


# Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency

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## MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Organic Nature, LLC

July 9, 2018 at 4:30 PM

City Hall of Ithaca, 108 E. Green Street, Ithaca NY

Present: Heather McDaniel, Martha Robertson, Mike Sigler, John Guttridge (Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency), Lincoln Morse, Jason Crane, Brandon Kane, Eric Amos, Theresa Alt

1. Heather McDaniel called the public hearing to order at 4:32 PM
2. Heather McDaniel gave an overview of the process, the project and the financial incentives being contemplated.

This project does deviate from the City's CIITAP Policy, as it is located outside the designated boundaries for the CIITAP policy. Effected taxing jurisdictions have been notified of this deviation. As this is a retail operation, State regulations require a retail determination. The project must be in a distressed area. One way to meet that is being in a State designated Empire Zone. The project is located in the Tompkins County Empire Zone. The project must also create or retain jobs. The County Administrator must also certify that the determination was made prior to delivering incentives.

Brandon Kane, general manager of GreenStar, gave an overview of the expansion project and the need for this expansion to make the organization financially secure.

3. Speakers were called from the speaker's list.

Theresa Alt – 206 Eddy Street, Ithaca NY – GreenStar has long said they are a living wage employer. The Workers Center has questioned this statement. GreenStar is in discussions to recertify as a living wage employer. The living wage with health insurance provided is \$12.98 and hour and increases to \$15 without. GreenStar's full time employees are provided health care and do meet this wage. However, the part time employees are not earning the \$15 and hour. My question is will GreenStar increase the part time wages to meet the living wage amounts?

Brandon Kane replied addressing Ms. Alt's question. He indicated that the living wage certification process is based on full time employees. He explained that it would be inequitable to pay a part time employee more per hour than a full time employee for the same job.

Institutions are certified based on full-time positions.

4. The hearing was adjourned at 4:48 PM.