

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Watertown, New York

March 27, 2019

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 4:09 p.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdms. Ritter & Chereshnoski, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Scriber, and Yerdon. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, and Circuit Riders Angie Kimball and Paul Baxter. Guests – Roger Tibbetts, CTHC Chair.

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 Scriber and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members approved the minutes of January 28, 2019.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone. It's the eve of the annual Local Government Conference and we have over 700 people attending tomorrow. Thank you to staff for all the hard work putting it together and thank you to commissioners that are attending. Mrs. Ritter, Mrs. Malinowski and I went to Albany last month. The visit included meeting with Barb Rice at the Governor's office where we discussed the minimum maintenance road legislation, delivered our white paper and provided the Tug Hill book. We met with Dwight Evans at Senator Griffo's office and Senator Magnarelli's staff to discuss MMR legislation. We also met with Assemblymembers Blankenbush, Buttenschon and Smullen and Senator Ritchie. Copies of the Tug Hill book were provided to all. We also talked with DOS. We will have a booth at the LGC that I will maintain, with assistance from other commissioners as able. The goal is to talk with people and gather information on what their ideas are on what the commission should be in the next five years.

Welcome

COG Chairs meeting will be April 23.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that we are in the Governor's budget as well as both one-house budgets. We're waiting for the budget to be finished. We were hoping to purchase a new vehicle, as the RAV is 2012 with 90,000 miles on it, however, we're not able to do that.

Administration

In your packets is a Paid Family Leave fact sheet. DOS contacted us in January, to let us know that the Governor's office would be reaching out to us to consider participating in Paid Family Leave. The Governor's office did contact us and now we need to make a decision. Our staff is Management/Confidential, and we are not in the Income Protection Program (IPP). We have a reciprocal agreement Ben Coe signed that employees can transfer to another state agency and carry their time of service with them. There was discussions regarding Paid Family Leave and our staff being M/C and not civil service. On a motion made by Commissioner Bogdanowicz and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon, members agreed to move forward with Paid Family Leave participation.

We haven't gotten approval yet from DOS to advertise for the planner position that would enable us have someone come on staff that would work with Mr. Street before his retirement. We'll contact DOS after state budget is complete to check on this.

Mrs. Malinowski reminded commissioners that financial disclosures are due by May 15.

The Tug Hill books are starting to sell in various retail locations. Mr. Yerdon suggested the The Gathering Place, which has purchased 40 books so far. Mr. Bogdanowicz suggested the Hook and Ladder for sales. A sheet was passed around for members to add ideas for locations to sell books. Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Ritter, and Mr. Bogdanowicz will be doing a radio station interview. Mr. Bogdanowicz suggested the upcoming SNIRT Run route for the books.

Tug Hill Book

Headwaters is done and has been emailed. Hard copies will also be going out in the mail. A copy is in your packets.

Headwaters

In your packets is a copy of the FDRHPO second year contract for complete streets. We used some first year income for reimbursements to personnel expenses.

Complete Streets

On a motion made by Commission Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Cheresnoski, the members approved the contract.

In your packets is a copy of the Environmental Protection Fund matrix that reflects projected funding from NYS for 2019-20. The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT) helps to protect under the ACUB program, which has been under farmland protection. This year there has been some discussion to move the money to the open space line. Yearly the legislature and governor negotiate the level of funding that goes into the EPF and assign amounts to specific categories. Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. Garrett have talked with the senate, assembly and our legislators to explain the proposal and ensure the funding is not lost. The THTLT has helped to build up the program and funding is important. The commission provides support to the THTLT, however the THTLT receives the funding.

ACUB

In your packets are copies of correspondence from THTLT with concerns on the impacts to the Tug Hill core forest with Roaring Brook and Mad River projects. There have been site changes to the Roaring Brook project in the town of Martinsburg. There is a question on grandfathered zoning. The THTLT is requesting the Public Service Commission (PSC) review the Roaring Brook project and believes the project should be subject to Article 10 review.

Wind

The COG Chairs meeting that was cancelled in January has been rescheduled for April 23 in Redfield.

COG Chairs Meeting

MMR legislation continues to be a priority. The commission did a number of legislative visits with the NYS Association of Towns, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, and the NYS Town Highway Superintendents Association has gotten additional interest for the bill. Mrs. Malinowski hopes to speak Darrel Aubertine on it also.

MMR

Fort Drum day will be held on May 14 in Albany.

Fort Drum Day

In your packets are two pieces of legislation. The WMA legislation would make state wildlife managements areas within the Tug Hill region subject to taxation. The Parish water legislation would allow the Onondaga County Water Authority to operate and maintain the town of Parish water system. We'll see what develops.

Wildlife Management Areas

During their Albany visit, Mrs. Malinowski, Mr. Bogdanowicz, and Mrs. Ritter met with Kisha Santiago-Martinez, Deputy Secretary of Planning and Development at DOS for a follow-up on the DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) concept and perhaps making the concept apply to smaller communities. Mrs. Malinowski will work to put a mini DRI concept together in April.

DOS

Mrs. Kimball reported wind laws are being worked be worked on in some CTHC towns. Leyden is working on a proposed solar project; planning board is working on a site plan review and heard from the IDA about a PILOT. Adams, Lorraine and Pinckney are working on solar laws. Road issues in Osceola, Montague and Lorraine. Williamstown, Florence and Lewis are working on salt shed grants. South Lewis School District will be closing Port Leyden and Glenfield Elementary schools. CTHC spring dinner will be April 25, invitations out next week. Kay Chapman is retiring end of year.

COG Report

Mr. Tibbetts, CTHC chair reported that Rosalie White, will not be running for re-election on the executive committee.

Mr. Baxter reported the North Shore and Salmon River COGs have shifted back on their meeting calendar due to upcoming elections. Petitions are circulating for elections. Constantia held a public meeting this month on the proposed sewer project along Oneida Lake; the planning board met last week to review solar power issues.

In your packets is the financial report. New computers and library chairs were purchased. We received computers and will be installing them after the LGC. We updated to Microsoft 365 and having computers on the cloud. The library was painted. We were not able to replace the RAV4 and purchase a new vehicle. We're on track.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Mrs. Chereshnoski expressed concern that towns are finding it difficult find people to run for supervisor positions. Early primaries and early voting are changing things as well.

Mrs. Ritter shared information about Erwin Park in Boonville, where plans are being made to perform significant improvements. The pool was not able to be used last year and the hope is part of the improvements would include a more traditional pool installation.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Scriber and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger
Secretary