

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 17, 2021

Port Leyden Community Room@ Fire Hall, 3387 Douglas Street, Port Leyden, 13433

Also Via Video and Audio with Zoom - us02web.zoom.us/j/81398521958 Meeting ID: 813 9852 1958

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:08 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Yerdon, Maciejko, Scriber, Mdm. Ritter and Cheresnoski. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Felicia Passino, Jennifer Harvill, Matt Johnson, Carla Fowler, Jean Waterbury, and Alaina Mallette. Circuit Riders - Paul Baxter, Angie Kimball, and Mickey Dietrich. Guests included Counsel – Lee Willbanks, Joe Rowlands NOCCOG Associate Circuit Rider.

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 Cheresnoski and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the minutes of April 19, 2021.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked Port Leyden for hosting and those attending the hybrid meeting. The Community Recognition Award submissions are due June 1. The award will be presented at the commission's annual dinner this fall. The last 14 months during the pandemic commission staff have stepped up and successfully provided virtual trainings and webinars to our region and beyond that have been well attended. Thank you to staff for doing a great job.

Welcome

Upcoming webinars include:

Underground Railroad – May 20, June 19, and June 24

Broadband – May 19 and June 16

Black River Watershed – Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, May 19; Ice and Snow Best Practices, May 26; Weather Resilience, June 2

Cannabis Law – June 1

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that she has not received a response from Albany for approval to modify the return-to-work plan from 50% to 75%. Give that, statewide, offices are allowed to operate at 75% capacity now, and she has let our deputy secretary know, she will move forward at 75% capacity with eight staff in the office as of June 1.

Administration

Mrs. Waterbury will retire at the end of July. She has vacation to use so her last day at the office will be June 22. Mrs. Malinowski has all signatures except that of the DOB signature to get John Healt on as the NOCCOG circuit rider. This is a priority, and she has been reaching out weekly to get the paperwork completed. If the process is not completed by June 22, we will be in a difficult situation and need to coordinate with associate circuit riders and staff for coverage of NOCCOG. Mr. Johnson's promotion is also lacking the DOB signature to become finalized. Mrs. Malinowski would like to move forward with starting the process for filling the Project Director position.

<p>Mrs. Malinowski received one submission so far for the Community Recognition Award. Submissions are due June 1. Circuit riders are sharing this at municipal meetings. A media release went out and is available on the website. We will announce who is chosen at our annual meeting in October.</p>	<p>Community Recognition Award</p>
<p>Mrs. Malinowski had a phone meeting with the assembly transportation committee to discuss the proposed bill edits and address the concerns of the Appellate court decision. The bill is not a priority for them. Some concerns include zoning, highway laws, DOT regulations and maintenance. Mrs. Malinowski has asked the Association of Towns to look at the bill. She has spoken with Senator Griffo’s office also and they will address the bill once it gets through the assembly.</p>	<p>MMR</p>
<p>Surveys are live in Oswego and Oneida counties. A distribution email and media release were sent to get the information out. We provided a Broadband webinar presented by Scott Rasmussen on the statewide perspective and money that will be available for broadband improvements. Lewis County’s survey is done, and they are planning to set up a subcommittee. Mrs. Malinowski will be contacting them.</p>	<p>Broadband</p>
<p>The commission will host a Cannabis Law webinar with the AOT and NYCOM June 1. There will be a lot of information provided. There are over 100 registered.</p>	<p>Marijuana</p>
<p>The American Rescue Plan came out May 10, however municipalities are still need more guidance on how funds can be used. Funds will go to the state then get distributed to towns and villages. The counties will receive funds directly from the federal government. A 200-page document on rules will need to be read through.</p>	<p>American Rescue Plan</p>
<p>CFA’s are open this year and due by July 30. The commission has received five to six requests for snowmobile groomer grant assistance.</p>	<p>CFA</p>
<p>Camoin and the Center for Studies at JCC completed a draft of the snowmobile study. Nothing has been released yet. More information should be available at the June commission meeting.</p>	<p>Snowmobile Study</p>
<p>The Community Cohesion survey should be open this week. This is to find ways for our communities to work together to provide services.</p>	<p>Community Cohesion Survey</p>
<p>Port Leyden Elementary was purchased by residents Mark and Kim Lemieu who are planning to convert the Lincoln Street side to senior house and the opposite side for multi-use such as retail space, community center, restaurant, etc.</p>	<p>South Lewis Schools Reuse</p>
<p>Glenfield Elementary was purchased by LasComp Institute of IT and IT/Tech company planning to use part of the building as a training center and the other part for multi-use.</p>	
<p>The commission has been receiving an increase in requests for planning and ZBA assistance. We are working on new projects Albion, Western and Worth. We continue to provide training for new planning board and ZBA members. We learned last week from an Ava resident that contacted our office about a planning board meeting for a proposed a retreat/campground. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Waterbury reached out to the supervisor to let him know the commission is available to provide assistance if needed.</p>	<p>Planning</p>
<p>CTHC – Ms. Kimball reported the town of Adams water study was done on Rt. 177 near Honeyville and engineers are ready to give a final report. Ms. Kimball attended the village of Adams meeting to introduce associate circuit rider Karleigh Stuckey. The village playground</p>	<p>COG Reports</p>

