

held on Friday, September 12th at Pole Valley Golf Club in Hartford. The monthly handout also details the 2008 I Love NY Program budget and Washington County Marketing Program application amounts.

- Bed Tax Update – Kate Ziehm addressed the committee. She stated that a committee was formed to discuss the proposed bed tax comprised of members from the area accommodations industry and members from the Washington County Tourism Association. She feels the Warren County bed tax law fits what they are trying to do here in Washington County. The proposed bed tax under consideration would not replace the budgeted commitment of funds from the County but these additional bed tax funds would represent additional funding. They propose a bed tax rate of 4%. Occupancy tax limited to stays up to sixty-days. They wanted to keep the law simple so if you make accommodations to stay overnight and are paying to do so, campground, motel, etc. then you would be expected to pay a bed tax. Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, stated the State reported \$980,000.00 in accommodations for 05/06 which a 4% bed tax would generate approximately \$39,000.00. For calculation of administrative costs, they are using 10% as a figure. There are approximately 275 to 300 beds in the County not including campgrounds and RV Parks. The bed tax committee representatives at the meeting stated there is not considerable objection to this proposed tax. These committee members would like to remain on a committee responsible for the disbursement of these funds. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, explained the funds generated from the bed tax are County dollars and the County would decide how these funds will be disbursed and could set up a committee for recommendations on its use. Chairman Brown suggested taking the time to look at different possible bed tax amounts up to 8% like bordering Saratoga County. A listing of ideas of what they (bed tax committee) would do with the monies would be beneficial. Discussion ensued on the administrative costs suggesting possibly contacting other counties on their costs to administer. Kevin stated this law will take time to get enacted and concurrently the bed tax committee will work on their plans on what they plan to do with the funds. A motion to endorse the bed tax concept was moved by Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Lindsay and adopted. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, stated the County has some decisions to make regarding the law, i.e. 30 or 60-day occupancy duration, the rate and the definition, stipulation to include campgrounds which is rare. The Ag and Planning Committee would make a recommendation to the full Board to consider and then a request to our legislators to have the bill introduced, then endorse the bill once introduced and numbered and then our local law process, introduction of local law, set public hearing and adoption. This entire process could take until 2010 for completion. People that rent their camps out would also be subject to the bed tax. The bed tax committee will report back to this committee next month.

PLANNING

Presentation – Access Management Plan – Adirondack Glens Falls Transportation Council Presentation – Aaron Frankenfeld, Director, presented a power point

presentation on the Access Management Plan. Access management is systematic control of location, spacing, design and operation of roadway elements such as medians, driveways, street connections and interchanges. His goal is to have the county and towns adopt this plan, regional access management guide. Chairman Brown suggested making a presentation to the County Planning Board for their recommendation/approval and also to the town boards.

- Discussion – Reappointment – Tourism Promotion Agency, Program Director & Support I LOVE NY Promotion Program – A motion to reappoint Marge Mohn, TPA for the I Love NY Program, reappoint the Washington County Tourism Association, Inc. as the Tourism Promotion Agency for the I Love NY Program and support I Love NY Promotion Program as per the resolution was moved by Mr. Scribner and seconded by Mr. Campbell. Discussion. Mr. Alexander would like to see if anyone else in the County is interested in the position. The Washington County Tourism Association supports Marge's reappointment. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, explained the three components of the resolution. The I Love NY Program needs someone designated as the program director. Ms. Judy Johnson, WC Tourism Association Board member stressed the accomplishments of Marge Mohn and the need for support staff. She stated Marge is the driving force in the WC Tourism Association. She was not aware of the problems with the financial reporting, deficiencies, but knew that Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, was supposed to provide Marge some assistance in that area but has only met with her once. Communication between the WC Tourism Association and the County has been lacking and needs to improve. Chairman Trinkle volunteered to attend the next Washington County Tourism meeting, Tuesday July 8th. The motion to reappoint Marge Mohn, TPA for the I Love NY Program, reappoint the Washington County Tourism Association, Inc. as the Tourism Promotion Agency for the I Love NY Program and support I Love NY Promotion Program as per the resolution was moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Mr. Campbell and adopted. Messrs. Brown and Alexander opposed. (Resolution July Board Mtg.)

Mark Galough, Director of Planning, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Planning Board Vacancy – Recommendation to Fill – Joseph Hoell, Town of Putnam – A motion to table this request was moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Mr. Lindsay and adopted.
- Discuss Subdivision Workshop Results – Chris DeBolt, Planner, reported on the Thursday June 12th subdivision workshop that was very well attended, 50 people.
- County Planning Board Monthly Report – The County Planning Board considered two projects of local concern, one project was zoning amendments for the Village of Hudson Falls which all five were disapproved.

ASA – Farmland Protection Program. – Mentioned the upcoming Tour De Farm, bike tour, scheduled for July 13, 2008. Discussion ensued on the finality of PDR easements, nearly impossible to revoke easement.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Mark Galough, Planning Director, addressed the following items:

- Battenkill Railroad Infrastructure Grant – For the committee's information, the County has been offered \$1M from the Dormitory Authority to finalize the rehab of the Battenkill Railroad from Cambridge to East Greenwich which includes the rail to the Cargill and Carovail facilities. No local match. This is an existing ongoing project.
- De-watering Facility Access Road Update – The EPA has taken title of the access road from the Canal Corp. It will get turned back to the State of New York when the project is complete. There is talk of making it a bikeway but Mark would like it to remain a road as it goes to an industrial park and will need support for it to remain a road in the future.
- Regional Water and Sewer Initiative – Kingsbury, Fort Edward, surrounding Glens Falls area, Moreau are all working on a regional water and sewer initiative.

COMMITTEE AREAS OF DISCUSSION - Occupancy tax and tourism staff discussed as above-mentioned.

OTHER BUSINESS – Mark announced he has accepted a position with the Glens Falls National Bank beginning in mid–August . He will be submitting his letter of resignation. The committee congratulated Mark on his new job.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17P.M.