

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wilna, New York

September 19, 2016

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdm. Chereshnoski and Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Maciejko, Vigus, and Yerdon. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, RACOG Circuit Rider Kathy Amyot, and Senior Planner Matt Johnson. Guests included CTHC Vice Chair Doug Dietrich, NOCCOG Chair John Doiron, Carthage Tribune Reporter Elaine Avallone, and Town of Wilna Councilwoman Sue Storms.

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 May 16, 2016 with changes (public comment section – change Sage Pond to Page Pond).

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the town of Wilna for hosting. Introductions were made. Chairman Bogdanowicz expressed that the board is happy to have Ken back and Tom here. Unfortunately he was unable to attend the commission/staff retreat August, but he heard it was a good day. Fall is here and things are very busy.

Welcome

In your packets is a revised 2016 commission meeting calendar. The annual dinner will be held on November 10 in Albion at the Tailwater Lodge and Barn. Ken Lynch from DEC will be our keynote speaker. Invitations will go out at the end of the month. Chairman Bogdanowicz proposed we eliminate the November 14 meeting in Leyden.

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Vigus members approved the revised 2016 commission meeting calendar as presented.

Elections for officers will be coming up for 2017 for chairman, vice chairman, and secretary. This will be done at the December 12 meeting. Chairman Bogdanowicz asked for volunteers for a nominating committee to present a slate of candidates at the October 17 meeting. Commissioner Boxberger asked if the current officers were willing to serve another term. All agreed. Commissioners Chereshnoski, Talgo and Boxberger will be on the nominating committee.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that Mrs. Waterbury and Mrs. Kimball's positions have been finalized. The senior planner position remains vacant and Mrs. Malinowski would like to fill it as a Community Development position, however there is no approval yet from DOB on that.

Administration

In your packets are invites for the:

Upcoming Meetings

CTHC Fall Meeting - September 22 at Steak & Brew, Turin

NOCCOG Annual Meeting - September 29 at Delta Lake Inn, Rome

SuperCOG - October 27 at Boonville Municipal Building, Boonville

THC Annual Meeting – November 10 at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. Ken Lynch is keynote speaker. The Vulnerable Folks of Tug Hill exhibit will be on display. Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Garrett (THTLT) will be meeting in Canton on Friday to review exhibit before unveiling at Tug Hill Land Trust Annual Dinner.

The staff committee has been working on the video. Mr. Dietrich is putting together the video with assistance from Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Harvill, and Mrs. Passino. Don Alexander did the voiceover for the video. This video will premiere at the THC annual dinner.

THC Video

Mrs. Malinowski attend the Sustainable Development & Collaborative Governance conference in Syracuse, August 11. Rossana Rosado, DOS Secretary of State was a speaker.

**Sustainable
Development
Conference
Oneida Executive**

Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Armstrong-Symonds met with Anthony Picente, Oneida County Executive on September 12. The meeting was positive and there will be an effort to continue improved communication into the future.

In your packets is a draft agreement to contract with Norah Machia for her services as freelance writer to develop the Tug Hill book in the amount of \$25,000, for commission member's approval. Lee Wilbanks, THC counsel has review and approved the contract. Commissioner Boxberger asked what the cost was for publishing. Mrs. Malinowski is not sure at this time. The book would be approximately 150 pages and visually appealing.

Tug Hill Book

Chairman Bogdanowicz asked for a resolution to approve the \$25,000.00 contract with Norah Machia for her services.

Resolution 2016-02

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commission Yerdon, members resolved to approve the contract, in the amount of \$25,000, to hire Norah Machia for interview, writing and photography services to support the development of a book about Tug Hill and the Tug Hill Commission.

In your packets is a map of the areas that Leif Ostrum, THTLT intern did GPS work for the Tug Hill recreation guide. Leif worked closely with Mr. Dietrich on the project. He also was able to receive credit at St. Lawrence University for his work. Mrs. Garrett (THTLT) will be working to secure funding for the printed guide. Mr. Dietrich is currently working with the data for trail maps to use as an application on cell phones. Leif did more traveling than originally anticipated and in so incurred a mileage total of \$1148.00. The THTLT was able to provide \$500.00 toward his mileage cost and asked if the Tug Hill Commission would be able to assist with \$500.00. The Pratt Northam grant only covered his wages for the summer.

