment system.

CNY RPDB has coordinated with Terry Carroll at Cornell Cooperative Extension and Robert Howarth, PhD. at Cornell University to calculate methane leakage associated with natural gas utilization. Based on conversations with CCE and Cornell, CNY RPDB chose to utilize a 2% leakage rate which considers the variation in projected leakage rates from the scientific community between 1.4% and 3.6%.

The committee asked for clarification about what is included and not included in the scope of municipal emissions, specifically with wastewater treatment emissions. Ms. Mazzoni explained that this is how inventories are typically conducted so as to avoid the “double counting” of emissions.

The presentation will be uploaded to the SharePoint folder for the committee to review. It will also be incorporated into the Dryden2045.org website.

ACTION ITEM(s):

CNY RPDB to check on whether electric vehicles are included in the overall calculations for fleet efficiency. EDR to upload presentation to SharePoint and to the Dryden2045.org website.

Summary of Approach to Moving Forward

John Keifer explained that the Covid-19 health crisis has caused the committee to reconsider the approach to public engagement in the short-term. In response EDR will be working to develop the community survey component for distribution to the Town. The Town will review the costs associated with distributing the survey to households. Public meetings will be postponed until further notice until it is deemed safe to resume such meetings. The EDR Team will continue to progress the Inventory and Analysis section of the report in the interim.

ACTION ITEM(s):

EDR to prepare survey instrument for consideration of the Committee. Town staff to research costs for distributing the survey.

Summary of Previous Plans (Handout from 3/11 meeting)

John Kiefer asked the committee to provide feedback for the previous plan summaries that were distributed by EDR for review.

Joe Wilson stated that the previous plan summaries all seem to point in a similar direction that supports nodal development and affordable housing, multi-modal transportation options, and preserving open space and agricultural lands and that is a good thing in support of this current effort.

John Kiefer asked that the plan summaries clearly identify the plan sponsor as well as whether the plan has been formally adopted. John also indicated that the EDR team is working on an additional summary of the 2005 plan that will provide a matrix of goals, objectives, and recommendations that can help to guide the update effort.

Sam Gordon noted that EDR has added a summary of the Tompkins County Housing Strategy 2017 and Joe Wilson mentioned that the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap may also be useful.

ACTION ITEM(s):

EDR to add program sponsor and adoption information to each plan summary.

Draft Outline for the Comprehensive Plan Update

John Kiefer asked the committee to provide any feedback on the DRAFT Plan outline that had been distributed. Sam Gordon provided an overview of the Outline.

Revised Public Outreach Plan

EDR has been working on developing a revised outreach approach based on the Covid-19 crisis. This will include the development of a community survey that will be distributed in the short-term to the Town. The survey will be distributed by mail and can allow for respondents to either respond in hard copy or online. EDR is also working to develop an approach to the public meeting format(s) once these are an option again. Consideration is being given to offering two identical meetings in different parts of the town in response to previous feedback.

There was also discussion about how to continue to reach out to the public in the current situation. It was discussed that the “public speaker series” committee might convene to discuss potential outlets for community outreach including NextDoor, Facebook, Zoom, etc. The committee for example could offer an online presentation of the public speaker series that the community could participate in; or provide a “taped” presentation that could be downloaded through the website. At this point an important objective is to continue to spread the word that the comprehensive plan update process is ongoing.

ACTION ITEM(s):

EDR to develop community survey instrument. Public Speaker Series committee convene to develop an interim approach to public outreach (EDR to assist as necessary).

Next Steps

EDR will be distributing the 2005 Plan matrix for review and input. EDR is working on finalizing a DRAFT of the “Plan Introduction” section which will be distributed to the committee for review.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting date will be May 13, 2020.

Copies To: Town of Dryden Planning Board

These meeting minutes have been prepared by Sam Gordon of EDR. If there are any discrepancies, please notify our office within three business days of receipt.