

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Watertown, New York

March 28, 2018

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdms. Chereshnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Scriber, Yerdon and Maciejko. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, Ms. Fowler, CTHC Circuit Rider Angie Kimball, RACOG Circuit Rider Mickey Dietrich and NorCOG/SRCG Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests – CTHC Chair Roger Tibbetts.

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 Chereshnoski members approved the minutes of January 22, 2018.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and acknowledged the Local Government Conference to take place tomorrow. We are offering good sessions and are expect a large crowd. It will be a busy day for staff. The speakers dinner will be at Pete's Restaurant directly after our meeting. The terms for Commissioners Yerdon, Maciejko and Boxberger will expire this summer. Chairman Bogdanowicz asked if they are willing to be reappointed. They all agreed to reappointments. Letters will be drawn up to send to Senate Majority Leader, as well as to Senators Griffo and Ritchie.

Welcome

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the commission is in both the assembly and senate budget bills at the same levels as last year. Mrs. Malinowski has to report for federal grand jury duty, April 17 for selection process. If selected it would mean serving every Wednesday for 12 months. Annual financial disclosure statements for commissioners will be due soon.

Administration

Mrs. Malinowski attended Fort Drum day in Albany on February 6. Senator Ritchie organizes this yearly event. It was a successful day that included meetings and time with General Piatt.

Fort Drum Day

We have secured funding of \$2000 from Northern New York Community Foundation and \$1500 from Community Foundation of Oneida and Herkimer Counties for the book. An application for \$5000 has been submitted to Furthermore, and requests for funding will be sent to Pratt Northam Foundation and Snow Foundation in April. We have received the first markup of the manuscript and are making edits. We are working with North Country Books in Utica. Local media ideas for promoting the book included websites, radio, television, etc. Mrs. Malinowski will work on putting something together.

Tug Hill Book

The 45th anniversary of the commission will include an article in The Conservationist magazine, the book release, and a recognition for Arnie Talgo. Mrs. Malinowski asked for suggestions on a location for the event.

45th Anniversary

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| <p>In your packets is the completed issue of Headwaters, which has been sent out in the mail.</p> | <p>Headwaters</p> |
| <p>The every five year Local Leaders Survey is due in 2018. In your packets is a time table schedule of the 2018 survey and a tally of previous year's response rates. The previous 2013 survey results is also included. We're working on getting the mailing list together. We'd like to get the survey out by April 20th and have draft results by May 21st.</p> | <p>Local Leaders Survey</p> |
| <p>The museum has an annual program called Great Places and Spaces Day, and we have been invited to participate on January 12, 2019. Mrs. Malinowski may invite the fiddlers, waiting for response on NYS Museum if a performance would fit in the day's schedule. The museum is doing some renovations on exhibits, and we are hopeful that we can make some improvements to Tug Hill's representation there.</p> | <p>NYS Museum</p> |
| <p>In your packets are notes from the January 29 COG Chairs meeting. There was representation from each council. One topic of discussion was the commission having less staff due to vacancies and lack of budget to fill them and how to come up with a strategy to request more funding. Mrs. Malinowski suggested it would be good to get some younger people on staff such as GIS and planning or perhaps someone that could be cross trained. Currently we are training everyone on GIS. Chairman Bogdanowicz has concerns that the deficit is a major obstacle with the state. He suggests finding a way to stop the sweeping of special revenue account.</p> | <p>COG Chairs Meeting Report</p> |
| <p>In your packets is an invitation to the CTHC Spring Meeting, April 26 at the Central Hotel in Glenfield. The town of Adams is considering joining CTHC and will be considered for approval that evening.</p> | <p>CTHC Spring Meeting</p> |
| <p>The SuperCOG meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 30 or 31 in Redfield. A new COG map with the added municipalities is included in your packets.</p> | <p>SuperCOG Meeting</p> |
| <p>The town of Lowville has joined RACOG.</p> | <p>Lowville Joins</p> |
| <p>John Healt has been contracted with to work as an Associate Circuit Rider with NOCCOG.</p> | <p>NOCCOG Associate</p> |
| <p>In your packet is the LGC program for tomorrow's event. Attendance is consistent with past years, at approximately 680. We have five platinum sponsors and 29 exhibitors.</p> | <p>Local Government Conference</p> |
| <p>In your packets in a budget proposal on analysis of state land tax payments on Tug Hill, based on the proposed change in the Governor's budget. This proposal would change the formula for how tax payments are calculated from state lands. Commission staff collected data from all four Tug Hill counties to analyze what the proposal could mean to Tug Hill towns. Staff took actuals 2014 state land tax payments and applied growth factors from 2015 to 2018 to come up with an estimate that was then subtracted from the actuals in 2018. The analysis shows that potentially more than half of Tug Hill towns would benefit for more income from NYS with the proposed new formula. Part of this is due to state control of state land assessments. Regardless, it is unlikely the proposal will go through at this time, and we will watch for other efforts.</p> | <p>State Land Tax Legislation</p> |
| <p>The EFFI proposal looks like it will be going through. The 480 is going to go through, however, not sure if it all will.</p> | <p>Empire Forest Future Initiative</p> |
| <p>We received correspondence from Attorney Mark Gebo with both his brief for the town and the brief for the landowner in the Weikel vs West Turin case, which will be heard at the Court of Appeals in Rochester on May 18. He has asked us to provide an update on pending</p> | <p>Minimum Maintenance Roads</p> |

