

# TUG HILL COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Orwell, New York

September 18, 2017

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

**Opened**

Commission members included Mdm. Chereshnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Maciejko, and Yerdon. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, CTHC Circuit Rider Angie Kimball and NorCOG/SRCG Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests included town of Orwell Supervisor William Potter, Oswego County Legislator Margaret Kastler and Shirley Downes.

**Attendance**

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Chereshnoski members approved the agenda as presented.

**Agenda Approved**

On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon member approved the minutes of May 15, 2017. Notes from the June 19 inquorate meeting were provided.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked the town of Orwell for hosting. He welcomed Gerry Ritter at her first meeting as a newly appointed commissioner. William Scriber has been appointed as a commissioner as well and we look forward to having him at our next meeting. There is still one Governor's appointment that remains open. Thanks to John Constable for hosting our staff retreat in August. Staff enjoyed the visit to the core forest in Osceola.

**Welcome**

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's Report**

It is a pleasure to have Gerry and Bill onboard. A press release will be sent out to announce the new commission members. We are waiting on a budget call. Mrs. Amyot's retirement date is November 30, 2017. She will be taking time off prior to her retirement date. She is working with Mr. Dietrich for transitioning to the RACOG Circuit Rider position. His position will be at 50% GIS and 50% circuit rider. We cannot fill the GIS position full time at the present time.

**Administration**

The Annual Dinner will be November 2 at the VFW in Boonville. We will honor the late Ken Vigus. A draft of the invite is in your packets. Mr. Maciejko has been helpful working with the caterer and the VFW. Mrs. Malinowski asked for ideas for a gift Rhonda Vigus. There will also be a presentation on the new Tug Hill book.

**Annual Dinner**

CTHC and NOCCOG annual dinner meetings are both the evening of September 28. Let Mrs. Malinowski know if you would like to attend.

In your packets is a copy of a FOIL request we received. We are working to gather five months of emails on Redfield and process them.

**FOIL Request**

Mrs. Malinowski will participate in a NYSERDA meeting next week. NYSERDA's new president and CEO Alicia Barton will be coming to the north county. Kate Fish, ANCA executive director, who is also now on NYSERDA's board, has arranged for the meeting.

**NYSERDA**

<p>Mr. Street, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Malinowski had a meeting with Bill Farber, chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors and AATV member. Assembly committee chairs are changing. Dominic Jacangelo at NYS Snowmobile Association, has also shared some thoughts with Mrs. Malinowski.</p>	<p><b>Low Volume Roads</b></p>
<p>There has be a lot of media on wind farm projects lately. In your packets are articles regarding snowmobile trail closures, FDRLO position statement, Congresswomen Stefanik’s letter, and information on Mad River open houses this Wednesday in Lorraine and Thursday in Redfield. Staff will be attending the open houses this week. Mrs. Malinowski will be touring the Mad River property with a forester from Woodwise.</p>	<p><b>Wind</b></p>
<p>The Local Government Conference will remain in the month of March, which will be on March 29, 2018. We are looking at an inspirational speaker and three concurrent sessions. We are working on program details.</p>	<p><b>LGC</b></p>
<p>All chapters have been completed and we have a draft of the book. Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Machia met with North Country Books/Pyramid Publishing. In your packets is a proposal. Approximately \$10,000 is needed. We are exploring options with Syracuse University Press and Long Pond Press also. We may look at partnering with the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and explore potential grants to offset costs.</p>	<p><b>Tug Hill Book</b></p>
<p>In your packets is some information on the FDRHLO LIFT grant. We were approached last year to partner in the grant. They weren’t sure if they would receive the grant, but recently contacted us and they are getting double the grant amount. Our part would be implementing Complete Streets. This could help us offset potential budget issues.</p>	<p><b>FDRHPO</b></p>
<p>The Barneveld dissolution draft plan was delivered to the board last week, and the board meets tomorrow night to consider it. Next will come the public comment stage, with a potential dissolution at the end of this year. A copy of the plan is in your packets. Staff has worked hard on this.</p>	<p><b>Barneveld Dissolution</b></p>
<p>The East Branch Fish Creek Working Group will meet Thursday, September 21. This will be the first time in three years. We have about 50 RSVP’s.</p>	<p><b>EBFC</b></p>
<p>Mrs. Malinowski met with Ryan Piche the new Lewis County Manager. He is interested in dusting of the Black River navigation study. Mrs. Harvill will be meeting with a group of Lewis County people on that today.</p>	<p><b>Lewis County Manager</b></p>
<p>We will have an updated project list for the October meeting.</p>	<p><b>Project List</b></p>
<p>Mrs. Malinowski reported she has the following meetings with legislators:</p> <p>Assemblymember Blankenbush – September 23  Senator Griffo – October 4, 12:30, Utica  Assemblymember Brindisi – October 4, 12:30, Utica (staff only)  Senator Ritchie – TBD  Assemblyman Barclay  Assemblyman Butler</p>	<p><b>Upcoming Meetings</b></p>
<p>Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed back Mr. Boxberger and expressed that members are pleased he is doing well. In your packets is a copy of the Commission counsel contract. A purchase order has been done and payment inadvertently made without prior board approval.</p>	<p><b>Counsel Contract</b></p>

On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the contract as presented.

Mr. Baxter, NorCOG/SRCG Circuit Rider reported:

**COG Reports**

The North Shore is working on water and sewer issues, which includes the towns of Constantia and West Monroe.

In Salmon Rivers, the town of Albion and the town and village of Parish are working on public water. Parish is also working on a comprehensive plan. The town of Orwell got a playground and also revitalization grant to repair their clock that is over 100 years old.

Orwell Supervisor William Potter shared that it was a challenge to get the clock repaired, the person came from another state to fix the clock.

In your packets is the finance reports, 2016-2017 end of year, we did well overall. The 2017-18 YTD, salary is at 48%, we might go over on that given the salary increases and Mrs. Amyot's upcoming retirement. Our counsel was willing to accept \$1,000 less than last year. Our copier was older and having issues so it was replaced. We are leasing the new copier instead of purchasing. We are also trying to control costs by working with all five councils of governments to have them pay for circuit rider travel cost. SRCG, NorCOG, and NOCCOG have always paid their circuit rider costs. After approaching CTHC they have now incorporated it into their 2018 budget, and will pick up Angie's mileage expenses. When RACOG meets again Mrs. Malinowski will ask them to assist.

**Finance Report**

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members approved the finance report as presented.

Commissioner Chereshnoski suggested a session on invasive species for Japanese knotweed be given at the Local Government Conference.

**Public Comment**

Margaret Kastler suggested getting in touch with Cornell Cooperative Extension to teach county highway departments what to look for and report the Japanese knotweed.

Commissioner Ritter shared The Nature Conservancy brochure and Staying Connected project information, one of the cameras was installed on her property and captured a number of great wildlife images.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Ritter and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

**Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger  
Secretary