

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 18, 2023

Town of Williamstown, 79 Lakewood Rd., Williamstown, NY 13493

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Scriber, Boxberger, Yerdon and Mdm. Chereshnoski. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, and Angie Kimball circuit rider (CTHC). Guests – John Tamblin (town of Williamstown supervisor), Herbert Yerdon (county legislator), Jackie Murphy (village of Parish mayor), Melissa Snavlin (C2AE).

Attendance

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

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Chereshnoski, members approved the minutes of June 26, 2023.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the town of Williamstown for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made.

Welcome

MMR legislation was passed by the assembly and senate and is at the governor's office.

Outside the region policy draft (handout) has been updated after committee meetings and discussions on the policy. Mrs. Malinowski will be meeting with the COGs to review and are hoping for an approval by December.

The three assembly, three senate, and two Governor appointments for commissioners are still pending. After the annual dinner, Chair Bogdanowicz, and Mrs. Malinowski plan to schedule an Albany visit to follow up and do outreach.

We received 14 Tug Hill Sage nominations. Members have reviewed all nominations that were submitted. Chair Bogdanowicz reviewed the guidelines with members. Six selections were made: Art Baderman, Loretta Lepkowski, Wayne McIlroy, Richard "Rip" Colesante, Wayne Kwasniewski, and Robert Quinn. On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Chereshnoski members approved to accept the six selected for Tug Hill Sages.

The Annual Dinner is Thursday, October 19 at Tailwater Lodge. The CTHC fall dinner is this Thursday, September 21.

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's
Report**

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the December commission meeting location has changed from Champion and will now be held in West Carthage. Chris Barboza the new planner started last week. Carla Fowler has resigned. We wish her the best. A change to the title and description for the position now project specialist (handout) will be posted to fill the vacancy. Candidates will have till the end of October to apply. Kaitlyn Valdez, Fort Drum

Administration

intern, started last week at the commission office and will help with various projects and community meetings.

We received OSC approval for the Turning Stone contract for the 2024 LGC on May 1 and 2. We are looking for ideas for the afternoon session held prior to the reception on May 1. A sewer/water infrastructure session is a possibility.

LGC

The Local Leaders Survey was sent to legislative delegation. A report to the Governor will be sent in January.

Local Leaders Survey

We are busy prepping for the annual dinner next month at Tailwater Lodge. We are receiving RSVP's. The fiddlers will play at social hour, followed by the Tug Hill video. Recognition will be done for past commissioner Roger Maciejko and Tug Hill Sages announced. The 25-year history book is being updated for 50 years.

Annual Dinner

Mrs. Malinowski and Mr. Johnson met with Senator May to provide a briefing about the commission. Senator May's new district does not include any of the commission but she is very interested in our organization. She introduced a proposed Finger Lakes Commission legislation (handout) on August 11 that references the Tug Hill Commission. We will follow this and see what develops.

**Finger Lakes
Commission**

The home rule legislation (A6412/S6249A) for the town of Lorraine is still awaiting the Governor's signature. It was previously passed by the senate and assembly. Road issues concerns are ongoing regarding the Hoskins Road in West Turin and Ag & Markets. A discussion on road issues and land use took place with Mrs. Malinowski and members.

MMR

We are providing assistance to the town of Osceola on 480a and have been in communication with legislators and the Rural Resource Commission to provide information.

480A

We secured the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee grant that will go into effect October 1, 2023. The plan only covers half of a person for a coordinator. We will be using Chris Barboza for that half position.

**Traffic Safety
Committee**

The East Branch Fish Creek Working Group will meet on October 12 at the West Leyden Fire Hall. Items of concern include issues with property access and beavers. The Nature Conservancy is doing a study to find the cause of flooding roads.

EBFC

The G&W Railroad presentation will be October 28 at West Leyden Elementary School. Matthew Smith has been working with Charley Swerdoski, a local resident who has a camp near the historic railroad bed that was the community of Page.

Upcoming Presentation

Mrs. Kimball reported that CTHC has been very busy. Heidi Tompkins NorCOG/SRCG associate circuit rider has been assisting covering meetings. Village of Adams applied for NY Forward grant. Leyden town hall is in poor condition, and they are working on grant. Many villages are working on water districts. Florence is working on zoning; Martinsburg - working on comprehensive plans, the clerk will not be running this year. Boylston - cellular tower causing landowner concerns, a public hearing is scheduled. Redfield - working on comprehensive plans and special road maps.

COG Report

John Hamlin, town of Williamstown supervisor shared that the Lake Association approached the town for funds to help assist with the lake species. The town suggested they do a district for assistance. The county agrees with doing a district. Information has been sent to state comptroller and would approval to move forward.

The 2023-24 year to date financial statement (handout) a third line has been added for the traffic safety grant to revenue. In red are the new lines showing expenses for that. Personal services reflects the \$3000 per staff member required by the state, 3% cost of living increases plus longevity payments. We paid for the new Rav4 out of last year's special revenue account.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Commissioner Cheresnoski shared concerns for the challenges of controlling Japanese knotweed. Commissioner Yerdon shared concerns on the state standard of animal care act bill having challenges for municipalities.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary