

AG/PLANNING/TOURISM/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 23, 2018

AG/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Skellie, Fedler, Shay, Campbell, Hicks, Moore, Rozell  
AG/PLANNING/TOURISM/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
SUPERVISORS: Henke, LaPointe, Shaw, O'Brien  
Sandy Huffer, Deputy Clerk  
Laura Oswald, Dir. Economic Dev.

Roger Wickes, County Attorney  
Al Nolette, Treasurer

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – December 18, 2017
3. HVADC Annual Activities Report - Todd Erling
4. Soil & Water Conservation District
5. Snowmobile Program Update – D. Perkins
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

Chairman Skellie called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2017 meeting, was moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and adopted.

Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director addressed the following with the committee:

- HVADC Annual Activities Report – Todd Erling – Laura reported that Mr. Erling was unable to be present today but will make a presentation at next month's meeting. Laura distributed a Farm and Food Business Accelerator program report by HVADC (on file).
- Broadband – No update. She has left several messages and calls haven't been returned. Been hearing that announcements are coming soon. She added that it appears that Spectrum is on track with what they committed to do after negotiation.
- Has hired a Planner and some of the duties she will be assigning the Planner are the trails projects and the Ag Plan.
- TOURISM – Contract has been approved by the Board. She has an appointment to review our proposal with I Love NY officials to make sure that our proposal is commensurate with what they will allow before expending any of these funds.
- I Love NY Matching Grant Funds – We got the final commitment letter and the award amount is \$61,409. The County has to accept the funds and move the funds from contingency into the Tourism budget. A motion to accept I Love NY matching funds and forward to the Finance Committee for a budget amendment, was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and adopted.
- Office of Community Renewal Grant – We were awarded \$48,500 for a low-income housing study. We have a \$2,500 commitment. She needs authorization for the Chairman to sign. A motion to accept the funds, authorize the Chairman to sign any documents necessary and forward to the Finance Committee for a budget amendment, moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Campbell and adopted.
- Trails CFA – We were awarded \$430,000 through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to work on the portion of the Champlain trail north of Fort Ann going to Whitehall. However, the original application included funding from both trails and the canals. The budget will change because the canal portion was not funded. She hasn't connected with the Department of State to find out what their requirement is going to be. She feels it would be better to wait until she has more definitive information before moving forward. A motion to forward a budget amendment to the Finance Committee, if Laura is able to get the information needed, was moved by Campbell, seconded by Mr. Hicks and adopted.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – Corrina Aldrich, District Manager addressed the following with the committee:

- Busy doing year-end reporting to the State of New York for funds received. They are co-located with USDA Service Center and the USDA office was closed due to the government shutdown. The Soil & Water office was open.
- Were successful in their application for water quality funds from the State. They got four waste storage systems funded for farms in Washington County. We were the second highest county funded. Farms affected are Battenkill Dairy of Jackson, Fullerton Farms of Argyle, Marnes Farm of Kingsbury and Kenyon Hill Farm in Jackson. In the process of doing plans of work which are due February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- RFP for Round 24 of Ag nonpoint source funds will come out at the end of the month. Have a list of four or five farms they are talking with.
- The Champlain Waterfront Improvement Coalition was successful in getting CFA funding for roadside erosion projects. Will be working with DPW on a proposal to purchase a new hydro seeder. The new seeder would have to stay in the northern part of the county during the grant period of three years. A new seeder would allow the current seeder to be placed in the southern part of the county.
- Part C Funds from the State for project implementation - Plans to spend a portion of these funds buying hydro seeding materials for the towns. The Town of Putnam Highway Superintendent has offered space to store some of these items for the north. Need to find somewhere to store items for the southern part of the County. Next funding cycle begins May 1<sup>st</sup> with applications due August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The two watershed improvement groups they are involved with have project sheets that they would like any and all projects identified. Looking for septic, water quality projects from towns and villages to put on the project list and eventually be put into a plan. Projects need to be in a plan in order to get funding.
- The tree program will be scaled back this year. Will still have blueberry and raspberry bushes but probably just soft wood trees. Pick up day will be Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE - Dave Perkins, Snowmobile Trail Coordinator addressed the following with the committee:

- The snowmobile program has come far since its inception in the 1980's. It's almost entirely a self-sustaining program. Thanked Sue Claymon of County Administration and Heather Weller of the Real Property office for their help in keeping the program on track.
- The snowmobile program is annual and has three phases. Phase I has a deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup> where clubs have to notify of any trail changes from the previous year. Phase I is almost always needed. Phase II is where we demonstrate we have all the landowner and municipality permissions, deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Phase III is where we keep track of all the work we do during the year. The snowmobile program year begins April 1<sup>st</sup>. The program is administered by NYS Parks & Recreation. The County Association meets monthly and is working on a tourism plan.
- Last Saturday, the Take a Friend Snowmobiling Event was held at Hudson Crossing Park. There were about 150 people who actually tried snowmobiling, which is more than twice as much as last year, very successful event. Laura has been thinking about putting together a tourism stakeholders committee so that as Black Dog and Mannix are getting to know activities, businesses and places in Washington County, they will have stakeholders to reach out to.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- February 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Cossayuna Lake Fishing Tournament.
- Winterfest will be also held at Lauderdale Park on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Huffer, Deputy Clerk  
Washington County Board of Supervisors*