

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 21, 2021

Forestport Town Hall, 10275 State Route 28, Forestport, NY 13338

Also Via Video and Audio with Zoom - us02web.zoom.us/j/82669688230 Meeting ID: 82669688230

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:09 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Maciejko, Scriber, Mdm. Ritter and Chereshnoski. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Felicia Passino, Jennifer Harvill, Matt Johnson, and Jean Waterbury. Circuit Riders - Paul Baxter and John Health. Guests included Sandra Marsh, NOCCOG Associate Circuit Riders Joe Rowlands and Lisa Bellinger.

Attendance

On a motion made by Commissioner Scriber and seconded by Commissioner Chereshnoski members approved the agenda as presented.

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members approved the minutes of May 17, 2021.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. Mrs. Waterbury will be retiring in July and wished her all the best and thanked her for 36 years of service. A retirement celebration will be held on June 24. He welcomed John Healt in his new position as NOCCOG circuit rider beginning today and thanked him for his patience to get on board as the hiring process was delayed over the past year due to the pandemic.

Welcome

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported Albany provided new guidance this past Friday that for those vaccinated no mask is needed, however if unvaccinated masks are required. We have not followed other state agencies in the building that are continuing teleworking. Our staff are in the office full time.

Administration

Most communities are getting back to normal with some still doing remote. Staff is trying to assist those communities to get them on their own with Zoom. (handout)

Executive orders for remote meetings continue to get extended every two weeks.

We received approval from DOB to hire John Healt, after a year-long process due to the pandemic and the hiring freeze. He's officially starting today. We'll need to work on filling the Community Projects position that will be vacant in July upon Mrs. Waterbury's retirement. No response from Albany regarding filling the position.

Mrs. Malinowski received one municipal submission and four community organization submissions for the Community Recognition Award. The award committee will meet July 20 in Osceola to review submissions.

Community Recognition Award

A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with Mrs. Passino, Mrs. Decker, and Ms. Mallette to begin Annual Dinner preparations.

We are proceeding with the Regional Map now that printing restrictions have been lifted.

Regional Map

Staff/commissioner retreat will be on August 16. Mrs. Malinowski asked for suggestions or requests for a location.

Staff Retreat

MMR bill has been frustrating, with significant amounts of work and the bill continued to be stalled. Not sure how much more effort we should continue to put in. We hope to schedule meeting with Mark Schachner next week for legal advice on seasonal zoning. (handout)

MMR

Surveys are wrapping up. Oswego and Oneida counties are open until August. We've been reaching out to people in those counties to boost responses. There's talk on how to move into the implementation phase. We're hearing the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) may have some broadband money for counties. The American Rescue Plan Act has several rules and requirements for using funds.

Broadband

We have completed our Broadband webinar series.

The Cannibas webinar on June 1 webinar with AOT and NYCOM was well attended. The Black River Watershed and Underground Railroad webinars will be done by end of June. We will take a break from webinars in July and August. In the fall, will continue with historical type webinars, including more Constable Chronicles and logging. (handout).

Training Webinars

We are evaluating our options for the LGC, included regular style or scaled down version of the conference. We've reached out to JCC, but there's no guarantee what their operating status will be due to COVID-19 and they reserve the right to cancel. Other options we are looking at include Three Willows in Lyons Falls and Tailwater Lodge in Altmar.

LGC

Snowmobile Economic Impact study is completed. The four-county effort included Lewis, Jefferson, Oswego, and Oneida. JCC Center for Studies did the survey and Camoin did the analysis. Calculations show 35,000 users and 52% are non-local. Uses spend approximately \$200 per day. This could mean a lot for industry. (handout)

Snowmobile Study

NOCCOG– Mrs. Waterbury reported the executive board has decided to hold an in person annual dinner meeting this fall. She and Mrs. Malinowski are meeting with Mr. Healt later today to provide him with the latest information and bring him up to speed as he transitions into the circuit rider position. We will also hand off supplies and paperwork. Mr. Healt shared that the salary survey is item that needs to be tackled. Commissioner Ritter suggested that Mr. Healt reach out to James Genovese the new commissioner of planning for Oneida County, as well as Anthony Picente the county executive to schedule a meeting.

COG Report

Regarding the financial report (handout) for 2020-21 we did well as we stayed cautious with funds with the uncertainty related to the pandemic. For 2021-22 there are salary increases coming. We are trying to purchase new computers but lack of supply due to the pandemic is making it a frustrating process.

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 Maciejko members adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary