

# TUG HILL COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Floyd, New York

October 16, 2017

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

**Opened**

Commission members included Mdms. Chereshnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Maciejko, Scriber and Yerdon. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, Jennifer Harvill, NOCCOG Circuit Rider Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds, Associate Circuit Riders Harlan Moonen and Sue Martin. Guests included town of Floyd Supervisor Willard Streiff, town of Trenton Supervisor Joe Smith, Lynne Moonen, USDA Rural Development - Tobra Vescio and Elvedina Kapic.

**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 Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon member approved the minutes of May 15, 2017. Notes from the June 19 in quorate meeting were provided.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked the town of Floyd for hosting. Introductions were made. He welcomed William Scriber at his first meeting as a newly appointed commissioner. Commissioner Scriber gave a brief personal introduction. The Annual Dinner is November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Boonville VFW, please let Gwen know if you will be attending. We will be honoring the late Ken Vigus. A painting of Ken's camp is being done by Loretta Lepkowski and will be presented to Rhonda at the dinner. Commissioner Boxberger agreed to speak about Ken at the dinner. We are currently in budget season.

**Welcome**

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's Report**

In your handouts is a copy of the budget letter we received. This is similar to last year, however, DOB asked us to look for savings to trim the budget. No layoffs.

**Administration**

Both CTHC and NOCCOG annual meetings were well attended. NOCCOG's presenter was Chris Anderson from AOT; CTHC's were Jenny Briot from Avangrid and Marguerite Wells from Invenergy. Project summaries from Avangrid are included in your packets. Wind is the big topic across much of Tug Hill at the current time. Snowmobile season starts soon and it is hoped that the snowmobile trail in Redfield will be reopened. The FOIL request that was made has been withdrawn.

Mrs. Malinowski attend the meeting organized by ANCA with the new NYSERDA CEO on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Tupper Lake. She met new charwoman Alicia Barton, who is from Boston area and has experience with large renewable projects. She is interested in hearing our perspective.

Mrs. Amyot will retire at the end of November. We are tentatively planning a retirement party on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Maggie’s on the River, once that date is confirmed with Mrs. Amyot.

The Carthage Tribune did a nice article on Mr. Dietrich’s transition to the RACOG circuit rider position and that he will split his time 50/50 between circuit rider and GIS, although we are hopeful it will be closer to 70/30. He has been active in GIS at the state level and will now focus more on local areas. Major GIS projects are getting wrapped up. Other commission staff, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Harvill can also do GIS and they will provide assistance when Mr. Dietrich is not in the office. Mr. Dietrich attended his first RACOG meeting last week and has a lot of ideas.

CTHC continues to make minimum maintenance roads its highest priority. West Turin continues its appeal, and Mark Gebo their attorney is retiring in June. Mrs. Malinowski has talked about the issue in meetings with Senator Griffo and Assemblyman Brindisi earlier this month. Senator Griffo advised staying with a statewide bill. Committee chairmanship may not change. Perhaps a new assembly bill sponsor? A meeting is planned with NYSSA (New York State Snowmobile Association) on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**MMR**

Several staff and commissioners attended a tour of the Stillwater Reservoir provided by the Hudson River Black River Regulating District. In the governor’s announcement on October 4<sup>th</sup> of Watertown winning the Downtown Revitalization Initiative for the North Country region this year, he mentioned the Black River several times.

**Black River**

The 2018 Black River Watershed conference will be held in Oneida County. Currently working on getting Dave Eichorn to speak on the weather.

Mrs. Harvill met with Ryan Piche the new Lewis County manager for a Black River Navigation study. The Army Corps report from several years ago is being used as a guide but may need to be updated or expanded. Mr. Piche is interested in projects and grants.

The Black River Initiative newsletter will be coming out soon.

As noted earlier, wind continues to be a hot topic on the hill. Impacts to Fort Drum’s radar is a concern for Jefferson County. Lewis County shares that concern, but also does not want to see their economic development via wind projects impacted. The wind developers believe there should be a technical fix to the radar situation. Commission staff and board members toured the tower and Fort Drum earlier this year and viewed the effects of wind towers on the Doppler radar. The Joint Land Use Study will have several recommendations associated to Fort Drum and radar. One item in the JLUS mentions a no build zone around the Doppler radar, which was a surprise. Mrs. Malinowski will be attended a meeting soon with Senator Griffo at Fort Drum on the topic.

**Wind**

In your packets is a copy of the current project list. If you’re interested in a particular project, Mrs. Malinowski can provide more details.

**Project List**

In your packets is the Fish Creek Update. The East Branch Fish Creek Working Group meeting was held September 21<sup>st</sup> with over 50 in attendance. A lot of discussion on issues.

**EBFC**

Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Waterbury met with FDRHPO on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss a contract for the LIFT grant they have asked us to take part in, regarding implementing “complete streets” for walking and biking. We are waiting on the contract.

**FDRHPO**

Mrs. Malinowski: Assemblyman Barclay, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Ritchie – TBD

**Upcoming Meetings  
and Workshops**

Workshops: October 30 – Land Use and Zoning @ JCC with Scott Chatfield  
November 7 – Solar Energy @ JCC

Mrs. Symonds, NOCCOG Circuit Rider reported:

**NOCCOG Report**

Some municipalities are working on updating comprehensive plans and zoning. We are waiting to hear on some grants that were submitted. Those included potential salt sheds for Remsen and Boonville. The Town of Lee worked with Mr. Dietrich to get a lot of GIS work done this summer. Next year other communities would like to have some GIS done. Barneveld's dissolution should be done by end of this year. Trenton and Steuben are looking at joint ambulance services, and a joint justice court might be another option. We completed the NOCCOG brochure this summer and will be updating the website this winter. NOCCOG was included in the Oneida County budget again this year. The LGEC (Local Government Education Committee) is currently operating and offering trainings, but could possibly be dissolving.

In your packets is the finance report for 2017-18. Expenses to date are as expected. We will exceed our personal services cash ceiling this year with Mrs. Amyot's retirement pay out, however, DOB is aware of that. A draft for 2018 -19 is also included. CTHC and RACOG have agreed to take on travel expenses for their respective circuit riders. We are working to trim the budget where we can. Commissioner Yerdon stated the cash ceiling has been the same for seven years. Commissioner Cheresnoski expressed that training funds are important. Commissioner Bogdanowicz asked how much the state sweeps and if it's possible to find ways to put funds in another account to avoid this. Commissioner Scriber suggested accounting for staff time on such things as LGC, with the possibility of reimbursing on expense and offsetting some of our costs.

**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 Maciejko members adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

**Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger  
Secretary