

# TUG HILL COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Steuben, New York

October 15, 2018

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:14 a.m.

**Opened**

Commission members included Mdms. Ritter, Chereshnoski, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, and Maciejko. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, NOCCOG Circuit Rider Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds, and NOCCOG Associate Circuit Riders Harlan Moonen and John Healt. Guests included Town of Floyd Supervisor Willard Streiff, Town of Steuben Supervisor Joe Rowlands, Town of Trenton Councilwoman Betsy Mack, THC Counsel Lee Wilbanks.

**Attendance**

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

**Agenda Approved**

On a motion made by Commissioner Ritter and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members approved the minutes of September 17, 2018.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the Town of Steuben for hosting. Introductions were made. The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on November 8 at the Grape & Grog in Camden. The new Tug Hill book will be released and we will remember and recognize commissioner Arnie Talgo who passed this year. Election of officers is coming up for 2019-2020 term. He asked for volunteers to be appointed to the nominating committee. Commissioners Ritter, Boxberger and Chereshnoski were appointed to the committee. The nominating committee will present us with a slate of candidates at a brief business meeting prior to the annual dinner meeting on November 8. I designate our December 10th commission meeting in Watertown as our organizational meeting for the purposes of electing new officers for 2019-2020 term of chair, vice chair and secretary. On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Ritter, members approved the appointing of officers at the December 10 meeting.

**Welcome**

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the 2018-19 DOB budget call letter is in your packets. Our budget request is due October 26. One vehicle and computers are in need of replacing. We will continue to request to fill positions, as we have a few staff that are able to retire now. The contract with FDRHPO will offset some personnel costs this fiscal year and next. The 2% raises and steps we have no control over. Mrs. Malinowski met with Assistance Deputy Secretary Barbara Rice on September 21 in Saranac Lake. We talked about many things, including personnel challenges. Would like to meet with her and bring a few commissioners also, possibly in November.

**Administration**

The book will be released at annual dinner November 8. We are developing a plan for marketing the book via TV, radio, press release, etc. Katie would like to be joined by a commissioner for the book promotion and provided a sign up sheet to commissioners. She is hoping to do this after the annual dinner in November.

**Tug Hill Book**

We are receiving annual dinner RSVP's. Staff has been working on preparations for the dinner.

**45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A draft of the 2019 Meeting Calendar is in your packets for review. We have some new communities in the COG's, and will try to meet in some of those locations.

**2019 Meeting Calendar**

In your packets is a draft Resident and Landowner survey contract with the Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College. NOCCOG agreed to partner and contribute up to \$2,000. We have not heard back from other COG's as of yet. Mrs. Malinowski would like to keep commission's cost at \$10,000.00. The total contract cost is \$21,000.00.

**Residents and Landowners Survey**

On a motion made by Commissioner Cheresnoski and seconded by Commission Boxberger members resolved to approve the contract between the Tug Hill Commission and the Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College for \$21,000, to perform the 2019 Residents and Landowners Survey.

**RESOLUTION #2018-1**

In your packet is the draft FDRHPO Lift Grant contract. We are partnering with FDRHPO for a 2 year grant for Complete Streets for walkable communities. Boonville recently did a survey last summer with Mark Fenton. This is an opportunity for us to make more contacts, help offset planning. Several staff will be assisting, including Mr. Street, Mrs. Waterbury, Ms. Fowler, Mrs. Passino and Mrs. It took a year for funding to come through. The first part has to be done by January 31, 2019.

**Lift Grant**

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commission Maciejko members resolved to approve the contract between the Tug Hill Commission and the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization for \$35,000.00 to perform work related to Complete Streets.

**RESOLUTION #2018-2**

The October 4 meeting at the Alpine in Constableville was will attended and provided an update on what's been happening since last year's meeting. There was a discussion on ATV's.

**East Branch Fish Creek**

Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Garrett will meet with Pat Hooker, Deputy Secretary for Food and Agriculture in Albany tomorrow to provide an update on ACUB and request more funding. We are also working on meeting with Joe Popcun in Albany with FDRLO/Advocate Drum later this month.

**ACUB**

The Copenhagen Wind Farm will be generating electricity shortly. Number Three Wind Farm and Deer River Wind Farm are working through the Article 10 process. A new organization called THARP, Tug Hill Alliance for Rural Preservation is asking for intervenor funding. FDRLO worried about the wind farm affecting radar. It's complicated and hard to keep on track of it. Postings are done on their website. Redfield passed zoning to help them participate in the Article 10 process, Redfield's concerns are related to the core forest. Interestingly, Maple Ridge Wind Farm is suing Lewis County to reduce assessment.

**Wind**

Lake Placid will host the 2023 University Games. Governor Cuomo put together a commission on this. Prior commissioner Ray Carpenter has brought this to our attention. Mrs. Malinowski reached out to them to see if this is something we can get involved with. This is an international university sports federation, similar to Olympics.

**2023 University Games**

Mrs. Symonds reported the NOCCOG annual dinner was held September 27. Khris Dodson from Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center spoke on the value of project planning and grant preparedness. The budget was approved to purchase some GIS equipment that will be shared. Planning will be done this fall to determine next spring's mapping. NOCCOG was approved in the county budget. The Local Government Education Committee spoke with Regina Venettozzin, Interim Commissioner of Oneida County Planning at a recent meeting. John Kent retired and Regina will probably take his place. Annsville is working on water district. Camden Riverwalk project is well underway. The Main Street grant is almost accomplished. Boonville salt storage is completed. We submitted grants last year for Boonville and Remsen. Floyd and Vienna is working on salt grants also. Floyd completed town parks improvement. We are working on a park grant for Ava. The Wildlife Connectivity meeting is scheduled for October 30.

**COG Report**

There is no financial report due changes in Albany and lack of access. Felicia is working to get us set up in the new system.

**Finance Report**

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

**Public Comment**

Joe Rowlands, Steuben Supervisor stated he was happy to be on the NOCCOG board. Commissioner Ritter shared that a wind farm study by Oneida-Herkimer County was done 10 years ago, and should be on file at county. Steuben was the most viable. Mrs. Malinowski shared she attended the marijuana listening session last week. There was interest at the session from farmers in growing it, as an option to dairy.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko members adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

**Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger  
Secretary