

# TUG HILL COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Lyons Falls, New York

October 21, 2019

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

**Opened**

Commission members included Mdms. Chereshnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, and Yerdon. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Angie Kimball, Carla Fowler, and Jennifer Harvill. Guests – Lee Willbanks, Lewis County Legislator Larry Dolhof.

**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 Chesreshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the minutes of September 16, 2019.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the village of Lyons Falls for hosting. Introductions were made. The annual dinner rsvp's are coming in now. Alaina Mallette, the new planner is on board and has attended some meetings. Phil Street will be retiring on January 8, 2020. We are planning a retirement gathering at the December commission meeting. Ideas for a location are welcomed. RJ's will be catering. Commissioner Boxberger suggested the Watertown Town Hall or fire hall and will ask about availability. Congratulations the commission received the Best Partner Award from DOS that was presented at the Local Innovative Conference. Mrs. Malinowski added that staff members Angie Kimball and Carla Fowler attended, as well as local officials from our region. A proclamation was also given at the time of the award.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Bogdanowicz would like a press release about the award to go out. Mrs. Malinowski will ask for a picture from DOS to go with the press release.

Commissioner Bogdanowicz would like to have some Tug Hill display improvements done on the NYS Museum. Commissioner Ritter suggested the bobsled display in Boonville would be nice at the museum, she will check on it.

The 2020-2024 strategic plan is in your packets. Kudos to everyone that worked on this. The grassroots approach, planning and training for local governments, and natural resources all define the commission and should be continued. We need to market the Tug Hill region and the commission. We need to be creative to find more outside funding sources and projects.

Commissioner Bogdanowicz asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-2 to approve the 2020-2024 Tug Hill Commission Strategic Plan.

**Resolution 2019-2**

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Ritter members approved the 2020-2024 Tug Hill Strategic Plan as presented.

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Malinowski reported that Mr. Street is retiring as of January 8, 2020 as covered in the chairman's report. A retirement celebration is in the plans for the December commission meeting.

**Administration**

In your packets is a draft 2020 commission meeting calendar for your review before the December meeting.

In your packets is an updated COG map to reflect the villages for Copenhagen and Castorland that have joined RACOG. Commissioner Ritter had a concern that more municipalities joining could put more of a load on staff. Commissioner Boxberger asked what the breakdown was for Mr. Dietrich as his time was originally to be 50/50 for circuit rider and GIS when he took on the position. Mrs. Malinowski stated that its 75/25 now and Mr. Dietrich works from home 2-3 days a week. We have two Fort Drum interns that that Mr. Dietrich is overseeing to help on projects for a few months.

**COG Map**

Residents and Landowners Survey will be presented at the annual dinner. We have been sharing it with the COGs. A press release will go out for the annual dinner meeting. We hope to be able to get a couple of radio/tv interviews and include Joel.

**Tug Hill Resident and Landowner Survey**

In your packets is the map and the commission ideas for the community planning for renewables. We spoke to the Governors office to help prepare for this and are waiting to hear back. Communities need assistance with solar projects that are in the Tug Hill region. The commission could take on the four counties if we had more staff.

**Renewables**

We have been in communication with Darrell Aubertine at the comptroller's office and they are working on a report to be released in January. We have support from the farm bureau and Adirondack groups for the bill. Mrs. Malinowski will continue to discuss with legislators including Senator Griffo and Assemblymen Magnarelli.

**MMR**

The contract with FDRHPO (Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization) for complete streets will be done in January.

**Complete Streets**

Upcoming workshops include:

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October 24, Boonville, Minimum Maintenance Roads, Phil  
October 28, Watertown, Planning, Scott Chatfield  
October 29, Altmar, Water and Wastewater, multiple  
November 22, Adams, Archives workshop  
December 4, Boonville, Newly Elected Training  
December 5, Lorraine, Newly Elected Training

Ms. Fowler provided a Regional Economic Analysis PowerPoint presentation to share data findings board members, along with handouts. A discussion took place after the presentation.

**Regional Economic Analysis**

Mrs. Kimball reported in West Turin another case has been filed regarding an issue with minimum maintenance roads. Lorraine/Worth justice court needs a final resolution. The Worth community is in chaos. Mrs. Kimball, Mr. Street and Ms. Mallette attended a meeting in Pinckney, which still has no updated map. Ms. Chapman, CTHC Associate Circuit Rider is retiring at the end of this year. Karleigh Stuckey will be the new contractor and is currently attend meetings with Angie. West Turin and Montague dealing with SNIRT Run issues. Mrs. Malinowski reached out to Barnes Corners Sno Pals for a meeting to resolve problems, but nothing yet. Changes in some towns and villages will occur with local officials, as some are retiring or not running. Constableville is working on strategic planning.

**COG Report**

In your packets is the financial report. There will be an overlap with Mr. Street and Ms. Mallette and it may go over a little, but the DOB is aware. We still have a few computers to replace. We ae looking good and are on target.

**Finance Report**

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment. None were made.

**Public Comment**

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 11:38 a.m.

**Adjourn**

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger  
Secretary