

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 21, 2022

Village of Cleveland offices, 2 Clay St, Cleveland, NY 13042

Via Zoom – us02web.zoom.us/j/84600743849 Meeting ID: 846 0074 3849

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

Opened

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Scriber, Yerdon, Maciejko, and Mdm. Cheresnoski. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Jennifer Harvill, Felicia Passino, Taylor McKinney, and Patricia Shulenburg; Circuit Riders Angie Kimball, Paul Baxter, John Healt and Mickey Dietrich. Guests Tim Kelley, town of Amboy; John Souva, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust; James Bernys, town of Parish; Bob McNamara town of Constantia; Charles Gills, North Shore Sportsmen Assoc.; Lauren Tackman, village of Cleveland; and Lee Willbanks, counsel.

Attendance

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

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Scriber members approved the minutes of January 24, 2022.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. A question was raised on guidance related to short term rentals by Mayor Tackman. A discussion took place with members. Mrs. Malinowski shared that the commission plans to have an issue paper out soon that would provide some guidance.

Welcome

Chairman Bogdanowicz reminded everyone that the Local Government Conference is coming up Tuesday, April 19 at Turning Stone. The commission meeting will be held April 18 at 3:30 p.m. at Sylvan Beach offices, with dinner to follow at Turning Stone.

At the January meeting a committee was formed for Mrs. Malinowski's annual appraisal. Chairman Bogdanowicz would like to set up a Zoom meeting with committee members on Monday, March 28 to prepare for the appraisal.

There was a review and discussion of the new NYS Assembly and Senate districts (map handouts) in relation to the Tug Hill region. Senator Ritchie is retiring. Senator Griffo will have new territory and will lose the North County. The region will now include portions of five assembly districts.

The commission will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2023 and should start a planning committee to work on this milestone event. Commissioner Cheresnoski suggested an information booklet to give to legislators, to include the commission's history. She also shared that the individual who went by "Tug Hill Charlie" was Guardly Elkin.

This year the annual dinner will be held at Zero Dock Street in Carthage.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported remote meetings have been extended to April 15, 2022. The 2022-23 budget is in the final stages in Albany. We are in at the same levels and remain in both houses.

Administration

There will be a new Governor's office contact for us as Barbara Rice is now executive director for Adirondack Park Agency. Mrs. Malinowski attended a remote meeting a few weeks ago to meet with new contacts Jane Weisenberg and James Katz. We invited the Governor to attend the Local Government Conference. There is a possibility that Robert Rodriguez, new secretary of state, may attend.

Our two new project specialists, Taylor McKinney and Patricia Shulenburg started on February 22. Both did GIS training and created maps with Ms. Mallette before she went on maternity leave. We will readvertise for the planner position, which has been difficult to fill.

Ms. Mallette is now on maternity leave until the beginning of August.

Carpeting and painting in office is complete. ACC Technologies in Syracuse is our new IT consultant. They have a representative located in Adams. Next week they will be onboarding in our office.

Apparel will be ordered next week for staff. Mrs. Malinowski shared an order form for commissioners if interested.

We are doing research as there has been some interest in Richland joining the region. Some research we have done shows that both Sandy Creek and Richland were included in previous legislation. There is a 1975 map showing them within the boundary. We are still tracking down more information. (handout).

Richland

Mrs. Malinowski asked members to consider extending the contract with Mr. Petrie for next year at the same amount. \$5000 was allocated in this year's budget, but we've only used half. We can wait until after we know the budget passes and decide at the next commission meeting.

Consulting Contracts

Mr. Willbanks contract for legal counsel will also need renewing.

The Local Government Conference registration was 461 as of Friday. We should meet our goal of 500. The total does not include speakers.

LGC

There has been no movement with MMR as legislators are currently working on the state budget. Mrs. Malinowski will reach out after the conference. There is some controversy related to Flat Rock Rd. in Martinsburg and potential plowing, the town board meetings have been well attended by the public. We have been in contact with Tim Hunt, Lewis County Highway Superintendent. Mrs. Malinowski and Mr. Johnson will attend meeting with Lewis County on Wednesday for more discussion related to town roads.

MMR

Reprinting of the Rec Guide has been held up to a paper supply shortage. At last month's meeting it was approved to allocate \$10,000 for this year's budget for reprinting the rec guide. However, we will expend only \$2,500 (25%) out of this year's budget and need to budget \$7,500 for next year's budget.

Rec Guide

Heidi Lehmann, village of Castorland trustee and a member Friends of the Black River Group received several copies of the Castorland Journal (handout) and provided one to the commission. It contains details of explorers on their journey to the region. The history is

Friends of the Black River

very interesting. There could be an opportunity for the commission as how it relates to the region. Ms. Fowler, Mr. Dietrich, and Ms. Harvill are also in the group.

The Black River Watershed Conference will be held June 8.

**Black River Watershed
Conference
Upcoming Webinars**

We have partnered again with the Oneida County Historical Center and will offer a Civilian Conservation Corps hybrid seminar on May 21.

NorCOG/SRCG – Mr. Baxter reported he has been working with new supervisors. There is increased interest in cyber security. NYMIR has informed our communities that they are offering cyber security insurance. Mr. Petrie’s resources are well received in the North Shore and Salmon River and there would be interest in receiving more assistance from him in the future. Constantia is working on sewer. West Monroe is working on a generator for the municipal building. Municipalities are looking at the American Rescue Plan funds and how they can use them. Orwell is working on water. Interest in the Local Government Conference has been strong. There continues to be interest in continuing the use of Zoom or some remote access as it is useful in how we operate now and in the future.

COG Reports

The financial report (handout) 2021-22 statement shows we are in good shape and will be under budget. We have made purchases for necessary items for office. We saved on salary since the planner position remains open. Staff have new laptops which have better capability for remote applications.

Finance Report

A dinner menu and map of Turning Stone is included for members for the LGC. (handout)

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Bob McNamara asked if an updated Tug Hill Traverse Trail map could be included in the revised Rec Guide. A portion across The Nature Conservancy is ready. He will check with TNC for their approval. He also asked if there is any information on the new group Bluesource that purchased the former Molpus property. Mrs. Malinowski shared the group is carbon focused and she been in contact with Cakey Worthington their director of forestry.

Mike Yerdon shared that the Marine Sanctuary on Lake Ontario would be a good thing for tourism for Oswego and Jefferson counties, as well as Cayuga and Wayne counties and the city of Oswego.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary