

Agriculture, Planning, Tourism & Community Development
Committee Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2008 – Page 2

- Policy Forum on the Economic Prospects of the Northern Forest – Chris attended a meeting on this topic sponsored by the Rockefeller Institute. Interesting discussion on what needs to happen to spur economic development in the Adirondack region.
- Staff Evaluation – deferred to the end of the meeting.
- County Planning Board Monthly Report – Two projects this month, one was Kingsbury's new junkyard law that received favorable review.
- 2008 Budget Projections – handout on file. Expected budget surplus of approximately \$30,000.00.
- Cell Phone Report – No cell phones.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Mac Sanders, Economic Development Specialist, addressed the following item with the committee:

- Washington County Alternative Energy Market Strategy Development – steering Committee Update – An Alternative Energy working group meeting was held on October 29, 2008 that produced a consolidated list of notes and corresponding priorities and action. There are six areas of alternative energy that they are going to be looking at: oil seed crops, grass, wood/wood chips/biomass, geothermal, wind and solar. Oil seed is the area that has the closest near term potential. The vision is to produce action plans for each of the six areas and focus on the application of these areas to Washington County. Hopefully by mid-year have all plans completed. He will report monthly on the progress of this committee. He would then like to publish this information on the County's and LDC web sites. Lengthy discussion ensued on crops (soy) and the Hampton Alternative Energy Park.

TOURISM – Marge Mohn, Tourism Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Monthly Report – Monthly report attached. Marge reported that they are still waiting for their state funding which has been reduced. She displayed a draft of the Washington County map that is on hold due to the funding. She stated a letter was sent to each Supervisor asking their suggestions on how to spend the Quadricentennial funds.
- 2008 Budget Projections – \$734 remaining in postage.
- Cell Phone Report – No cell phone.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Infrastructure Projects/Stimulus Package – Chris DeBolt stated he was copied on an email from the Federal Highway Administration asking the MPO's for transportation projects that are ready to go for the economic stimulus package.

He then contacted Congressman Gilibrand office asking if there would be monies for other types of infrastructure projects besides transportation related included in this economic stimulus package. He recommends establishing a list of the top three projects from each Supervisor followed by a Board resolution endorsing these projects as our stimulus package with ballpark costs and constituent served. It should also include any information on possible energy savings or green savings and job creation. These projects should be compiled as soon as possible as economic stimulus funding could be released within 120-days of February 1st. He would like this list to Congresswoman Gillibrand by the first week of January. A Public Works Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday December 17th at 1:30 P.M. to formulate this list of projects.

Adirondack Stewardship Association – Teri Ptacek, ASA, addressed the following with the committee:

- Agricultural Stewardship Association – Autumn/Winter 08 newsletter distributed, on file.
- Tiashoke, Easton property has closes and the Moses project is next. They did apply for two more projects, one through Kingsbury and one Washington County. She also advised the committee of a proposed 33% funding cut per the Governor's proposal. Teri thanked the County Administrator, County Attorney and County Treasurer for this successful closure. A resolution will be needed in January 2009 for the next project.

Bed Tax – Roger Wickes, County Attorney, stated he has received the information to move forward with a home rule request regarding the bed tax. A motion to present a resolution requesting legislation from the State of New York for authority for the County of Washington to impose an occupancy tax was moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Mr. Campbell and adopted.

Ag District Review – The Clerk stated that information was received from Brian Gilchrist, Director of Cooperative Extension, that the review of Consolidated Agricultural District No. 8 has been completed and a list of parcels requesting inclusion in the annual review period. A motion to set a public hearings on CAD #8 and parcels requesting annual inclusion in ag districts was moved by Mr. Scribner, Mr. Alexander and adopted.

STAFF EVALUATION - A motion to enter executive session to conduct staff evaluation, Chris DeBolt, Planner, was moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Mr. Alexander and adopted.

The meeting adjourned from executive session. No action was taken during the executive session.