

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Osceola, New York

May 20, 2019

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:00 a.m.

Opened

In attendance were commission members Mdms. Cheresnoski and Ritter and Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Yerdon and Maciejko; staff members Katie Malinowski and Angie Kimball; and guests Ginny Churchill – Osceola Town Clerk, Sarah Clerkin – Osceola resident, Marilee Rayome – Osceola resident and Library Board President, and THC Counsel Lee Wilbanks.

Attendance

Commissioner Cheresnoski gave an overview of the history of the library building, which started as a Methodist church in 1882, become the town hall in 1920, and when the school closed and the town took that building over in 1978, became the library. Three NYS library construction grants have funded improvements including accessibility, water and sewer, as well as new windows, insulation, etc. to make the building much more comfortable for patrons. Funds from the Evans family endowment have also been used for improvements. The Osceola Historical Society has space in the building as well. The library has been working to generate more sustainable income and will have a proposal on the ballot this November to generate \$7,000/year from the town property owners.

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 Ritter and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the minutes of April 22, 2019.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked Leona for hosting us and for sharing with us the history of the library. Chairman Bogdanowicz also thanked Ginny Churchill for the tour of the new Osceola Municipal Building before the meeting. Great job on both renovations.

Welcome

Chairman Bogdanowicz noted that Director of Planning Phil Street recently received the Heissenbuttel Award for Planning Excellence, which was much deserved. He recalled first meeting Phil in 1983 and working with him through 1984-1985 to develop zoning/subdivision controls for the town of Montague, which were adopted in 1986 and are still serving the town well today. Phil has done a significant amount of good work all over Tug Hill and will be missed.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the next steps on Paid Family Leave for staff are with civil service and we wait to hear from them. Regarding the planner hire, we have received 26 resumes to date, 12 applicants meet the minimum qualifications, and we have four potential interviews. Chairman Bogdanowicz suggested sharing the job announcement with the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at SUNY Albany.

Administration – Paid Family Leave and Staffing

A preliminary report from the Strategic Plan survey monkey questionnaire was distributed to commissioners. A reminder email will be sent today. Information from survey monkey, LGC booth input, 2018 Local Leaders Survey, and communication from COGs will be wrapped into a draft strategic plan to present in June.

Strategic Plan

A proposed 2019-20 budget was distributed to commissioners for their review and comment. It includes \$926,000 for salaries as projected with Phil Street retiring at the end of 2019, Matt Johnson moving to a Grade 23 and the new planner starting as a Grade 14. It also includes \$21,000 for the resident and landowners survey. On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Chereshnoski, members approved the 2019-20 budget as presented.

2019-20 Budget

Mrs. Malinowski reported that approximately 140 books have been sold wholesale to date. Commissioners discussed some additional venues, including Awesome Country in Boonville, Colwells in Martinsburg, and the Nice-N-Easy in Constableville. Mrs. Malinowski will stop by several locations on her way to Lowville this afternoon.

Tug Hill Book Sales

Fort Drum Day in Albany was held on May 14, and Mrs. Malinowski helped organized various meetings for the community groups participating in the day. Discussions continue regarding ACUB funding and how to make it easier for Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to administer.

ACUB

There has been significant activity on A3724/S2910, the minimum maintenance roads legislation. The bill was approved in the Senate Transportation Committee and has moved to third reading on the floor. The bill remains in the Assembly Transportation Committee, and several meetings have been held with Assemblymembers Barclay, Gunther, Magnarelli, Santabarbara and/or their staff to move things forward. A group of partners including the commission met with Assembly Program and Counsel staff, where there are still concerns and resistance. May consider having commissioners meet with Assemblyman Magnarelli in the district soon. Chairman Bogdanowicz will work on that and would like to have pictures available to demonstrate what these roads look like.

MMR

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the Staying Connected Initiative retreat she attended in Quebec was very worthwhile. The project helps connect Tug Hill to the greater Northern Appalachians and puts local work in an international context. She will be working to get NYS more involved with its neighboring states and provinces on some international efforts.

Staying Connected Initiative

Surveying by JCC's Center for Community Studies starts tonight for the 2019 Tug Hill Residents and Landowners Survey. Preliminary results may be available by the June Commission meeting.

Landowner Survey

Commissioners Boxberger and Ritter are attending the Black River Watershed Conference. Registration has topped 100.

Black River Conference

Mrs. Kimball reviewed current activities in her 21-community COG, including: Adams – LED streetlights with RACOG and a proposed community solar projects; Boylston – working on contract with Oswego County on snowplowing; Constableville – infrastructure improvements; Florence – working on zoning changes; Harrisburg – wind projects ongoing, withdrawing from shared brush hog with Pinckney and Montague; Lewis – salt shed grant under contract with DEC; Lorraine – shared justice court with Worth moving forward, working on solar law; Lyons Falls – very busy with DASNY grant, BOA moving to completion, LED lights; Martinsburg – sewer and water infrastructure work, LED streetlights; Redfield – working on subdivision law changes to make compatible with zoning law; Worth – wind law controversy.

CTHC Report

Mrs. Malinowski reviewed the current financial report. There are still a few outstanding expenses in 2018-19 before an end-of-year report can be provided.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Commissioner Boxberger reported that the town of Watertown has a proposed 600-acre solar farm proposed on agricultural land, which will go through the Article 10 process.

Commissioner Ritter reported that the Local Government Education Committee will hold a training on Amish and codes at the Trenton Municipal Building on June 20. The Oneida County Association of Towns is having a speaker talk about solar at an upcoming meeting. Boonville is experiencing some economic challenges, with the Great American closing in June, the gas station by the railroad tracks not pumping gas and subsequent increase in gas prices, empty store fronts and changing population.

Commissioner Yerdon reported on the ongoing work in Redfield regarding subdivision review and their zoning law.

Commissioner Cheresnoski noted that the Osceola Snowmobile Club is interested in applying for a Recreational Trails Grant this year and is looking for assistance from the commission.

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 11:49 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger
Secretary