

AGRICULTURE , PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2009

AG/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Campbell, Brown, Scribner, Lindsay, Hurley

AG/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Rymph, N. Hall

SUPERVISORS: Wilbur, LaPointe, Henke, Trinkle, G. Hall

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Marge Mohn, Tourism Director

Chris DeBolt, Planner

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2009 Meeting
- 3) Department Reports/Requests
 - A. Agriculture
 - a. Presentation – NYS Ag & Markets – Ag Districts
 - B. Planning
 - a. Historic Preservation Appointments
 - b. 2010 Census
 - c. Monthly Planning Board Report
 - d. Final Stimulus Submission
 - e. IAP Grant
 - f. Broadband Status Report
 - g. GML 239 Exemption Agreements
 - C. Tourism
 - a. Monthly Report
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting, was moved by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Scribner and adopted.

TOURISM – Marge Mohn, I Love NY Program Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

Monthly Updates – handout attached.

- The quadricentennial funds have not been received to date.
- Tour of the Battenkill Bike Race - She plans to survey businesses to see what impact the race had on their business. Several Supervisors and Marge commented that the Tour of the Battenkill actually deterred business and a different route through the village is needed. It was also mentioned that the volunteers have never been recognized for their efforts. A motion to present a resolution recognizing the organizers, participants and volunteers at the Tour of the Battenkill bike race was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Messrs. Lindsay and Scribner and adopted. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, distributed the proposed resolution recognizing

Battenkill bike race personnel and Mr. Hurley offered a revision to the final resolve as follows: “Resolved that the Board of Supervisors calls upon race organizers, merchants, representatives of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and others to come together to review the experience of this year’s Tour of the Battenkill to ensure that in coming years it is sustained and enhanced as a premier cycling event in the United States of America.” The committee concurred with the above-mentioned revision.

- Marketing Program - They would be over budget if all the requests for funding were approved. They receive \$25,000 in funding and requests total \$32,263.50. She will try to switch some of these requests over to I Love NY funding. Marge suggested flowing the Washington County funds through the local chambers.

AGRICULTURE – Ag District Presentation by NYS Ag & Markets Representatives Ron Mead and Bob Somers:

- NYS Agriculture and Markets, presented a power point on Ag Districts, on file. Parcels cannot be deleted during the 30-day annual review period only deleted during the eight-year review. Cornell is accepting digital data for mapping. Fifty-three of the sixty-two counties participate in ag districts. A handout was distributed on the eight-year review process for Agricultural Districts, on file. Also a pamphlet entitled: New York’s Agricultural Districts, distributed on file. Agricultural District benefits and influences listed as follows: agricultural assessment, policy of local governments, right to farm, policy of state agencies, limitation on the exercise of eminent domain and other public acquisitions, agricultural data statement and not charged benefit fee for sewer and water districts on a parcel of land used for agricultural purposes
- Milk Pricing Issue – The committee asked Brian Gilchrist about a presentation to the full board on the milk issue. He suggested possibly Farm Bureau. Mr. Somers suggested contacting John Tausel at Farm Bureau.

PLANNING: Chris DeBolt, Planner, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Historic Preservation Appointments – Announced two appointments to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board: Jean Winston Adler of Salem and Dale Prouty of Kingsbury, The committee has eight active members out of a full compliment of twenty-one members.
- 2010 Census - Chris distributed a handout entitled: Its’ In Our Hands, 2010 Census Partnership Agreement Form, on file. They are requesting the County Planning Department to house census forms and to put up posters. Chris is willing to comply with this request and will sign and return the form.
- Monthly Planning Board Report – A handout was distributed listing the six projects considered regarding granting two area variances for parking, (2) site plan approval, special use permit and (2) local land use law, on file.

- Final Stimulus Submission/IAP Grant – The attached two handouts list general infrastructure and water and sewer projects submitted for stimulus funding. He will be meeting with DOT, Willy Grimmke, Superintendent of Public Works and Northeast Rail next week to discuss stimulus funding for the bridge over Rt. 372.
- Broadband Status Report – The committee viewed a map provided by the State delineating areas that are covered by broadband services. The inaccuracies in the coverage were discussed. Regarding these broadband companies that want to do a needs/feasibility study, we need to know what these broadband companies are planning to do and possibly have Dave Putman, Giant Solutions consultant on our microwave radio project, then review it. Mr. Hurley suggested an independent analysis. Kevin suggested having the towns provide us with information on their cable franchise, where the lines are. Chris will try to get the town cable franchise maps. Schoharie County has the New Visions technology (presented at the last meeting) and it was recommended checking with them or going there. Chris reported that the Schoharie County Planning Director is pleased with the New Vision system. New Visions are only up and running in the Syracuse area.
- GML 239 Exemption Agreements – Chris asked the committee to review the proposed exemption agreement, matters of local concern from the County Planning Board, on file. The agreements with all the local boards expires June 30, 2009. He stated the only change is to item 11 expanded from Home occupations to “ Home occupations that do not require significant alteration to the building, expansion of water or wastewater facilities, or increased parking. “A motion to approve exemption of matters of local concern from County Planning review agreement moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Lindsay and adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Campbell plans to address the tourism committee on May 12th advising them that the County would like to bring tourism back in under economic development. He would also like to bring the local chambers of commerce together as a unit. Kevin spoke on why tourism was taken out of the county. One reason he felt was not having the government telling how tourism should be done/run. He feels outside involvement is needed, like the chambers.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 PM.