

# **TUG HILL COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**December 12, 2022**

**Town of Watertown Municipal Building, 22867 County Route 67, Watertown, NY 13601**

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

**Opened**

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Scriber, Yerdon, Maciejko (all in person), and Mdm. Cheresnoski (on Zoom). Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Matthew Smith, Taylor McKinney, Jennifer Harvill, Felicia Passino, Gabriel Yerdon, Matt Johnson, Carla Fowler; circuit riders - Mickey Dietrich (RACOG), John Healt (NOCCOG), Paul Baxter (NorCOG/SRCG), Angie Kimball (CTHC). Guests – Mark Pacilio (THTLT); Randy Vaas (town of Watertown), Jean Waterbury, Joel Bartlett (town of Watertown); Lee Willbanks (THC counsel); associate circuit riders Christine Healt (NOCCOG) and Beth Steria (CTHC).

**Attendance**

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

**Agenda Approved**

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger members approved the minutes of October 20, 2022.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the town of Watertown for hosting today's meeting. Introductions were made. He welcomed new staff that recently started, Matthew Smith, began as planner in August and Gabriel Yerdon as project specialist in November. Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked staff for their work on a successful annual dinner at Zero Dock Street in Carthage in October. The evening included a presentation by Jason Wagner, Natural Resources Chief at Fort Drum, and music provided by the Cincinnati Creek Band.

**Welcome**

A draft meeting calendar for 2023 was reviewed by members. On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon member approved the 2023 meeting calendar as presented.

Due to the September meeting being cancelled, a nominating committee could not be designated as outlined for election of officers in our bylaws. At the October meeting with guidance from the commission's counsel Mr. Willbanks a decision was made to do a committee of the whole for nomination purposes. The slate of officers nominated were Jan Bogdanowicz - chairman; Mike Yerdon – vice chairman; Tom Boxberger – secretary.

Chairman Bogdanowicz asked for any discussion. There being no further discussion, he asked for additional nominations. He asked a second and third time for additional nominations. There being no additional nominations he requested Secretary Boxberger to cast a vote for the slate of officers for 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Maciejko and seconded by Commission Yerdon, members voted to approve the slate of officers for 2023 as presented.

The commission will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Planning is well underway, and we look forward to this celebration.

Executive Director's report followed.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Malinowski reported our new staff member Gabriel Yerdon started November 10 filling the project specialist position that was vacated when Patricia Shulenburg left several months ago. We are still working to fill our planner/senior planner position left vacant when Alaina Mallette left in September. We have paused our search for the time being and will readvertise in the spring.

### **Administration**

The Local Government Conference registration mailing has been sent out. This year we will be offering a drone session Wednesday, April 5 the afternoon before the full day conference on Thursday, April 6. The reception will be Wednesday evening this year instead of Thursday after the full day conference. Fees have increased slightly. We have been working hard this year to increase sponsorships with some success. Food costs have increased significantly from last year and are still not completely confirmed from Turning Stone. Please let Felicia know if you would like to reserve a hotel room at Turning Stone on Wednesday, April 5.

### **LGC**

THC 50th anniversary plans are underway. The Secretary of State has our annual meeting on October 19 on his calendar as our featured speaker. The poster contest will kick off on January 1. Tug Hill Roasters special label coffee should be in limited stores soon. We will provide the special label coffee as speaker gifts at the LGC conference. We are using the 50<sup>th</sup> logo now to generate interest.

### **THC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Local Leaders Survey is on the horizon for 2023. Something to start thinking about.

### **Local Leaders Survey**

Updated senate and assembly district maps were reviewed. Newly appointed Senator Walczyk has a large portion of Tug Hill and Senator Griffo maintains Oneida County. We have five assembly members. Newly appointed Assemblyman Gray has the town of Watertown, Assemblyman Blankenbush has a large share of the region, and Assemblymembers Barclay, Smullen, and Buttenschon round out Tug Hill's assembly delegation. Mrs. Malinowski plans to schedule meetings with the legislators soon.

### **Legislative Maps**

Mrs. Malinowski attended the Association of Defense Communities Installation Conference in Phoenix, Arizona October 31 to November 2. She was the only representative from the Fort Drum area. The conference focus was on climate resiliency and provided good information. The Army has adopted an Army Climate Strategy and Fort Drum is being very proactive with this.

### **Installation Innovations Conference**

Joel Bartlett, town of Watertown Supervisor provided a presentation on the new Thousand Islands Event Center to be located on Arsenal Street, Route 3 for an anticipated opening early in 2024.

### **Thousand Islands Event Center Presentation**

The 2022-23 finance report shows spending is on track from being 75% through the fiscal year. We are still waiting on the new vehicle, the 2011 RAV was taken off the road and is being stored at DOT, Route 342 in Watertown, awaiting an auction date and location. Our IT budget line is over with continuing changes related to our new IT consultant ACC.

### **Finance Report**

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

### **Public Comment**

Related to a question about the lake-effect study being done by SUNY Oswego, Mrs. Malinowski shared the quite a bit of data was collected during the storm three weeks ago. More snow is needed in the forecast, particularly thunder snow. Three weather balloons were released during the last storm. We have been assisting them in locating the balloons once they land.

Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked staff for the Constable Chronicles "Into the Adirondack Wilderness" webinar on November 30. He asked how many receive the Tug Hill Times bi-weekly newsletter. Ms. Decker estimated approximately 1200. He would like the Tug Hill Times newsletter information shared with as many as possible and to include county legislators. He would like circuit riders to gather emails whenever they attend meetings.

He wished everyone happy holidays.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

**Adjourn**

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary