

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 20, 2023

Town of Rodman, 12509 School St., Rodman, NY 13682

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

Opened

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Yerdon, Maciejko, Mdms. Cheresnoski and Ritter (all in person) and Messr. Boxberger (via Zoom). Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, circuit riders - Mickey Dietrich (RACOG), Angie Kimball (CTHC). Guests – Roger Tibbetts (CTHC chair), Lisa Worden (Rodman supervisor) Lee Willbanks (THC counsel); associate circuit riders Christine Healt (NOCCOG) and Beth Steria (CTHC); John and Alga Miller (Lowville), Pete Cheresnoski (Rodman); from University of Albany – April Roggio, Mariana Torres, and In Hae Noh.

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 December 12, 2022.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the town of Rodman for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made. The commission is included in the proposed 2023 budget with an additional \$71,000 in personal services.

Welcome

Roger Maciejko will retire at the end of his term in July. Mr. Maciejko was appointed to the commission in 1996, serving over 26 years. He has previously served in the Lewis County Sheriff's Department and as supervisor for the town of Turin. We are looking to find a replacement, which is a Senate appointment. Mr. Yerdon and Mr. Boxberger will continue to serve on the board and request reappointment. We are waiting for the Assembly to reappoint Ms. Ritter, Ms. Cheresnoski and Mr. Scriber. We have two Governor appointed vacancies we continue to try to fill. A discussion took place at the COG leaders meeting in January about the concern to find interested younger people to serve.

The commission meeting for April 5 is cancelled due to the Local Government Conference on April 5 and 6. There are approximately 560 registered for the conference. The next meeting will be on May 15 in Constantia.

Preparations are underway for the 50th Anniversary celebration. WPBS is working on a video, which will be approximately 20 minutes and include a variety of activities. The COGs have expressed they would like to have a Tug Hill Sage recognition done and be nice to have it at the 50th celebration.

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's
Report**

Mrs. Malinowski reported we are re-advertising for the planner/senior planner position. Once again, we've received a low response.

Administration

We are hosting two Fort Drum interns this year at the commission office. Chris Barboza began at the beginning of February. Some of the projects he is working on include salary surveys for Jefferson and Lewis counties, radar signage, revamping a digital map for Friends of the Black River, employment survey with BOCES, and assisting Mr. Dietrich with RACOG meeting coverage. Kristle Hinola will begin at the commission office later this week.

The Outside Employment policy (handout) has been updated for the board to consider. There on occasion this comes up with staff. Mrs. Malinowski and Mr. Willbanks worked to draft the policy. Commissioner Bogdanowicz had a concern with the wording of conflict of interest in number three. Commissioner Yerdon suggested moving number three up. After discussion, it was agreed that there be rewording to number three.

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commission Cheresnoski members accepted the outside employment policy with changes.

The Local Government Conference is in the final preparation stages. Ken Stewart from NUAIR is sending someone in his place to speak at the Drone Session on the afternoon of April 5. The full day sessions will be April 6. Registration numbers are over 550. Several people have booked overnight hotel accommodations at Turning Stone on April 5.

LGC

As part of the THC 50th anniversary we are doing Throwback Thursdays on our social media and including “blasts from the past” with older Tug Hill Times newsletters being emailed with the current issues. No submissions were received for the poster contest.

THC 50th Anniversary

The 2023 Local Leaders Survey will be mailed out in April. Reminder postcards will be sent the following week. Surveys can be mailed back or done online. The 2018 Local Leaders Survey materials (handout) are in your packets for reference. The return rate was 63%. Circuit Riders will make announcements at the April meetings. We should have draft results for the May commission meeting.

Local Leaders Survey

The commission is included in the proposed budget with an additional \$71,000 in personal services. ACUB was included in proposed EPF at \$1,000,000. There has been no update on the new Toyota RAV 4 delivery date. The new RAV will be AWD and hybrid.

Budget

Mrs. Malinowski has met with Senators Mannion and Walczyk, and Assemblymen Gray and Barclay. She also plans to meet with Senator Griffo, Assemblyman Smullen, Blankenbush, and Assemblywoman Buttenschon.

Legislative Meetings

Minimum Maintenance Roads legislation – S1836/A2225 is in the assembly and senate. Senators Griffo, Senator Walczyk, Assemblyman Gunther, and Assemblywoman Buttenschon among others sponsor the legislation. We continue to work to get support for this bill. The town of Lorraine Highway Superintendent submitted a letter to Assemblyman Barclay to pursue the home rule legislation for the town. (handout)

MMR

Wildlife Management Area legislation - S5405/A2141 is in the assembly and senate. Senator Mannion, Senator Walczyk and Assemblyman Barclay sponsor the legislation. We continue to work to get support for this bill.

