

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Albion, New York

September 17, 2018

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:19 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdm. Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Scriber and Yerdon. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, SRCG Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests were Town of Parish Supervisor Mary Ann Phillips, Village of Parish Trustee Jackie Murphy, West Monroe Supervisor Vern Sundet and Oswego County Weeklies Reporter Deb Groom.

Attendance

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Scriber members approved the agenda as presented.

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Ritter and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the minutes of August 20, 2018.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz shared that senate re-appointments for commissioners Boxberger, Maciejko and Yerdon are confirmed. The process for Commissioner Bogdanowicz re-appointment is underway. We still have two governor appointment vacancies. Commissioner Maciejko had a lawnmower accident that required surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts. He thanked the town of Albion for hosting the meeting and introductions were made.

Welcome

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that all state agencies, including the commission, were required to fill out plans for Division of Budget. In your packets is a draft strategic plan and staffing plan that was submitted to DOB. We still have three staff vacancies that we haven't been able to fill, which is a concern as a few seasoned staff could be looking at retirement in the near future. The resident and landowner survey done in 2009 could be updated to gather information and measure improvements and change that the commission has assisted with. We should hear back from DOB in a few weeks.

Administration

With the 2019 budget request some things we need to address include replacing the RAV4 which has 80,000 plus miles, a quote to replace the server as we have been experiencing problems as well as replacing computers.

The book will be completed and ready for the annual dinner. We have 4,000 books ordered instead of 2,000. Complimentary copies will be given out to those attending the annual dinner. Also, we will provide complimentary copies to our communities. Mrs. Malinowski will get a list together for media promotion and welcomes ideas and assistance from members. Book chapters were passed around for members to view.

Tug Hill Book

Annual dinner invites will be mailed at the end of this week. Loretta Lepkowski is doing a painting of Arnie's camp as our gift to Betty. Commissioner Cheresnoski has the fiddlers all set to perform at the dinner and some young fiddlers will be included.

45th Anniversary

<p>Local Leaders Survey results will be shared at the COG meetings this fall. The results will also be available on our website. An article will go in the next issue of the Tug Hill Times. We are waiting to do a white paper for Albany.</p>	<p>Local Leaders Survey</p>
<p>Mrs. Malinowski will be in Saranac Lake on September 21 for a meeting. She will also meet with Assistant Deputy Secretary Barbara Rice.</p>	<p>Meetings</p>
<p>Local Government Conference planning is underway. JCC has first right to refusal for food. We have reached out to them on the food contract. We have secured someone from Fort Drum for opening remarks. We will try for Major Piatt if possible. This will be our 30th year for the conference. We will be giving out full size notebooks with the THC logo.</p>	<p>Local Government Conference</p>
<p>We need to schedule a meeting with AOT and NYSATHA in October. Mr. Street is preparing a paper on Protecting Roads from Snow Removal. A draft copy is in your packet.</p>	<p>Minimum Maintenance Roads</p>
<p>We met with Joel LaLone from JCC on Friday to discuss reducing the number of questions in the survey from 2009 without losing too much content in a newer survey. In your packet is a copy of the 2009 survey. NOCCOG agreed to partner with us and approved \$2000. THTLT is able to contribute \$1000. We will reach out to the other COGs to partner as well. Once we are ready, we will get a contract with JCC.</p>	<p>Residents and Landowners Survey</p>
<p>In your packet is the Lift Grant contract information. We are partnering with FDRHPO for complete streets to help improve people's health via walking or bike riding. This would be a community development project. Finally, after 2 years the grant has been approved. It is a 2 year grant, with the first year of the grant completion date of January 2019, which doesn't give much time. We plan to do workshops and work with the communities for input.</p>	<p>Lift Grant</p>
<p>A meeting is set for October 4 at the Alpine in Constableville. This is an opportunity to provide an update since we met last fall.</p>	<p>East Branch Fish Creek</p>
<p>In your packet is a copy of the invite letter for the Wildlife Connectivity meeting on October 30 in Boonville. This is an opportunity to bring people together to provide an update and hear what people would like to see happen with this project in the future.</p>	<p>Wildlife Connectivity</p>
<p>An EAB workshop is planned for later this fall.</p>	<p>Emerald Ash Borer</p>
<p>Paul Baxter reported that municipalities are well into budget season. The tax cap will be the full 2%. Health care insurance for firefighters is another issue.</p>	<p>COG Report</p>
<p>Constantia is working on a new water district and possibly sewer. Orwell is working on street lights.</p>	
<p>Vern Sundet reported that West Monroe went with National Grid for street light replacement. Toad Harbor pump station issues with National Grid trying to force municipality to foot the bill for improved electrical service. Sexual harassment policy mandated by NYS needs to be in place by January 1st. Training has to be interactive, the cost isn't an issue, however, the time and not having enough people.</p>	
<p>The village of Parish is working on a water project, and the town of Parish is working on comptrollers audit and updating zoning. Albion is not moving forward on water at this time due to cost.</p>	

Maryann Phillips reported that West Monroe, Constantia, Parish and Albion are not getting any revenue from the state from Wildlife Management Areas. The towns would like to pursue legislation that would include them in the list of towns that do received payments from the state. This would help out the towns financially.

In your packet is the finance report for 2018-19 to date. We are half way through the year and overall everything looks good.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

A question was raised if a town went to using public assessors and now community is asking if they can go back to elected assessors. Members answered no.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Scriber and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger
Secretary