**Tug Hill Recreation
Guide**

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Vigus, member approved the mileage reimbursement of \$648 for Leif Ostrum.

Mrs. Malinowski stated it was great to have a summer intern and would like to see the commission have one again next year.

In your packets is a map of minimum maintenance roads that we developed for ongoing work regarding the related legislation. We have mapped everything in the region to the best of our knowledge. These roads meet specific criteria. We had discussions this summer with multiple stakeholders, including DEC and Farm Bureau. We are working to put together more information as well as reach out to additional groups and as well as reconnecting with the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Low Volume Roads

FDRLO submitted over 7,000 petition signatures and 193 letters of support and resolutions to the Missile Defense Agency. There should be an announcement in late fall for a preferred site, which is only a recommendation to the Secretary of Defense. RACOG communities are all in support of the site. Additionally, a Joint Land Use Study is underway for Fort Drum, that will take approximately 2 years. Mrs. Waterbury is the point of contact on this project.

Fort Drum

Governor Cuomo has signed a licensing bill that will allow military spouse to get employment for 6 months while working on getting their NYS license. In the past, spouses were unable to seek employment until they received the NYS license. This was very important for New York.

ACUB – The THTLT was awarded an almost \$250,000 grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission to expand the use of conservation easements on two farms near Fort Drum.

Commission staff is working on a wind project issue paper. There is a draft in your packets, and we hope to have it completed this week.

Wind Project Issue Paper

A conference call with Sloane Crawford at DEC is scheduled this week regarding state forestry initiatives. This may be similar to last year, with 480a reform, community forests, and harvest notification elements.

NY Forestry Initiative

We are partnering with ANCA and they have taken the lead on the Woodbasket study. The consulting firm INRS out of Maine was hired to do the analysis. The report should be done in the next two months.

Woodbasket

The 2017 LGC planning is well underway. Registration will be offered a month earlier this year, out at the end of November. We are also considering online registration. The conference is held at JCC yearly at the end of March. We will be reaching out to the COG's for feedback on possibility changing the date for 2018 to the month of June. Changing to June would help out budget wise.

The Herrings Dissolution is moving forward. We have been working closely with Wilna and Herrings on planning. The plan has been completed and adopted, and we are currently within the 45 day period where a second petition can be submitted to force another vote. They have until this Friday to submit a position.

Herrings Dissolution

Mr. Johnson provided an overview on comprehensive planning. He provided training handouts and outlined why communities would do a comprehensive plan. Mr. Johnson reviewed all the aspects that are involved in the preparation. A typical plan is approximately 50 pages and takes approximately one year. A list of communities and potential projects identified in their comprehensive plan is kept for staff to refer to for grant information. This list is a good tool for staff.

Staff Report

Commissioner Boxberger relayed that the survey that goes out at the beginning of a comprehensive plan is a great process for resident's involvement and participation.

Mrs. Amyot – RACOG meets as needed 3-4 times a year. They have expanded to five communities to now include Deferiet. The expanded joint ZBA is a five member board. The town of Wilna and villages of Carthage and Deferiet have a shared planning board, their first meeting was held in July. Crown Cleaners is 80% complete. The town of Wilna has been proactive with Crown Cleaners. Wilna is exploring opportunities in the railroad for scenic tours. The town of Champion is working with the commission on their comprehensive plan.

RACOG Report

In your packets is 2015-16 year-end report. We ended with a balance of \$27,000.

Finance Report

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the 2015-16 year-end budget as presented.

In your packets is a current 2016-17 financial 2016-17 report. Salaries are set, so the only place where we can control expenses is non personal services. We are doing well this year and have no unexpected expenses to date. Owning our two vehicles has been a positive for the commission.

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Commissioner Vigus expressed his thanks to commission members and staff for their support during his medical treatment. Commissioner Boxberger also expressed appreciation as he begins his journey for treatment.

John Doiron, NOCCOG Chair expressed that the commission does a great job for the communities

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

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger
Secretary