

AG., PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2009

AG/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Campbell, Rymph, Brown, Scribner,
Lindsay, N. Hall, Hurley

AG/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

SUPERVISORS: Wilbur, LaPointe, G. Hall

Sandy Huffer, Deputy Clerk

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Chris DeBolt, Planner

Marge Mohn, Tourism Director

Mac Sanders, Economic Dev. Spec.

Brian Gilchrist, Cooperative Extension

Teri Ptacek, ASA

Tori Reilly, LDC Director

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes - December 3, 2008 Meeting
- 3) Department Reports/Requests
 1. Planning
 - 1) Washington County Advisory Council on Historic Preservation - Ruth Inhe
 - 2) Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group Public Meetings
 - 3) Infrastructure Project Submission
 - 4) County Planning Board Monthly Report
 2. Community Development
 - 1) Introduction of new LDC Executive Director
 - 2) Washington County Alternative Energy Working Group Update
 3. Tourism - Monthly Update
- 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 December 3, 2008 meeting, was moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Mr. Hurley and adopted.

PLANNING:

- T Washington County Advisory Council on Historic Preservation - Ruth Inhe & Karen Cosey - Ruth is here to enlist assistance to identify new members on the Council. The Council membership has dwindled. The Council acts as consultants for local contractors doing rehab projects, organizes the Cronkite Lectures, compiles and publishes a craftsman directory and the historic preservation awards. If they cannot find more members, they will not be able to do all the things they have been doing. There are no members from the Towns of Putnam, Dresden, Whitehall, Fort Ann, Granville, Hartford, Kingsbury, Jackson, White Creek, Cambridge and Easton. A contact list was distributed for additional membership suggestions (attached).

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- T Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group Public Meetings - The goal of this group is to get a continuous trail from Whitehall to Waterford along the canal bed. This group had been meeting for about a year. There are two public outreach efforts planned. They are hoping for landowner feedback. The Washington County Snowmobile club is involved in this group. This project is being done piecemeal.
- T Infrastructure Project Submission - Distributed ranked list. Chris has full packet of information if anyone would like a copy. Chris gave a brief description of each project.
- T County Planning Board Monthly Report - The annual ag district inclusions were approved. A project to move a storage shed business from the Town of Argyle to the intersection of SR 197 and CR 42 in Town of Fort Edward, the Planning Board approved the use, they haven't seen the site plan yet. The approval to reaffirm CAD 8 was tabled because the Planning Board thought they could amend the report and Chris wasn't sure so he suggested it be tabled. Chris is going to meet with Debbie, Brian and Erika to go over the Ag District process. The Planning Board will reconsider this next month.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- T Introduction of New LDC Executive Director - Chris introduced Tori Reilly, LDC Executive Director. She started part time in November and became full time January 1, 2009. Tori stated that the MAPP class for Spring 2009 is almost filled.
- T Washington County Alternative Energy Working Group Update - Mac distributed a copy of the agenda for the Energy in Agriculture conference to be held February 19, 2009 at the Fort Edward Firehouse. Chris Callahan did a biodiesel feasibility report that Mac has in an electronic form if anyone would like the report emailed to them.

TOURISM:

- T Marge Mohn, Tourism Director distributed the monthly report (attached). The check for the 2008 I Love NY program in the amount of \$66,156 has not been received yet. Marge will follow up on this. The 2009 I LOVE NY Program is on hold due to the state budget situation. Marge also distributed "They Came by Sail - Schedule A - Program Narrative", the WCTA Board of Directors Staff contact list and revised application for the matching marketing program (on file). There are some changes for the matching marketing program. There is a \$2,000 maximum and new applicants must agree to pay a two year membership to the WCTA. Mr. Hurley stated that Washington County needs a plan for Tourism. Marge stated that there isn't any money to hire a professional contractor to do that.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- T Teri Ptacek, ASA updated the committee on farmland protection projects. The Moses project will be ready to close this week. Kevin asked Teri to get all the information together prior to the Finance Committee so a budget amendment can be prepared. They haven't heard anything on the applications submitted last fall. They have been told by the state to expect a 33% cut in funding in 2009 and a cut of 42% in 2010. Teri asked the Board to pass a resolution in support of the farmland protection program. A motion to present a resolution in support of the state's farmland protection program, moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Supervisors Hurley, Lindsay and adopted.
- T Mrs. Trinkle got a call from Dieter Drake, Promoter and Director of the Tour of the Battenkill bike race which will be held 4/18-4/19 in Cambridge. Mr. Drake would like to make a presentation at the February Board meeting. He has asked for a resolution in support of race. A motion to present a resolution in support of the Tour of the Battenkill bike race, moved by Mrs. N. Hall, seconded by Mr. Rymph and adopted. Mrs. Trinkle stated that proceeds from the entry fees are divided among local libraries.
- T Brian Gilchrist - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program - Washington County has twenty trained volunteers. If any Supervisor would like flyers to post in their town, contact Brian. If you have any questions on the Energy in Agriculture conference to be held February 19th you should contact Aaron Gabriel of CE. The Cooperative Extension Board of Directors met to discuss their budget shortfall and decided to cut back nutrition staff from 37.5 hours to 35, scaled back a full time 4-H position from full time to part time, cut back the commitment from 46% to 25% on the ag economic development position, eliminated one full time support staff position and eliminated one full time nutrition education position. The CCE Board has asked that the staff find \$100,000 in new money this year. There were no salary increases.
- T Roger Wickes - Bed Tax - He has heard from Senator Little's office and they received our request for bed tax legislation. Roger has written the state legislation and sent it to them and they will send to bill drafting. We will have to do a home rule resolution once a bill is numbered. He hopes that we will be able to pass a local law mid to late spring. It is estimated to generate \$30,000 a year in revenue. No revenue was budgeted for this in 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 PM.

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