

# TUG HILL COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Constantia, New York

January 23, 2017

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

**Opened**

Commission members included Mdm. Chereshnoski and Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Maciejko, Yerdon and Talgo. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, and NorCOG/SRCC Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests included village of Parish Mayor Kathryn Perkins, Robert McNamara, town of Constantia Deputy Supervisor Tom Moran, village of Cleveland Randy Blowers, town of Camden Supervisor Richard Norton, NorCOG Chair Rip Colesante and Carole Kupelian.

**Attendance**

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

**Agenda Approved**

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Chereshnoski, members approved the minutes of December 12, 2016.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the town of Constantia for hosting the meeting and introductions were made. The commission was included in Governor Cuomo's budget for 2017-18, which is even with last year's appropriations and staffing levels. Now that the political season is over we're anxious to fill the open vacancies on the commission board and request appointments from the State Assembly.

**Welcome**

The Venerable Folks of Tug Hill will be on display at TAUNY from February – April. The grand opening is February 11. All commissioners will be getting a formal invite in the mail.

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the commission is in the proposed budget, a copy of which is in the commissioner's packets. We continue to show 15 full-time equivalents, although only 13 are currently filled. Mrs. Amyot is retiring in July, and we hope to fill that position. Mrs. Malinowski attending the briefing on the ag-energy-environment budget on January 19 in Albany.

**Administration**

Fort Drum ACUB is proposed to receive \$1,000,000 from the Environmental Protection Fund. This would be the fourth year of EPF funding for ACUB.

Some other items and proposals in the proposed 2017-18 budget review:

In your packets is information on a proposed shared service property tax savings plan. Governor Cuomo is proposing counties work with towns and villages within their county to develop a plan to share services. There is also a proposed \$2 Billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act. Forestry was included in the briefing book, however, there are no forestry related proposals in the budget (i.e. 480a reimbursement). An Empire Forest for the Future handout is in your packets.

Mrs. Amyot is retiring in July and we hope to fill that position. We are working with RACOG to have a job description out soon.

In your packets is a draft copy of Headwaters. Please review for any editing. The same format was used as last year.

We are working with Assemblywoman Gunther and Senator Griffo on new bills A00418/S02537 for minimum maintenance roads. We have done more analysis to show issues relevant to Tug Hill. Mrs. Malinowski plans to schedule more meetings.

**Low Volume Roads**

Mrs. Malinowski is participating in the statewide roundtable discuss renewables on the ground, both wind and solar. The group is looking at defining principals to get things accomplished in a positive manner. There are several proposals in the region for wind energy. The next meeting of the roundtable will be Friday, January 27.

**Wind**

In your packets is a copy of a press release on the NYSERDA announcements for funding. There are plans to build 35 to 50 turbines in Lowville and Harrisburg.

Registrations are coming in for the Local Government Conference, online and via mail. We have discussed changing next year's date to June as the current March date falls at the end of our fiscal year. Changing the date would allow us to utilize the funds for administrative expenses. A discussion with members to change the date to June was positive.

**LGC**

In your packets is the current list of projects staff is working on. The town of Boylston has asked us to assist with their justice court vacancy and the residency requirement, which would require legislation to change public officers and town law. Currently the justice is required to reside in the town. Brandy Brook club in Lewis county is still working to find a way to keep the camp. Mrs. Malinowski has been following a similar project occurring in St. Lawrence county as they had a similar issue and are trying to work something out with landowners. The 222-acre Osceola Ski Center is for sale. The owner would like it to stay a ski center. The village of Barneveld is looking at dissolution. The Kendall tract is close to final with the property transferring from The Conservation Fund to DEC. They are making a video to tell the story of the project and have asked to use some of the Tug Hill Commission video.

**Projects**

Mr. Baxter - The CNY Speedway is still up in the air with ongoing issues. West Monroe continues to work on sewer project. Constantia is working on water and sewer project. Cleveland is working on water systems and also has a new mayor. Parish town and village are both looking at water systems. Albion did a community survey on water to see what people want. Orwell refurbished the clock on the town hall. Amboy is updating their compliance plan and a planning board training is scheduled next Tuesday.

**COG Reports**

In your packets is the 2016-2017 finance report. The numbers are close to projected. It's close what we expected. We are over on administration and clerical due to the book with Norah Machia, but other lines are well below.

**Finance Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Boxberger shared that he visited Commissioner Vigus and his wife. Mr. Vigus started another clinical trial. He misses everyone.

Mr. McNamara shared that the traverse foot trail that goes north to south has been mapped. His ADK chapter is building the first section of the trail starting this fall, which is mostly hardwood forest. They plan to finish and open it to the public in the summer.

Mr. Colesante shared concerns about shared services that the Governor is proposing.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Talgo and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

**Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger  
Secretary