Wildlife Management Area

A wind energy project is proposed for the town of Worth, to be located on private property. Worth is working on adopting zoning. The town of Montague has concerns with the project’s location interfering with the radar tower. (handout)

Wind Energy

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) implementation proposed for renewable energy and zero emissions in the coming years. We used the real property data from the four counties to do a rough draft analysis on heating sources for the Tug Hill region(handout). Based on the data used, the analysis shows most households use heating oil. We have had discussions with ANCA on this. We need to decide if this is something we want to spend time on.	CLCPA
Demands for comprehensive plans have increased. Staff is working with the towns of Camden, Wilna, Rodman, Floyd, Parish, Martinsburg, and Adams; and villages of Carthage and Remsen.	Comp Plan
Mr. Johnson, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Baxter will attend the Micron meeting on March 22 at Tailwater Lodge (handout). We are on housing and economic development subcommittees. The North Shore is reviewing what they need to do to prepare.	Micron
Ms. Kimball, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Smith will be attending the New York Planning Federation Conference April 16-18 in Saratoga Springs.	NYPF Conference
Lewis County is doing a justice court study. The commission was part of the meeting that was held in February with County Manager Ryan Piche and other attendees. We drafted a scope of work for them. They plan to get a consultant and we will be available to assist.	Lewis County Justice Courts
Planning is underway for the Black River Watershed Conference scheduled for June 14 at Zero Dock in Carthage.	BRWC
The Snow Ridge - Through the Years presentation at Snow Ridge in Turin on Sunday, January 29 was well attended. We are now working on the G&W Railroad presentation sometime later this year.	Snow Ridge Presentation
Ms. Fowler and Mr. Dietrich assisted Jefferson County and the village of Deferiet with two Restore NY grants submissions.	Deferiet
Lewis County is considering securing snowmobile trail easements. Mrs. Malinowski is on the committee.	Snowmobile Trails
Oneida Lake has experienced significant flooding in the past the has affected the lake. The Upstate NY Flood Mitigation Task Force has been involved in the project and Senator Mannion is now involved.	Oneida Lake
Lewis County is working with communities to update their water systems.	Lewis County Water
Mr. Dietrich shared that the RACOG Economic Visioning Summit will be April 27 at Jefferson Lewis Howard G. Sackett Technical Center in Glenfield (handout).	RACOG
RACOG is working on a grant to add a Traffic Safety Coordinator position (handout) which would be funded by a Governors Traffic Safety Committee grant applied for by the Tug Hill Commission. Mr. Dietrich and RACOG Intern Mr. Barboza are working on the project.	
Mr. Barboza shared that the position involves collecting radar data and providing that data to law enforcement to determine high traffic areas and a plan of action for safety. Safety coordinator position would assist law enforcement and provided community outreach.	
SRCG had a request from the village of Pulaski to join the COG. Ms. Malinowski and Mr. Baxter met with Chair Potter on Friday, March 17. The village is outside our region but	SRCG

within the Salmon River Watershed. Mr. Baxter has a new associate circuit rider Heidi Kelley so if the village of Pulaski is added there would be coverage available. Looking ahead if Richland and Sandy Creek were interested in joining, more assistance would be needed. The commission may want to review the current outside region policy (handout). Eventually, as outside region municipalities join COGs, the commission will need more resources for more staff.

A discussion took place with members, and it was decided to review and update the Outside Region Policy.

Ms. Kimball reported the town of Lyonsdale is interested in joining CTHC but has not asked formally yet; Heidi Kelley the new associate circuit rider assisting Mr. Baxter will also help fill in for CTHC; MMR continues to be a big issue with municipalities; Boylston working on official road map; West Turin, Rodman, and Worth are working on comp plans updates; Osceola, Montage, Lewis, West Turin working on zoning; Martinsburg is having issues with Roaring Brook not wanting to pay again this year; village of Adams was awarded a park grant; village of Lyons Falls awarded NY Forward grant; town of Florence is working on MOU on road due damage from snowmobiles; SNIRT Run is April 22, Lewis County has set conditions on what roads will be open; Oswego County updating Hazard Mitigation plan and several town are redoing resolutions; CTHC Spring Meeting is April 27 at the Steak and Brew.

COG Report

The 2022-23 finance report shows everything looks good and we are within the budget. The commission plans to purchase a road counter for use on town roads. The DOT staff member who manages traffic counters for DOT is retiring in the fall and is available to provide information and assistance to us.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Introductions were made with guests from the University of Albany who were able to join at the latter end of the meeting. Mr. Dietrich shared that RACOG approved an associate circuit rider position and Mr. Barboza will be on board in that position.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Ritter members adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary