

AG., PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2008

AG/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Brown, Lindsay, Scribner, Clark,
Alexander, N. Hall, Campbell

AG/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

Sandy Huffer, Deputy Clerk

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Mark Galough, Planning Director

Marge Mohn, Tourism Director

Teri Ptacek, Maria Trabka, ASA

Erika Sellar, Asst. County Attorney

Brian Gilchrist, Cooperative Extension

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes - December 5, 2007 Meeting
- 3) Department Reports/Requests
 - A. Agriculture - Announcement: Growing New York farms in the 21st Century Conference
 - B. Planning
 - 1) Staffing Update - Introduction of Planner, Christopher DeBolt
 - 2) 2007 Department Annual Report
 - 3) County Planning Board
 - A. Staff Recommendation to fill Board Vacancy
 - B. By-Laws Revision
 - C. Overview of 2007 Training Requirement
 - C. Tourism - Monthly Update
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 1:20 P.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting was moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Mr. Clark and adopted.

Agriculture:

Brian Gilchrist, Executive Director of Cooperative Extension addressed the following items:

- ✓ Announcement: - Growing New York Farms in the 21st Century Conference - Brian feels that this conference would be good for Town Board members and Planning Board members to attend.
- ✓ Update on Cooperative Extension - Cooperative Extension has hired a Family Consumer Science Educator. This person is working with OFA on long term care insurance education, with Public Health on radon education and outreach, and working on the volunteer income tax assistance program. She will also be doing budget counseling. Brian would like to meet to discuss programming they are providing at the County jail. Many of the inmates signing up for these education programs are people who are not Washington County residents and Brian would like to re-look at this. He wants to be sure that the Board feels that county dollars are being well spent.

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He will touch base with Chairman Trinkle to set up a meeting. Aaron is working with Greenwich FFA and Cornell on a biofuel study. They are down a 4-H staff person. They will review the duties of this position before reappointing. Also the horticulture expert, Laura McDermott, left Washington County Extension and took a position with Cornell University but is still being housed at Washington County Extension. She was part time, 25 hours per week. Brian wants to review this position because there is a lot of need for this. The vegetable business has grown immensely. He is looking to make this a full time position.

- ✓ Follow up on VITA Presentation - The median income for Washington County residents in 2004 was \$39,000. The New York State median income was \$45,000. The percentage of population in Washington County in poverty is just under ten percent.
- ✓ Governor Spitzer has proposed a new position, Agriculture Czar, who would help with access to markets and work with the agriculture industry in upstate New York.
- ✓ Mr. Brown would like Brian to come up with a speaker to give a short presentation promoting agriculture at every Board of Supervisors meeting.

Teri Ptacek, Executive Director and Maria Trabka, Senior Project Manager of ASA addressed the following items with the committee:

- ✓ All three PDR applications submitted in September were funded. The total amount of state money awarded to Washington County is \$3,800,000 to protect 3,400 acres. A handout was distributed Washington County PDR program (on file). They are taking applications now for the next round. They will need the applications from the farmers by June 1. This allows time for the selection committee to review the applications to be submitted to the state in September. A clinic will be held at the Annex Building on February 12th from 1 - 3 PM for interested farmers to explain the process.
- ✓ Easement Donations - Easements have a value that is determined by an appraiser. That value can either be donated, sold or a partial compensation/partial donation. NYS reimburses individuals 25% of their local and school taxes on a donated easement.

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

- ✓ Staffing Update - Mark introduced the new Planner, Christopher DeBolt of the Town of Hartford. He started about two weeks ago. Chris grew up in Livingston County, a County that is very similar to Washington County.
- ✓ 2007 Annual Report - The 2007 Planning Department Annual Report is complete and was placed in the Supervisors mailboxes. If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact Mark.

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- ✓ County Planning Board - Ruth Bates resigned from the County Planning Board in December 2007. John Pederson of the Town of Jackson is interested in serving on the County Planning Board. A motion to approve the appointment of John Pederson of the Town of Jackson to the County Planning Board, was moved by Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Lindsay and adopted.
- ✓ By-Laws Revision - The By-Laws of the Washington County Planning Board need to be amended. This requires a full Board resolution. The number of voting members will be changed from 13 to 11. Also added to the By-Laws is wording regarding Planning Board members completion of required training. The County Planning Board will meet on the second Tuesday of the month instead of the second Monday. Also the County Planning Board can at their annual meeting determine the meeting schedule for the upcoming year. Another change is regarding "Changes in By-Law" and states that the County Planning Board may change or add to the By-Laws with seven of eleven members voting affirmative, rather than the current nine of eleven. Amending the By-Laws also requires approval by the full Board of Supervisors. A motion to approve the revisions to By-Laws of the Washington County Planning Board, was moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Supervisors Clark, Lindsay, Alexander and adopted.
- ✓ Overview of 2007 Training Requirement - The training requirement for County Planning Board members of at least four hours of training kicked in January 1, 2007. Mark stated that nine of our members have received over 100 hours of training, well above the minimum required. One member only completed 1.5 hours of training, George Medick of Hartford. Nancy Hall stated that Mr. Medick was on the Town Planning Board and recommends removing him. A motion to approve a resolution to remove George Medick from the County Planning Board, was moved by Mrs. N. Hall, seconded by Mr. Clark and adopted. Mark will bring a recommendation for a replacement to the next meeting.
- ✓ Census Update - Mark would like to know of any communities participating in the local update of census addresses.
- ✓ Hudson River Valley Greenway - Last July the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution requesting inclusion in the Hudson River Valley Greenway Program. He was just notified that legislation to include Washington County has been introduced.

Tourism:

- ✓ Marge Mohn , Tourism Director distributed the monthly report (attached). Marge also distributed the new membership brochure. The Washington County Tourism Association meets the third Tuesday of each month at 1 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.