

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Montague, New York

August 20, 2018

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:12 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdms. Chereshnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Yerdon, Boxberger, and Maciejko. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Felicia Passino, and COG Contractors Beth Steria and Harlan Moonen. Guests – Lee Willbanks – commission attorney, Diane & Lee Chapin – Montague camp owners.

Attendance

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko 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 May 21, 2018.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked the town of Montague for hosting the meeting. Following the meeting our staff retreat will get under way and we will visit Alan and Gwen Pleasant at their dog training business here in Montague for a live dog training demonstration. They train here from Memorial Day weekend through October.

Welcome

Congratulations to Leona for her Women of Distinction award from Senator Ritchie.

The Conservationist magazine's August edition has a nice article on the commission's 45th anniversary. A copy of the article is in your packets. The magazine is out now.

We will have an abbreviated executive director's report to allow Mrs. Malinowski to provide ethics training at the end of the meeting.

Our next meeting in September will be in Altmar.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that she would provide the ethnics training for the commissioners after her report.

Administration

We are working to get the finalized book off to the printer next month. A copy of chapter one is in your packets. We were successful in getting \$4000 with the help of Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust in submitting a Furthermore grant to offset some of the costs. Most of the expenses of the book during this fiscal year, will be covered by outside sources.

Tug Hill Book

We plan to have invitations for the commission's 45th anniversary and annual dinner out in September. The fiddlers will be performing. We are thinking of giving all guests a complimentary copy of the book at the dinner in honor of our 45th anniversary. A book would also be given to each of our communities.

45th Anniversary

In your packets is the Local Leaders Survey final results. People value our services to include workshops, LGC and land use trainings and are not looking for major changes. It's strongly agreed that the commission should continue.

Local Leaders Survey

The CTHC fall meeting will be held September 27 at the Steak & Brew in Turin. The NOCCOG and dinner will also be held September 27 at the Delta Lake Inn in Rome. Khris Dodson from SU-EFC will be the speaker at NOCCOG.

COG Meetings

In your packets is a copy of the legal contract to retain Lee Willbanks as the commissions counsel. The contract has been the same for a number of years.

Legal Counsel Contract

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Cheresnoski members approved the contract as presented.

In your packets is the finance report for 2017-18 end of year and the 2018-19 to date.

Finance Report

Mrs. Passino reported the 2017-18 close out for the end of year, we knew we were going to be over on personal services. We were told not to worry. We tried to be careful on non-personal. The 2018-19 to date spending levels look good.

Mrs. Malinowski added that you can see on the 2017-18 report we were careful with non-personal services. The COG's taking over mileage expenses for the circuit riders was a big help. Receiving assistance with the books publishing costs was also helpful.

Our current budget examiner is leaving and we will be getting another examiner. We haven't had a meeting as of yet. Mrs. Malinowski was in Albany last week and other agencies appear to be in the same situation with staffing as the commission.

Chairman Bogdanowicz had concerns about his reappointments. Mrs. Malinowski has talked with Senator Ritchie's staff and the reappointment are submitted and we should be getting them soon.

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Mr. Chapin expressed concerns on how NYS will regulate marijuana. How will the state handle the ones that are selling it on the streets?

Mrs. Chapin expressed concerns that the state is looking to take land for a snowmobile parking lot in the town of Montague and residents are not being informed of happenings.

Mrs. Malinowski provided ethics training to board members. Certificate were given to members upon completion of training.

Ethics Training

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger
Secretary