legislation before the Rochester date. The NYS Snowmobile Association, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, NYS Association of Highway Superintendents, and NYS Association of Towns continue to try to move this bill forward. We have also reached out to assembly transportation committee staff from Adams Center.

None of the potential Tug Hill wind projects going through the Article 10 process have had their Assembly Ad Hoc appointments made. Mitigation Response Teams for each project are now meeting with Fort Drum and other federal agencies to discuss radar issues. There is a new software "Fusion" that is being used in Texas that is solving problems with the radar. Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization has organized an industrial wind subcommittee, which the commission will attend.

Wind

Mrs. Kimball, CTHC Circuit Rider reported:

COG Reports

Turin approved their special areas map and is on the agenda to be approved at the CTHC spring meeting. Boylston is working on a drat map. Pinckney is stalled on their map. West Turin has a May 14th court date for the appeal on the minimum maintenance roads case. Redfield received a request to change classification of a road and denied it. Montague may have a request coming to change classification. The villages of Lyons Falls, Port Leyden, Constableville and Turin have joined CTHC. The town of Adams may also be interested in joining. Redfield passed a zoning law and Lyons Falls is working on one. Williamstown and Rodman are looking into new municipal buildings. Wind - Number 3 project filed an application in January. Deer River filed their preliminary scoping statement (PSS) in May 2017. Mad River filed their PSS in December 2017. Judge Crast from Sandy Creek took over justice duties in Boylston in January after the residency retirement change passed the state legislature. Lorraine/Worth court consolidation remains stalled due to lack of cooperation from the Lorraine Judge. CTHC spring meeting will be April 26 at the Central Hotel in Glenfield.

Mr. Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider reported:

Lowville has joined RACOG. RACOG is working on the NY Alert project with NYS. Community resource map is being worked on by an intern from Monroe County College and will be presented at the RACOG board meeting in May. Looking to have someone from Good Energy come and talk to RACOG about CCA through New York Municipal Energy program. Wilna Champion Transportation Association will be giving an update at RACOG board meeting in April. RACOG website is complete. Champion, Deferiet and Lowville will also be getting websites. We have a potential intern lined up for the summer that will help with mapping projects. We're looking for one more GIS/GPS intern for this summer.

Mr. Baxter, NorCOG Circuit rider reported:

Working on redesign of websites for NorCOG and SRCG, which would be more efficient and maintainable with municipalities being able to update them. NorCOG and SRCG had another joint meeting. Oswego County continues focus on shared services for town and villages. Parish has a new supervisor.

In your packets is the finance report for 2017-18. These look good, DOB added cash to our personnel services line as we could not avoid going over on salary. We have been successful in asking RACOG and CTHC to pay travel for circuit riders. We secured funding to help offset the cost of the new book.

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 5:22 p.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger
Secretary