

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Ava, New York

April 18, 2016

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdm. Chereshnoski and Messrs. Boxberger, Bogdanowicz, Maciejko, Talgo and Yerdon. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, Mickey Dietrich, NOCCOG Circuit Rider Jennifer Armstrong, NOCCOG Associate Circuit Riders Sue Martin and Harlan Moonen. Guests – Town of Boonville Supervisor Dick LeClair, USDA – Jeff Archer and Tobra Vescio; Town of Ava Supervisor Jim Ossont and Dan Rundle Planning Board.

Attendance

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

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Talgo, members approved the minutes of March 31, 2016.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the town of Ava for hosting. We had another successful year for the 2016 Local Government Conference! Thanks to commission staff for all their efforts in planning, it was a huge success! Mrs. Malinowski added that the compiled LGC surveys are in your folders that will help for next year's planning. There was positive feedback on the keynote speaker.

Welcome

Chairman Bogdanowicz has visited Commissioner Vigus at Faxton St. Lukes Healthcare. Ken is in good spirits and is hoping to be at an upcoming commission meeting.

The SNIRT Run was held this past weekend with a reported 4000 in attendance. Local law enforcement and emergency medical technicians provide their services for the event. As the event grows it would be nice if they share some of the monies with the municipalities that it encompasses.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski has now received 15 resumes for the Associate Director of Community & Regional Projects position. Interviews are planned for the end of this month.

Administration

In your packets is the operating philosophy with the word "assist" added as Commissioner Boxberger had suggested, in the last bullet. Commissioner Bogdanowicz suggested including "Tug Hill Communities and adjacent communities as necessary" in the operation philosophy wording. Commissioner Maciejko made a motion to accept the operating philosophy with the additional wording change suggested by Commissioner Bogdanowicz. Commissioner Talgo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The updated 2016 Commission Meeting calendar with changed meeting times and staff reporting assignments is in your packet.

The new Facebook page is off to a good start. A 1980's video of Alice Clemens, Tug Hill Sage and North American Fiddlers Hall of Fame Inductee, talking about fiddling on Tug Hill was well viewed on our Facebook page. More of these type of videos are planned.

Facebook

A copy of the EPF (Environmental Protection Fund) final approved budget is included in your packets. ACUB is included at \$1,000,000. We are working THTLT (Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust) to secure funds on the federal side. Pat Hooker in Governor's office and Ag & Markets are open to considering revising the match requirements

Environmental Protection Fund

In your packets is a copy of the Supreme Court decision on the Town of West Turin minimum maintenance road case. Many of the towns in the Tug Hill region have adopted minimum maintenance laws for low volume roads under the New York Home Rule provision. We have talked with the attorney for the Town of West Turin and they are going to appeal the decision.

Low Volume Roads

Included in your packets is a copy of a bill that would permit towns to designate low volume roads for minimum maintenance. Mrs. Malinowski and Mr. Street met with Assemblymen Brindisi on April 14 to discuss this issue. Assemblyman Brindisi was not aware of the bill and will look at being included. He will try to get more information for us hopefully by the CTHC annual meeting, April 21 to share with the CTHC municipalities.

Also in your packets is a copy of the Adirondack Council memo in support of the legislation.

A suggestion from Commissioner Talgo to contact Assemblyman Butler and Commissioner Yerdon suggested Assemblyman Magnarelli in Syracuse.

The wood basket project we have been partnering with ANCA on has not secured all the necessary funding. An RFP was released, interviews held and the consultant INRS chosen to complete the study. The analysis should be complete by October 2016.

Wood Basket

Mrs. Malinowski, Mr. Street, and Mrs. Waterbury met with Ben Coe and Bob Quinn to discuss Ben's idea of doing another Tug Hill book. The current Tug Hill book was done in the early 80's. We will work to put together an outline for a book.

Tug Hill Book

We are working on updating existing the issue paper. When it is complete we will hold a stakeholder meeting.

Tug Hill Aquifer

The village of Deferiet and the town of Rutland are interested in joining RACOG. It's expected the council should approve this at the next meeting.

RACOG

The project list is in your packets for review. If you would like more details on a specific project we can go over it at the next meeting.

Project List

Mr. Dietrich provided ideas for GIS. He has developed a new "old-style" regional map that can be modified for individual communities. It can include sketched photos and artistic highlights. We will slowly roll this out so that only a few maps are being worked on each month or so.

Staff Report

We have been looking for ways to analyze forestry data to look at forest cover. There is #sunrise effort on twitter that could possibly be adopted for use on Tug Hill.

There are back pack rentals available through Google that could be used during mapping of recreational trails. We will pursue this with the update to the Tug Hill Recreation Guide.

Grant Applications - Enhance grant applications by possibly using drones. Regulations and guidelines would be required.

Several efforts Mr. Dietrich is involved with through the NYS GIS Association should be helpful for the region. These include a legislative map day to bring awareness to legislatives of maps and what can be done and educate them. The Association is also working to study the return on investment of GIS, using two consultants. The Association is meeting with NYSAPLS surveyors to share educational opportunities and build a bridge between the two organizations. The Commission could try to look at opportunities for educational sharing with organizations.

Internship - Mr. Dietrich will do recreational mapping this year with an intern from THTLT. He suggested the Commission should apply for the Pratt Northam grant for internship next year.

Jennifer Armstrong, NOCCOG – Working on CFA’s this summer. Both Floyd and Ava will be resubmitting their park grant applications. The town of Annsville created a new water district and the income survey work will help qualify them for low income grant funds. The Oneida County executive has indicated the county is looking to create a new formula for the distribution of sales taxes. Mrs. Armstrong is working on a brochure for NOCCOG. Kent Stuetz from NYS Archives is coming to assist NOCCOG in organizing their records.

COG Report

There is no financial statement as the system is shut down so we are unable to update. In your packets is the 2016-17 proposed budget which is similar to previous years. Much is standard for office and travel expenses year to year. With the Associate Director position vacant we are saving in personal services at the moment. Owning both state vehicles rather than leasing is working out well, it will be a few years before we need to replace any vehicles. The new phone system is still included in the new budget, as we are not sure if we will be billed or not.

Finance Report

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members approved the 2016-17 proposed budget.

Commissioner Boxberger shared that he heard positive feedback on the assessor track at the Local Government Conference. Commissioner Talgo asked if there is an update on the Remsen-Lake Placid railroad. Mrs. Malinowski relayed it is to be made non-motorized from Tupper Lake to Saranac Lake.

Public Comment

Town of Boonville Supervisor Dick LeClair relayed that he is concerned about the sales tax distribution and not looking good for the towns. They have a meeting planned for Thursday.

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

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger
Secretary