committee is planning to a meet and greet with the Watertown Wizards to help raise funds. Constableville is discussing doing an update to their income survey that would be needed for various infrastructure grants. Several trees are in the Sugar River after a storm and are causing issues with culverts and endangering the bridge and the bank at the sewer plant and they are working with DOT and the town on the issue. They are still looking for a water plant operator. They were awarded a source water protection grant from DEC that we helped them write a few years ago. Harrisburg – land clearing began in March on the Number 3 wind project and all landowner land has been cleared. They have all seen the land layout maps as well. The land clearing for the substation should begin in June with turbine site construction slated to begin in July. The turbines should be going up this time next year. Leyden is discussing consolidating the village and town court. They are also looking at passing a moratorium to provide time to work on a solar law. Lyons Falls - Google for Business platform for village operations was approved to use it for domain name, emails and cloud storage. They are discussing a new employee for the DPW. They are doing a site plan review. Martinsburg – Complaints about the recent ATV poker run regarding parking all over road and on private property. Law enforcement was unable to get the riders to leave the private property. The board is now reviewing their new event law. The county is also reviewing their event law to make possible changes as the event in question garnered many complaints and the organizer bypassed the county law by using only town roads. The board scheduled a public hearing on 2 proposed solar projects. Montague - the board is looking at getting some solar regulations set up. They may talk to the county about taking over ownership/maintenance of a couple of their bridges. They reviewed the events law and will see if it works well before deciding on a law of their own. Osceola - will hold meetings over the next couple of weeks to get the minimum maintenance roads law process started. Port Leyden - discussing the possibility of turning the court building over to the town and possibly abolishing the village court at the end of current Justice term. Resignations of DPW Superintendent and trustee, new people have been appointed to the positions. Redfield is having issues with a snowmobile crossing tearing up a portion of one of their roads and doing costly repairs every couple of years. Town of Turin - a resident is requesting one of their town roads to be closed to ATVs and threatening legal action if it is not closed. The Brick Block building that had a fire may be taken by eminent domain. They are reviewing the event law and may adopt it. Village of Turin has questions on funding for the Brick Building fire cleanup. West Turin is reviewing the highway map. Williamstown - representatives from Camp Zerbe spoke to the board about the facility. Worth – beginning work on the minimum maintenance roads law process.

The financial report (sent via email) we were very frugal as you see from the 20-21 financial statement. The 21-22 financial statement we are trying to purchase computers, we purchased a TV for Zoom meetings. The RAV 4 will need to be replaced at some point.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary