

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parish, New York

December 10, 2018

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:13 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdms. Ritter, Chereshnoski, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Yerdon, and Scriber. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Felicia Passino, Jean Waterbury, Jennifer Harvill; Circuit Riders Angie Kimball, Mickey Dietrich, Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds and Paul Baxter; Associate Circuit Riders Beth Steria and Harlan Moonen. Guests included Kelley Campbell – landowner, and THC Counsel Lew Wilbanks.

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 Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the minutes of October 15, 2018.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and Introductions were made. The Annual Dinner Meeting was well attended and a very nice tribute to Arnie. He thanked staff for all the work and efforts. The Tug Hill book was well received. The books can be purchased on Amazon, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Kinney Drugs, and Barnes & Noble. Mrs. Malinowski shared that the books cannot be sold at our office due to sales tax. Media coverage includes Watertown Daily Times, Syracuse NewsChannel 9, Watertown 7 News, North Country Public Radio and the Utica area. Mr. Bogdanowicz thanked members for participating in the media coverage. Mrs. Malinowski added that books have been delivered to the North Country and Mid York Library Systems for distribution to all local libraries in the region, and circuit riders are delivering to Tug Hill towns, villages, and schools in their communities. Other suggestions to get the book out included the Remsen Visitors Center, Tailwater Lodge, and Thousand Islands store.

Welcome

Chairman Bogdanowicz asked for recommendations for nominations of officers. Commissioner Boxberger stated all officers agreed to be nominated.

Jan Bogdanowicz, Chairman
Michael Yerdon, Vice Chairman
Tom Boxberger, Secretary

Chairman Bogdanowicz asked for any discussion. There being no discussion he called for nominations from the floor – once, twice, three times. There being no additional nominations from the floor he asked the secretary to cast a ballot. On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Scriber, members approved the nominations for officers as presented.

Looking ahead we need to start thinking about our strategic plan and how we see the commissions approach for the future. Six items that are of importance include: member appointments - two vacancies to be filled, ask members for names and ideas. Jan is currently working with the Governor's office on his reappointment; staffing – need to make a plan to

present and meet with Albany to work on staff vacancies: MMR legislation; core values – our outlook for the future; communities – what we can do to assist our communities; weekly calls – get everyone involved, sharing and planning and keep on track.

2019 Commission calendar draft is in your packets for review. On a motion made by Commission Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the 2019 Commission calendar as presented.

Executive Director’s report followed.

Executive Director’s Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that all budget information was submitted to the state. We are waiting for the Governor’s budget release in January. Mrs. Malinowski and Chairman Bogdanowicz are planning a round of Albany meetings in January with Governor’s office and to introduce ourselves to new legislators, Assembly members Marianne Buttenschon and Robert Smullen. In your packets is a new map of the assembly district to reflect the new assembly members in Oneida County. We hope to be able to deliver the Tug Hill books and our white paper based on our Local Leaders Survey in person when in Albany.

Administration

The residents and landowners survey contract was signed. NOCCOG, RACOG, and THTLT are in support, CTHC is considering it. We have a tentative meeting January 23 to discuss with SRCG and NorCOG. It would be of value for the COG’s to be involved. A survey contact list will need to be compiled for JCC. The survey is planned for April or May and will be done using call center in Watertown.

Residents and Landowners Survey

In your packets is a flyer from the Complete Streets workshop we held on December 4 in West Carthage and December 5 in Lowville. This is part of the FDRHPO grant. Mark Fenton was the speaker, which cost \$6000. The workshops were well received and drew interest from Carthage Area Hospital and RACOG board. The hospital and RACOG plan to meet and start working on ideas. Lewis County is also interested.

Complete Streets

The commission has been asked to help with Lewis County by state and federal representatives for the 2020 Census.

Census

MMR has been a top priority. An idea to get the comptroller’s office involved has been suggested. Mrs. Malinowski met with Darrel Albertine and he is going to followup with a comptrollers report on the issue. She also met with Assemblymember Jones who is very interested and going to look into getting his name added to the bill. We continue to do monthly calls with NYS Association of Towns and they are looking at the bill to edit it to make it more simplified. We also are continuing conversation with NYS Town Highway Superintendents Association. The bill likely needs a democratic sponsor now with the changes in the legislature.

MMR

In your packets is a schedule of sessions for the Local Government Conference. We have been reaching out for ideas that included – zombie properties, NYCOM, 2020 census, cyber security, drug epidemic, and Amish. A short keynote will be given by General Piatt, provided he is still at Fort Drum.

LGC

In your packets is a list of municipalities with zoning laws. We have been doing a lot work with the municipalities on updating zoning. Redfield and Lyons Falls are done. Copenhagen has approached Mr. Street for zoning assistance.

Zoning

COG Report

Mr. Dietrich reported the on projects for RACOG - working on the village of Deferiet website; summer intern worked on Black River navigation map; LED lighting project underway, villages of Lowville and Copenhagen are interested; RACOG brochure – a volunteer who is a North Country Community College graduate in graphics, comes in weekly to work on brochure; working on RACOG resource management plan - found 2 interns through the GIS conference that will work remotely; attended a village of Croghan meeting per their request of potential interest in joining RACOG.

Mrs. Kimball reported on CTHC - Added four villages and town of Adams for a count of 21 municipalities now; Boylston passed special areas map in November, Pinckney still stalled on special areas map; Redfield and Lyons Falls zoning passed; new villages are interested in strategic planning come January; wind projects are ongoing and are all in her towns; working on MMR, there is an annual snowmobile meeting coming up and will have discussion about it.

Mr. Baxter reported on NorCOG and SRCG – This budget year has been difficult for municipalities; the comptrollers was in Parish, should hear report soon; Parish voted to approve public water project that would bring in Onondaga County Water Authority; Constantia working on water and sewer; West Monroe revamping sewer and updated zoning; Amboy working on comprehensive plan update; communities looking at wind, have concerns turbine heights and freezing rain.

Mrs. Symonds reported she and Mrs. Waterbury attended the town of Boonville salt shed completion; the NOCCOG board has agreed to purchase GIS equipment. Mrs. Symonds and Mr. Dietrich will be working on that to be in use by next spring; town of Floyd tree grant is complete; village of Camden Riverwalk and Camden Main Street grant is complete; Boonville and Remsen salt sheds are done; town of Florence submitted salt shed grant, should hear later this month.

Mr. Moonen reported that Vienna elected to build their own salt shed; Western's primary focus is to secure grant to upgrade the town hall; Ava working on specs to submit salt shed grant; Holland Patent walkable community plan in place awaiting; Sylvan Beach is looking into grants; Steuben – issue with building permit on abandoned road, compliance plan is completed now waiting for town board approval.

In your packets is the financial report, for the most part we are on track. We changed to leasing color copier and the black and white copier, so equipment may be over, but we will not actually be spending more because maintenance is included.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger
Secretary