

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Watertown, New York

December 11, 2017

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdms. Chereshnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Scriber and Yerdon. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, Mrs. Passino, Mrs. Harvill, Mrs. Waterbury, CTHC Circuit Rider Angie Kimball, NOCCOG Circuit Rider Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds, NorCOG/SRCG Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests – Emily Sheridan, Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator.

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 Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Ritter members approved the minutes of October 16, 2017.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz wished everyone happy holidays and a healthy 2018. The annual dinner on November 2nd at the Boonville VFW was well attended. There was a nice tribute to Ken Vigus. Rhonda was very pleased with the portrait of Ken's camp that she received. Thanks to artist Loretta Lepkowski for her work on the painting. Norah Machia provided a presentation on our Tug Hill Commission book. Looking forward to the finished book!

Welcome

Mrs. Malinowski has been busy working on staff evaluations, as they haven't been done in several years. Chairman Bogdanowicz would like to form a committee to do a performance appraisal for Mrs. Malinowski, as she has now been in her position as executive director for two years. He asked for volunteers to form a committee to assist in the process. Mrs. Ritter and Mr. Yerdon volunteered.

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members resolved to form a review committee to conduct the performance appraisal of Mrs. Malinowski, executive director.

Resolution # 2017-1

We have a draft of the 2018 meeting calendar and per Commissioner Chereshnoski's request to meet in Osceola and tour the library renovations, we have included that in the calendar. Commissioner Bogdanowicz suggested the staff retreat to be held in August at Montague. There is a national trainer that comes to Montague every summer to train black labs. He started seven years ago and now has large landholdings with built ponds for training. A brief meeting will take place at the Montague town barn prior to the dog training tour.

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members resolved to accept the 2018 meeting calendar as presented.

Resolution # 2017-2

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski shared that Sonya Bernstein is a new contact in the Governor Cuomo's New York City office.

Administration

Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Kimball attended the DOS Local Government Innovation Conference on November 14th. Mrs. Kimball presented on consolidated courts and was on a question and answer panel.

Fort Drum Day is scheduled for February 6th. FDRLO's executive director will be resigning at the end of the month. The resignation was unexpected. Mrs. Malinowski is coordinating with Senator Ritchie's office.

REDC grants will be announced later this week.

Mrs. Amyot's retirement party was a pleasant evening with 30 close friends and co-workers in attendance. Mr. McIlroy, RACOG Chair presented her with a plaque. She also received a canvas of autumn scenery on the Black River in Carthage, which was a gift from the commission. The transitioning of Mr. Dietrich to the RACOG circuit rider has gone smoothly.

In your packets is a handout for the Tug Hill book publishing pricing. Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Machia met with Pyramid Publishing Inc. to discuss pricing. The cost of approximately \$9000 would provide 2000 paperback copies. Half the payment is needed up front with the other half due upon completion. There is some money in the budget that can be used. Northern New York Community Foundation has expressed an interest and a grant may be possible. The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust may also be able to help. Mrs. Malinowski would like the book to be completed for the 2018 annual dinner.

Tug Hill Book

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Cheresnoski members approved to authorize printing the Tug Hill book.

Mrs. Malinowski asked for ideas for the commission's 45th anniversary next fall. She has reached out to the Conservationist magazine and they agreed to include an article about the commission in their fall issue. The book release will be ready. Commissioner Bogdanowicz suggested that more about the commission is needed in the New York State Museum. Mrs. Malinowski will reach out to them.

45th Anniversary

The Local Leaders Survey is scheduled to go out April/May 2018. We will need to meet and review the survey for any updating that is necessary.

Local Leaders Survey

Headwaters is in progress. It's scheduled for mailing late January/early February.

Headwaters

We are working with a local distributor to provide quotes and samples for shirts with the commission logo for staff to be able to wear at when going to organizations for presentations and workshops.

Apparel

In your packet is a handout of the LGC registration flyer and registration form that is available on the website. The flyers went to the printer on Friday. We are using Eventbrite again this year for online registration. Regina Clark will be the keynote speaker in the morning. She will present the Seven Seeds of Leadership. There will be three concurrent sessions throughout the day.

Local Government Conference

In your packets is an article from Assemblyman Barclay on low volume roads. It's been difficult to get attention. We will continue moving forward after January and the legislature is back in

MMR

session. There could be a possibility of getting different sponsor, in which case we would need to change some verbiage.

The Black River Watershed conference date is set for Tuesday, June 12 at Camp Turck. The planning is underway, with a budget of \$2000. This is a collaboration with the Lewis County Soil and Water District and DEC. The Black River Initiative newsletter is in the works and will be out soon.

Black River

Currently waiting for Number 3 Wind to file their actual application with PSC, which was supposed to be around November 30. Copenhagen is under construction, however, we are hearing about some wetlands violations. There have been no assembly appointments to siting boards as of yet. JLUS recommendations are almost final. Mrs. Malinowski passed around a copy for members.

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

December 14 - Joint Salmon Rivers/North Shore COG meetings (potential)
December 19 - RACOG meeting
December 21 - CTHC Executive Committee meeting
January 18 - NOCCOG Executive Committee meeting
January 28 - COG Chairs meeting, Lorraine

Upcoming Meetings

Mrs. Kimball, CTHC Circuit Rider: In November the final two villages of Constableville and Turin joined the council. Wind is still an ongoing issue. Work continues on minimum maintenance roads. Lyons Falls, Redfield and Leyden are working on updating zoning.

COG Reports

Mrs. Symonds, NOCCOG Circuit Rider: Barneveld is dissolving at the end of the month. With this loss NOCCOG will be at 17 communities. LGEC retained a federal id and will continue operating. We are looking into revamping the website.

Mr. Baxter, NorCOG/SRCG Circuit Rider: West Monroe working on sewer expansion. Constantia working on water expansion. There are no new developments with CNY Raceway. Parish and Amboy are working on their comprehensive plans. Albion is working on water. The Salmon River Hatchery would like public water.

RACOG: Per Mrs. Malinowski RACOG has met twice since Mickey came on board. They are looking into some projects and redesigning their website.

In your packets is the finance report for 2017-18. Per Mrs. Passino we are on track. The total may look low now, but there will be more end of year expenses. Mrs. Amyot's payout will be coming. She is still working on pay steps for Mrs. Kimball and Mrs. Armstrong. The Tug Hill book expense included in the administrative line. CTHC reimbursed us for the summer intern. We are leasing a new copier. The color printer may need replacing. We are trying to stay below the cash ceiling. We have discussed using LGC funds for purchasing office items and not leave money in revenue.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Emily Sheridan, Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator provided handouts of the Great Lakes Action Agenda Work Group goals and a draft of the Black River Initiative newsletter. She discussed her role and coordinating with others on projects.

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