

TUG HILL COMMISSION

Inquorate Meeting Notes

Deferiet Village Hall, 68 Riverside Drive, Deferiet, New York
June 19, 2017

Chairman Bogdanowicz informed guests there was not a quorum, therefore, no motions or approvals can be made. Agenda items can be discussed only. The meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdm. Cheresnoski and Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Maciejko, and Yerdon. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mr. Street, Mrs. Waterbury, Mrs. Decker, and RACOG Circuit Rider Kathy Amyot. Guests included town of champion supervisor Bruce Ferguson, town of Wilna supervisor Paul Smith, village of Deferiet mayor Janet Zando, CTHC chair Roger Tibbetts.

Attendance

No motion could be made to approve the agenda for June 19, 2017.

Agenda Not

No motion could be made to approve the minutes of May 15, 2017.

Approved

Minutes Not

Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz explained that without a quorum no business could be conducted, no motions or approvals would be done, but items could be discussed. He thanked the village of Deferiet for hosting and welcomed the village as the newest RACOG member. He congratulated Kathy Amyot, RACOG circuit rider on her upcoming retirement and gave recognition for her work with RACOG.

Welcome

The Venerable Folks exhibit is at the State Office Building in Watertown until Friday. Robbie Fredericks is our summer intern at the commission office.

Governor Cuomo was on the Tug Hill last month, to announce the closing on the Kendall Tract and Salmon River acquisitions. This was an exciting event. The Conservation Fund partnered on that effort. The video they commissioned on the project is a great tool that explains the Tug Hill and what the region is about. Commissioner Yerdon and Mrs. Malinowski were interviewed, representing the commission.

We are waiting on pending appointments for new commissioners from Oswego and Oneida county from the state assembly. Hoping to hear in the next month after the session closes out.

The next meeting will be August 21 for the annual staff retreat that will be at John Constable camp, tour the core forest, and Bob McNamara will be our trail guide on the Tug Hill Traverse.

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's
Report**

Kathy Amyot, RACOG circuit rider will be retiring in July, but will be available through August to assist transition of a new circuit rider. The initial newspaper advertisement brought five resumes for the position. A second advertisement using online services, LinkedIn, Craigslist, Indeed and Glassdoor, generated 32 resumes. Mr. Street and Mrs. Waterbury met with RACOG Executive members Wayne McIlroy and Bruce Ferguson last Friday to review applicants

Administration

and make interview selections. Mrs. Malinowski asked members if it they could proceed to with interviewing process. Members that were present agreed to move forward with interviews.

The commission Annual Dinner will be held in Boonville at the VFW in November to honor the late Ken Vigus. Commissioner Maciejko is taking the lead contacting to make contacts and gather information. The VFW will be free as Mr. Vigus was a member. Commissioner Maciejko has a list of caterers which will be able to utilize the full kitchen and is working to get menus and quotes. We would like to be under \$25 per person. Mrs. Malinowski asked members they would to recognize Sages this year as well as honor Mr. Vigus or not do Sages. Members present expressed they would prefer to honor Mr. Vigus only. We will reach out to Rhonda Vigus to get a date scheduled.

Annual Dinner

Our summer intern Robbie Fredericks, began at the commission on June 5, 2017. Mrs. Malinowski stated the paperwork to get him onboard was difficult. We are partnering with SU-EFC, to hire him on their books, which required a higher hourly wage rate, so we won't have him as long. However, SU-EFC is offsetting some of his additional hours, so it should all work out. He is working on CTHC RMP and getting trained in GPS.

Intern

We continue to work on Minimum Maintenance Roads. From our meetings and conversations in Albany, although Assemblymember Gunther is the sponsor of the legislation, she has several other priority items she is working on. It has been getting more attention in the assembly. If it doesn't go through this year we will try again next year and perhaps get Assemblymember Brindiski as a sponsor, or make it a local issue for the four Tug Hill counties.

Low Volume Roads

We continue to monitor the proposed wind farm projects on Tug Hill. In your packets is a handout from the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to NYS Public Service Commission on the Deer River Wind Farm.

Wind

The town of Redfield is working hard to get a zoning law in place. Staff is providing assistance.

Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Waterbury and Mrs. Passino met with Jefferson Community College on June 15 to discuss moving the LGC from March to an annual date in late May or early June. They will discuss availability with athletics director and let us know. If we are unable to lock into a later date it will remain at the end of March.

LGC

The Black River Watershed Conference was held at the View in Old Forge June 14. It was well attended with approximately 70 present. The day included morning session, an afternoon boat tour, and a tour of the art museum, which included seeing artwork by Martha Denning and a self-portrait of Leif Ostrum our 2016 summer intern.

Black River Watershed Conference

Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Amyot will be attending the Fort Drum Public-Public Partnership Sustainability conference next week. The Fort Drum Joint Land Use Study is moving forward with public meetings beginning of August, with final report out in December. Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Waterbury are participating on the Technical Working Group, and providing comments on draft chapters to the Development Authority of the North Country. THTLT finally secured the additional \$500,000 from the state that they were awarded two years ago to support the Army Compatible Use Buffer program.

Fort Drum

Norah Machia will have all chapters drafted for the book by the end of this month. We will be meeting with North Country books this month. Norah and Tony will do a presentation on the book at the annual dinner.

Tug Hill Book

Boylston Justice Court bill for shared services passed in both the senate and assembly. The bill is now awaiting the governor's signature.

Projects

Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Armstrong-Symonds attend the public information session on May 25 regarding potential dissolution of the village of Barneveld. A referendum passed in support of dissolution on June 6. There were a total of 66 votes with 54 in favor of dissolution. A preliminary estimate of their CETC payment once dissolved is \$49,000, their total property tax levy in 2015 was \$7,700. They have asked for our assistance with the dissolution process.

Mrs. Amyot, RACOG Circuit Rider reported:

COG Reports

RACOG is happy to have the village of Deferiet as a member. The village of Herrings dissolution and implementation was assisted by Mrs. Malinowski, Ms. Fowler and myself. The town of Wilna has absorbed the village and continue to work through the transition. The Crown Cleaners project has been long term and EPA continues to work on cleanup. The Carthage Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC) worked on the project also to help get a design plan.

The villages of Carthage and West Carthage received funds to improve their joint waste water system. The town of Champion received approval to tie into the system and are working with USDA to continue with their contract after finding contamination of old diesel tanks, which was an unexpected issue that created some setbacks.

The town of Champion has been working on a new comprehensive plan. Commission staff Mr. Johnson and Mr. Dietrich have been very helpful.

The Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition continues to work on implementation. The twin villages swim area is an ongoing issue. The village of Deferiet infrastructure had been taken care of under the former St. Regis mill. After the closing of the paper mill in 2003 the village took over and transitioning is still ongoing. The mill is dilapidated and they are now dealing with EPA for clean-up, which will be a long process.

In your packets is the 2016-2017 finance report. The 2017-18 YTD primarily shows salary expenses. Under non-salary expenses there is \$3500 for counsel. A purchase order was done, and surprisingly payment made without a final approval. Will need a motion from commission at next meeting with quorum.

Finance Report

Commissioner Yerdon shared that the town of Redfield has appointed a zoning commission of five people that have been meeting regularly to get zoning in place regarding wind energy. The committee will present a zoning ordinance in conjunction with wind and solar law at a public meeting next week. Mr. Street at the commission office has been very helpful with this process.

Public Comment

Bruce Ferguson, town of Champion supervisor expressed his concern with the wind towers effecting Doppler radar, as there are no restrictions in place for the towers. He is not in favor of the wind energy and believes hydro would be more beneficial. He asked if the commission takes a position on this. Commissioner Bogdanowicz stated the commission does not take a position, we try to assist communities in what they want.

Roger Tibbetts, CTHC chair made comments regarding the high amount of maintenance required by the wind turbines, and the frequency of shut down. Mr. Tibbetts also expressed he is disappointed that the MMR legislation was not able to move forward this year as a state-wide bill, and thinks trying to go local would be better.

Commissioner Cheresnoski stated that during a recent tour of Fort Drum with commission staff they were taken up in the tower and showed how the turbines affect their radar.

Commissioner Yerdon stated the commission was formed 43 years ago to help communities, by having public meetings and assist them in what they want, which has been beneficial.

The meeting ended at 11:27 a.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Note Taker
Gwen Decker