

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Pinckney, New York

May 16, 2016

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdm. Chereshnoski and Messrs. Boxberger, Bogdanowicz, Maciejko, and Yerdon. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, CTHC Circuit Rider Angie Kimball, CTHC Associate Circuit Rider Kay Chapman. Guests – CTHC Chair Roger Tibbetts, Montague Councilwomen Tina Goutremout, Town of Rodman Supervisor Gary Stinson, Town of Pinckney Supervisor Sherry Harmych.

Attendance

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

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon, members approved the minutes of April 18, 2016.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the town of Pinckney for hosting. Introductions were made. He noted that he and Mrs. Malinowski will be traveling to Albany this Friday to meet with Department of State, Division of Budget, and the Governor's office on a variety of topics.

Welcome

Mrs. Malinowski added that the discussions include DOS meeting on regional projects, minimum maintenance roads and Tug Hill aquifer; DOB meeting with our budget examiner regarding funding and staffing; and an update at the Governor's office.

Commissioner Bogdanowicz let members know the Commissioner Vigus is doing very well, he has gained some weight and his spirits are high.

Commissioner Bogdanowicz asked members for ideas and suggestions for a summer retreat during August. Commissioner Boxberger felt that team building be good and suggested Beaver Camp as there is a challenge course that can be done. Other suggestions are welcome. More discussion at the next meeting.

We plan to have the Annual Meeting in November at the Tailwater Lodge. Potential keynote speakers could be the Secretary of State or someone from DEC. Mrs. Malinowski will book the lodge and solicit a speaker.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that out of the 15 resumes that were received for the Associate Director position, 5 were interviewed. The interviews were done by Mrs. Malinowski, Mr. Street and Mrs. Kimball. They have made a decision and would like to recommend Mrs. Waterbury for the position and will be submitting the paperwork to Albany soon.

Administration

The promotion of Mrs. Waterbury will leave the Senior Planner position vacant. Mrs. Malinowski will work on filling the vacancy, however, not as planner but as Community Development position.

Mrs. Malinowski, Mr. Street and all of the circuit riders met with the COG Chairs in April to discuss concerns and issues in an open relaxed dinner meeting. In your packets are notes from the meeting. There was discussion of a SuperCOG meeting in October.

COG Chair Meeting

We are looking to put together a committee to work on a video about the Commission. Mrs. Malinowski asked if members would be interested in participating. Chairman Bogdanowicz stated he would be interested.

THC Committee

Commissioners Yerdon, Talgo and Cheresnoski have all completed the online financial filing. However there are some online access issues. Commissioners Maciejko and Boxberger have not received email notification for this year. Mrs. Malinowski will follow-up.

Financial Filings

Ethnics training is all set for now. Commissioners are good for three years. Mrs. Malinowski will need to get training done so she is certified to provide commissioner training.

Ethics Training

Mrs. Malinowski is working on an internal control report.

Internal Control

Staff took a field trip on May 6, 2016 to Redfield and visited Salmon River Falls, the Braes and the Half-Shire Historical Society. A staff meeting was also held at the Redfield Fire Hall.

Field Trip

Low volume roads are a big issue for the Tug Hill region. Four of the five COG's have passed resolutions to support the pending low volume roads bill. We have been in contact with statewide environmental groups to provide information. The Adirondack Council supports the legislation with amendment. NYS Conservation Council is considering supporting it. We continue to reach out to a variety of stakeholders

Low Volume Roads

In your packets is an outline for the Tug Hill book that we are working on with Ben Coe. Mr. Street, Mrs. Waterbury, Bob Quinn and Mrs. Malinowski met with Ben to share ideas for the book. Ben suggested capturing stories from the older people while we still have the opportunity as they are getting on in years. Mrs. Malinowski met with Norah Machia, a freelance writer. She was previously a reporter for the Watertown Daily Times. She is a thoughtful writer and covered many commission meetings in the past. She is going to put something together and will have it for the June meeting. We will need to figure out how to fund the project.

Tug Hill Book

The Venerable Folks of Tug Hill exhibit will be unveiled at the THTLT annual dinner in October. The project is a joint effort with THTLT, the commission, TAUNY and Loretta Lepkowski, with funding from a variety of sources. The commission will be able to show the exhibit at our annual meeting in November.

Tug Hill Sage Portraits

The Black River Watershed Conference will be June 8 at Maggie's on the River in Watertown. In your packets are the agenda and registration information. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Black River Watershed Conference

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

In your packets is a draft copy of the Herring dissolution study that we have put together for the village. It has been challenging given the turnover in the village. Matt Johnson did a good

Herrings

job with the tax rates. Mrs. Amyot, Mrs. Malmgren and Mrs. Malinowski have all been working on this. We have been able to use the knowledge learned in previous dissolutions in Altmar and Prospect.

This year's CFA round is now open and reaching out to our communities with information and asking if they have projects we can assist with. Right now we know that Ava and Floyd will be resubmitting their parks projects.

CFA's

None for this month.

Staff Report

Angie Kimball, CTHC –Minimum maintenance roads is a big issue for the towns. Town of Harrisburg is interesting in solar grants. The town of Leyden's nomination for the town hall to be added to the NYS registry of historical places has been approved. NYS DOT will be conducting a speed limit study in the village of Port Leyden. The town amended the water district agreement with Port Leyden and approved it. The town of Lorraine is working on comprehensive plan. The town of Martinsburg approved Roaring Brook's proposal for changes to the proposed wind farm, and has set a public hearing for a new solar energy law. In the town of Montague another 700 acres has been purchased by The Nature Conservancy. Montague is also working on a land swap with NYSDEC to resolve space issues at the town barn. The town of Osceola is working on a new road map. The town of Pinckney has approved Iberdola to go higher on the cell tower at Deer River Ranch. The town of Redfield approved the 284 agreement for summer road work. The town of Rodman is working on their park from grant funding they received. They also had installed a security system in town hall by STAT Communication. The town of Turin has a vacancy on ZBA, they would like to get filled. The town of Boylston is working on getting their highway map completed. This will be the last town to get it done. CTHC has a new website.

COG Report

Roger Tibbets, CTHC Chair – Was pleased with the COG Chair meeting and felt it was good open communication.

Gary Stinson, Town of Rodman Supervisor – Rodman is the biggest producer of trash of all the towns and there has been security check point at the Rodman dump to ensure that permits are on all vehicles entering the facility. Due to vandalism they have installed security cameras in the town hall and town barn.

In your packets are 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial reports. We still have some 2015-16 bills to pay before we can generate a year-end report.

Finance Report

On a motion made to Commission Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko members accepted the financial reports as presented.

Gary Stinson, Town of Rodman Supervisor – The Gordon Cole Memorial Park is having mulch and stone put in, as well as a bench from grant funds they received. There is ball field committee that is working on plans to have be able to use the field for tournaments.

Public Comment

Kay Chapman, CTHC Associate Circuit Rider– Introduced Tina Goutremout, Councilwoman for the town of Montague. Ms. Chapman asked if Mrs. Malinowski could explain about the COG's and how they work and the Commission's resources to Mrs. Goutremout. Mrs. Malinowski obliged.

Commissioner Maciejko – Received a call from Jack Thoden, regarding camp members of Brandy Brook club who are paying \$500 yearly membership. The camp is located near Page Pond. Mr. Thoden is looking for assistance from the commission.

Mrs. Malinowski has also talked with Mr. Thoden. The Nature Conservancy is trying to get an exception from DEC for the camp to prevent removal, which is required as part of the terms of the conservation easement. NYSDEC is concerned about making an exception as they are worried it could set a precedent.

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 11:26 a.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger
Secretary