

AGRICULTURE, PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2008

AGRICULTURE, PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEMBERS

PRESENT: Brown, Lindsay, Scribner, Clark, Alexander, Campbell

AGRICULTURE, PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEMBERS

ABSENT: N. Hall

SUPERVISORS: Trinkle, Wilbur

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Mark Galough, Planning Director

Chris DeBolt, Planner

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes – April 23, 2008
- 3) Department Reports/Requests
  - A) Planning
    - a. Draft Access Management Plan – Adirondack Glens Falls Transportation Council Presentation
    - b. Canalway Trail Update
    - c. Affordable Housing Needs Initiative
    - d. County Planning Board Monthly Update
  - B) Community Development
    - a. Economic Development Strategy Update
  - C) Tourism
    - a. Monthly Update
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

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

The minutes of the April 23, 2008 meeting were approved.

PLANNING

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

- Draft Access Management Plan – Adirondack Glens Falls Transportation Council Presentation – Aaron Frankenfeld, Director, distributed a handout of slides regarding A/GFTC Regional Access Management Study, on file. The handout explains that Access Management is systematic control of location, spacing, design and operation (medians, driveways, street connections and interchanges). Chairman Brown asked Mr. Frankenfeld to make the power point presentation to the committee at next month's meeting.
- Canalway Trail Update – Bond Act monies, \$5.2M, was allocated for a bike trail system from Fort Edward to Fort Ann along the canal. This trail was to run from Rt. 196 by the "Tank" to Fort Ann. Local officials met with the Canal Corp about eighteen months ago regarding connecting this proposed trail to the Feeder Canal trail. They have changed their focus and are now going to connect the trails, which will allow someone to bike from Fort Ann to Hudson Falls and on to

Glens Falls and Lake George without being on a road. The big picture plan is that eventually this trail system will allow someone to go from Whitehall to Waterford and on to Buffalo. The project is moving forward with construction to commence in June of 09. This trail will require numerous bridges. The Canal Corp is the lead agency with no local match.

- Affordable Housing Needs Initiative – DACR, a State Agency that deals with housing issues, and HomeFront Development are both undertaking affordable housing surveys. From a planning and economic development perspective, it is very important that we have sufficient affordable housing. Affordable housing is needed not only for seniors but also for migrant workers and for people with low incomes. Affordable housing is a huge issue. These agencies in their surveys are assessing those needs and determining what can be done about it. The Planning Department will be assisting them and will report back when data is available.
- County Planning Board Monthly Report – Chris DeBolt, Planner, explained the attached handout.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Workshop on Subdivisions – A workshop to provide details on subdivisions is scheduled for Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. in the downstairs training room. The County Clerk, Real Property Tax Services, County Attorney's office, State Dept. of Health and Planning Department will all participate in the discussions on the subdivision process. This workshop is for town planning board members as well as local assessors and real estate agents.
- Economic Development Strategy Update – The plan was adopted last year with the recommendation that it be reviewed yearly at the committee level. The Strategic Action Summary was distributed attached and Mark detailed some of the items his office has been undertaking as follows:
  - Industrial Sector Development – Royal Wood Shavings Company – a wood shavings company in the Industrial Park about to start up. They will employ fifteen to twenty employees and use area timber.
  - Agricultural and Forestry Development – The LDC financed two cheese making operations.
  - Small Business Development – The spring session of the Micro Enterprise Assistance Program just finish with 25 businesses. This program started in 1995. Applications are already coming in for the fall session.
  - Downtown Revitalization – The Adirondack Chamber of Commerce recently held a meeting on this topic and Chris DeBolt, Planner, attended.
  - Workforce and Labor Force Training – Mark is in the process of setting up a tour of the Airport Industrial Park for members of the Hudson Falls School Board so they can learn more about what business are there and their workforce needs.
  - Tourism Development – Promote “Golden Goal” soccer facility project. He feels this will be very beneficial to the area.

- Infrastructure and Energy Services – A water/sewer summit was recently held regarding municipal needs of the Towns of Kingsbury, Fort Ann, and Fort Edward, and the Villages of Hudson Falls and Fort Edward.
- Promotion and Collaboration – The County and LDC participated with the Regional Chamber of Commerce on developing a promotional DVD (Warren, Washington and part of Saratoga Counties). It was suggested possibly having a presentation of this video.

### TOURISM

- Monthly Update – Marge Mohn, Tourism Director, presented her monthly report, attached. She distributed copies of the Washington County information and touring guide, on file. Supervisors who would like copies for distribution in their town should contact the Planning Department, 15,000 copies were printed for distribution. The Tourism Association is continuing to work on plans for the use of the proposed bed tax. Applications are have really taken off this year for the County matching funds.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 P.M.