

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 13, 2021

Via Zoom – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84975868282> Meeting ID: 849 7586 8282

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Maciejko, Yerdon, Scriber, and Mdms. Cheresnoski and Ritter. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Felicia Passino, Carla Fowler and Alaina Mallette. Circuit riders Mickey Dietrich, Paul Baxter, Angie Kimball and John Healt. Guests included Sandra March, C2AE; Tim Kelley, town of Amboy; Lee Willbanks, counsel.

Attendance

On a motion made by Commissioner Maciejko and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the agenda as presented.

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko members approved the minutes of September 20, 2021.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone. Thoughts are with those in the Midwest that have been impacted by the devastation of the tornado that went through the past weekend. He thanked members for attending the annual dinner meeting at Tailwater Lodge in October. There was a good attendance, and the fiddlers did a nice job. This was the first year for the commission to present community awards. The awards were presented to two organizations: Martinsburg Cemetery Association for the abandoned cemetery project and to village of Deferiet for the playground restoration project. He also thanked members for attending annual dinner meetings for the Cooperative Tug Hill Council and Northern Oneida County Council of Governments. Preparations are getting underway to hold our Local Government Conference in April at Turning Stone

Welcome

Ethics training for members will be at the end of today's meeting.

Chairman Bogdanowicz presented the 2022 meeting calendar and in it proposed for the board's yearly meeting schedule to reduce meeting to eight times yearly instead of the current nine, eliminating meeting in the month of May. He asked members if that seemed like a good balance, to be productive and conduct business with eight meetings. Commissioner Scriber requested board members be provided a director's report for the months the board doesn't meet. Mrs. Malinowski agreed to provide member with a director's report for the months the board doesn't meet. Commissioner Cheresnoski mentioned that communication has greatly improved over the years and now with technology are able to attend virtually if needed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Cheresnoski members approved the 2022 meeting calendar as presented.

Governor Hochul is loosening up restrictions regarding appointments for agencies and organizations. We have an Oneida County governor's appointment vacancy that we need to fill. It could be challenging to find someone. The other vacancy can be filled from any of our four counties.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that COVID protocols are continuing. A mask mandate went into effect today by Governor Hochul. In the Dulles State Office Building we have been wearing masks already. We are in compliance with the Governor's office requirement for staff vaccination status reporting and testing. There has been an increase in Zoom meetings. An extension for remote meetings goes through the middle of January.

Administration

We are waiting on signatures and budget approval to promote Mrs. Harvill to Projects Director. We have made offers to two candidates for project specialist positions. Less than 10 resumes were received for the planner position. Three interviews were completed. An offer was made to one candidate, however they declined. We will regroup and modify criteria, as well as reach out to DOS and other partners when we advertise again.

The Regional Map has been printed. We are in the process of having individualized maps printed and delivered to municipalities to hang in their offices.

Regional Map

We are updating our display table to use at county fairs for next summer. Improvements to the display include a Tug Hill trivia wheel to spin and a Tug Hill-themed coloring book.

Display Table

We are working on a new approach on minimum maintenance roads that would be a minor modification to the highway law. We have discussed with Assemblymembers Blankenbush and Barclay to date. We are communicating with Senator Griffo's staff as well.

MMR

A broadband page has been added to our website. We are waiting for signed data sharing agreements from our partners to add county specific data to the map. We have had conversations with the Adirondack Central School regarding internet issues in the district. We plan to meet with them in January to discuss possible solutions.

Broadband

The Local Government Conference will be held at Turning Stone April 19. We've received more interest from Albany people as it's closer for them. Governor Hochul was invited to speak. Mrs. Malinowski shared on her screen the registration brochure providing session information on what will be offered. We are hearing from communities that people are excited to attend in-person. We will try to keep event as safe as possible, as well as keeping track of what other agencies are doing. The commission has hotel rooms reserved and we need to know who will be staying overnight.

LGC

Nine CFA grants were submitted by staff. There is no announcement yet on the grant status.

CFA

NorCOG/SRCG – Mr. Baxter shared that municipalities are preparing for new supervisors and mayors. The commission will offer newly elected training for them in January. Municipalities are completing year end business.

COG Reports

CTHC – Mrs. Kimball reported the village of Adams is working on a playground and has a community committee; several towns are working on solar laws; Rodman and Adams are working on a non-motorized trail; the brick block building in Turin is coming down; Worth may be going to an appointed assessor instead of elected; a few towns are working on cannabis local law opt outs; there is a storage on HWY workers; and there will be changes to positions with new people.

NOCCOG – Mr. Healt reported towns are working on solar laws; municipalities have a lot of questions on cannabis laws; an executive committee member is stepping down; a new

website is being designed; Adirondack School district has talked with us about internet issues; there will be a few new supervisors; and NOCCOG currently has no cannabis opt outs.

RACOG– Mr. Dietrich reported that crews are underway installing LED lighting in Carthage; he is working with Denmark and Wilna on their websites which will be added to RACOG site; New Bremen is interested in joining RACOG and the cooperative ZBA, Ms. Kimball and Mr. Johnson provided a presentation for them; Croghan is interested in joining RACOG; Lowville has a joint comprehensive plan hearing in January for the final draft, we are discussing how to make an interactive piece for the website; three new supervisors will take over, which includes Bruce Ferguson stepping down as Champion supervisor and RACOG chair; Friends of the Black River will be meeting this Thursday and will be looking at historical sites on the Black River and incorporating them on the blackriverny.com website; and a Fort Drum intern will be coming to work on the project in the spring.

The financial report (handout via email) 2021-22 statement shows we are doing well. The three laptops we ordered during the spring are working out very well. We have now ordered ten more to have for all employees.

Finance Report

Mrs. Malinowski asked the board to approve moving allocating \$11,000 for new computers.

On a motion made by Commission Cheresnoski and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon member approved the allocation of \$11,000 for new computers. Commissioner Cheresnoski suggested training would be beneficial for staff.

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Commissioner Cheresnoski shared that a webinar on the Hulbert House might be interesting to provide to our audience.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary