

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Vienna, New York

October 17, 2016

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdm. Chereshnoski and Messrs. Boxberger, Bogdanowicz, Maciejko, Yerdon and Talgo. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, NOCCOG Circuit Rider Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds, Felicia Passino and Carla Malmgren. Guests – NOCCOG Associate Circuit Rider Harlan Moonen, Village of Sylvan Beach - Administrator Joe Benedict and Clerk Wanda Durant, Oswego County Legislator Roy Reehil, Town of Vienna Councilperson Lorraine Padavan, Queen Central News reporter Paula Aldridge.

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 Maciejko and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon, members approved the minutes of September 19, 2016.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the town of Vienna for hosting. Introductions were made. Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked Commissioners Yerdon and Chereshnoski for attending the CTHC dinner in September. He also thanked Commissioner Maciejko for representing the commission at the American Maple Museum when the Lt. Governor visited earlier this month.

Welcome

Chairman Bogdanowicz reminded everyone that the commission's annual dinner will be on November 10 at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. The Venerable Folks exhibit will be on display that evening. Guest speaker will be Ken Lynch, from NYS DEC.

The next commission business meeting will be December 12 at the commission office in Watertown. Following the meeting will be the holiday luncheon with staff and circuit riders as well as a white elephant re-gift exchange. Gwen will be contact the commissioners regarding a dish to share.

Last month Commissioners Boxberger, Chereshnoski and Talgo were assigned as nominating committee to present candidates for the 2017-18 positions of chair, vice chair and secretary. Chairman Bogdanowicz asked the committee for their input. Commissioner Chereshnoski stated that those currently in the positions are doing a fine job and agreed to serve another term.

On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko, the slate of officers for consideration are as follows:

Chair – Jan Bogdanowicz

Vice Chair – Mike Yerdon

Secretary – Tom Boxberger

At the December meeting members will vote on the 2017-18 officers.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the 2017-18 budget request has been submitted. The directions from Division of Budget specify no increases in appropriation, and the cash ceilings remain.

Administration

The SuperCOG meeting will October 27 at Boonville Municipal Building, Boonville. We expect between 20 and 30 people will attend.

Upcoming Meetings

The THC annual meeting will be November 10 at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. Ken Lynch is keynote speaker. The Venerable Folks of Tug Hill exhibit will be on display.

The Rockefeller Institute of Government has been in communication with Mrs. Malinowski. She and Mrs. Kimball will be presenting on a panel at the 2nd Annual Research and Practice in Progress Briefing on Local Government on November 16.

Mrs. Malinowski and Linda Garrett (THTLT) are invited to a listening session at the Governor's office. Mrs. Malinowski will include minimum maintenance roads as the commission's priority.

Low Volume Roads

In the commissioner packets is a handout on the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO). They have reached out to the commission to collaborate on a grant for Diabetes and Obesity Prevention that would fund a part time person. Mrs. Malinowski feels the partnership would be good.

Fort Drum

In the commissioner packets is a handout on the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The map shows a 30 and 60 mile radius from the installation. Moving forward, installations with a completed JLUS will not be eligible for ACUB funding.

Linda Garrett (THTLT) has found out the Army has allocated an additional \$443,000 for ACUB.

Staff had a conference call with Sloane Crawford at DEC in October to learn about the new NY Forestry Initiative. The discussion included potential modifications to 480-a, logging issues, a cost share program and community forest funding.

NY Forestry Initiative

In the commissioner packets is a snowmobile magazine that was dropped off at the commission office by Kevin Bamerick. On Page 11 is an article on the proposed income tax credit legislation for landowners who provide recreational access for snowmobiling.

Snowmobile Trails

Commission staff has finalized the wind issue paper and it is now available on the commission website. Mrs. Harvill did the majority of the work on the paper. Staff also held a wind training workshop at JCC in coordination with Jefferson County planning.

Wind Project Issue Paper

In the commissioner packets is a draft executive summary of the Woodbasket study. The information shows there is a lot of wood available.

Woodbasket

Staff is working on finalizing the schedule for the 2017 LGC. Registration information will go out at the end of November, this is a month earlier than previous years. After sending a survey monkey to prior year attendees asking about their ability to pay online and receiving a 50/50 response, we have decided to try using Eventbrite this year. Eventbrite would get 3% on each registration, which we will not pass on to attendees.

LGC

In the commissioner packets is a press release from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets regarding the Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and State Agriculture Commissioner Richard Ball visit to the American Maple Museum in Croghan. Commissioner Maciejko attended to represent the commission. The press release includes Croghan in the Tug Hill region.

American Maple Museum

In the commissioner packets is a copy of a recent article on the Herrings Dissolution. The petition for a public vote fell short of signatures. The village will now go into the implementation stage of dissolution.

Herrings Dissolution

Carla Malmgren – Provided an overview of projects she is involved over the last six months: Herrings Dissolution - Along with other staff, Ms. Malmgren has been working on this, which has been ongoing most of this year.

Staff Report

Town of Constantia and Ava - Worked to help facilitate funding for a park.

White Paper – Reviewing white papers for non-profit.

Lewis County Firefighters – Writing a grant to get ambulance equipment.

Intern – Continuing to try develop our intern program in the coming year.

New Supervisor - Ms. Malmgren stated with staffing changes, her supervisor will be Jean Waterbury. She is excited to sit down and talk with her new supervisor.

Felicia Passino – Provided the finance report:

Finance Report

In the commissioner packets is the current 2016-17 financial statement and budget notes. We are at the end of our deficit reduction paybacks. Under contractual services you will see interagency services listed with \$500 allocated. This is for bills that were old 2013-14 for state car parking and ID badges that happened during the change to SFS. Ms. Passino was told the commission would not be billed for some. Signing contracts has recently become an issue and she is currently working to resolve that. We are working on setting up online registration for LGC using Eventbrite. Shawn Vincent is our IT consultant who came onboard during the summer. We just purchased equipment to enable circuit riders to access the server remotely, that Mr. Vincent installed. Mrs. Kimball has been set up and using it. The others will also be set up soon. Up to five people will be able to access the server at the same time. Ms. Passino is currently working on getting quotes for flooring replacement. The carpet is about 30 years old. We are required to get an asbestos test for that. We have not received a bill for new phones that were installed earlier this year as per the Governor's directive, however, there is \$7000 allotted should we receive a bill.

Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds - NOCCOG held their annual dinner on September 29 with 90 in attendance. Mrs. Symonds and Mrs. Malinowski met with Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente on September 12 to introduce ourselves and give an overview of what we do and projects we are working on in Oneida County. NOCCOG was included in the Oneida County proposed budget for \$7500. Sales tax is becoming a big issue in NOCCOG. The county is planning to create a committee, three supervisors will be on it. We've been working on grants for the towns of Ava and Floyd for park improvements. We are working with the Local Government Education Committee on upcoming trainings. A Zombie Property training was held in September and was well attended.

NOCCOG Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Roy Reehill, Oswego County Legislator discussed the Oswego County Land Bank. The county purchased six properties for \$1 each. They are developing a land bank that communities can be involved in and have a choice on what to do with these properties, similar to Oswego Renaissance Association in Oswego County, which does block grants. Poverty and degradation of property is a large problem in many Oswego County communities.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger
Secretary