

**TUG HILL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**December 11, 2023**  
**Village of West Carthage, 61 High Street, Carthage, NY 13619**

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

**Opened**

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Scriber, Yerdon and Mdms. Ritter and Cheresnoski. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Felicia Passino, Matt Johnson, Gabriel Yerdon, Taylor McKinney, Jennifer Harvill, Chris Barboza, Angie Kimball, John Healt, Mickey Dietrich, and Paul Baxter. Guests – Brian Peck, Champion supervisor; Mike Astafan, Carthage president; Scott Doyle, Denmark supervisor; Christine Healt, NOCCOG associate circuit rider and Lee Willbanks, commission attorney.

**Attendance**

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

**Agenda Approved**

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Cheresnoski, members approved the minutes of September 18, 2023.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the village of West Carthage for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made.

**Welcome**

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration held October 19 at Tailwater Lodge in Altmar was very well attended. We honored retired board member Roger Maciejko for his years of service for the commission. A total of six individuals were designated 2023 class of Tug Hill Sages. The event was a great success!

MMR legislation for Lorraine adopted and signed by the governor. We are thankful for Assemblyman Barclay working with the governor's office on this bill (handout). Mrs. Malinowski shared that the bill would go into effect in 120 days after becoming law and is valid for eight years. We will have to see what happens after that.

We received a letter from Senator Walczyk regarding being deployed to Kuwait at the end of January 2024 for nine months. His office will be reachable and available during his deployment.

The three assembly appointments are done. We are waiting on three senate appointments, and two Governor appointments for commissioners. Chair Bogdanowicz and Mrs. Malinowski may need to plan an Albany visit to follow up.

The outside region policy (handout) has been updated. The commission currently does not have the resources to be able to serve the communities. When that changes, and we have more resources, we would be to assist additional communities if granted membership by a COG.

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Ritter members approved the Outside Region policy as presented.

The 2024 meeting calendar (handout) includes eight meetings, a commission staff retreat, and the annual dinner.

On a motion made by Commission Scriber and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the 2024 meeting calendar as presented.

Executive Director's report followed.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Malinowski reported that interviews for the project specialist position were completed. Jillian Lee has accepted the position. Paperwork was submitted to Albany for processing, and we are hoping for a start date in February or March. Ms. Lee is from the Southern Tier and has GIS skills.

## **Administration**

The contract with Turning Stone for our Local Government Conference May 1 and 2 has been finalized. The registration flyer and schedule of sessions (handouts) have been completed. The registration flyer will be mailed out soon.

## **LGC**

The Local Leaders Survey will be sent to the Governor's office and legislature in January.

## **Local Leaders Survey**

The home rule legislation (A6412/S6249A) for the town of Lorraine has been signed by the governor. Road issues concerns continue in West Turin with the Hoskins Road. Ag & Markets, after looking into it, made the decision it is a private issue and declined to get involved. There are road access issues on Salmon River Road in Montague, and there are discussions ongoing about G&W Road and ATV access, which may be complicated as there is a different jurisdiction for each half of the G&W Road.

## **MMR**

We will continue to help the town of Osceola on 480a legislative issues.

## **480A**

The commission received a request from the NYS Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) to partner with them on their fall 2024 conference, to be held in the Tug Hill region. We would bring in the land trust as partner. There will be an online element with presentations, as well as a field trip element. Boonville and Trenton in Oneida County are the only two local conservation commissions in the region. Mrs. Malinowski asked members for their thoughts. Members are in favor of partnering and providing an opportunity to promote the region.

## **NYSACC Request**

The NYS Open Space Plan is being updated. Mrs. Malinowski is a member of the Region 6 committee (Lewis, Jefferson, and Oneida Counties) and attending Region 7 committee meetings (Oswego County) in an advisory capacity.

## **Open Space**

Micron will be presenting an updated at the LGC. Much going on in Oswego County related to Micron including a housing study and update of the county comprehensive plan. We have attended meetings and encourage the community to update the zoning plan. NorCOG is working with the MRB Group to conduct an Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. We are also working with Oswego County, DOT and others to have a complete traffic study done for State Route 49 in the NorCOG area.

## **Micron**

The G&W Railroad presentation held October 28 was very well attended. The Forest Carbon workshop on December 4 and the Newly Elected online workshop December 6 were also well attended. Upcoming for 2024 include a wildlife series and more history information.

## **Presentations Workshops**

Mr. Johnson shared a planning department update. Comprehensive plans: Floyd, Parish, Camden, Wilna, Carthage, Deferiet, Rodman, Remsen, and Boonville. Zoning work:

## **Planning and Projects**

Remsen, Worth, Watertown, and Montague. Solar work: Martinsburg and Florence. Mr. Johnson shared it is good to have Mr. Smith and Mr. Barboza working on planning projects.

Commissioner Scriber shared his thanks to the commission for providing an invaluable service to assist communities with their planning.

Ms. Harvill shared another project specialist will be coming onboard early 2024. Ms. McKinney worked on a CFA for Winona that was funded. Mr. Yerdon hosted the Forest Carbon workshop. They are currently working on a recreational guide update, watershed plans, the annual Black River Watershed newsletter and conference. New staff will attend AOT's Newly Elected training in Albany and Rochester.

Local Government Conference planning is underway with registrations ready to be mailed by end of the month.

Mr. Dietrich reported the RACOG board will meet January 24. At the last meeting Marty Miller presented on CDL training. The infrastructure round table meeting had good attendance. RACOG is talking with BOCES on water and wastewater operator training as well as potentially heavy equipment training. In addition to the planning work mentioned by Mr. Johnson, the LED lighting grant is almost closed, another community is interested in joining RACOG, RACOG is looking for an associate circuit rider, and is still working with Fort Drum and Mr. Barboza to secure additional Fort Drum interns.

#### **COG Report**

The 2023-24 year to date financial statement (handout) shows that expenditures are on track. We are still working out details on the traffic grant. Mr. Petrie has used half his contracted amount this year so far. We will be paying out remainder to WPBS for the video. Several staff will be attending training. The RAV came out of last year's budget. We have some unallocated funds, some of that may be used toward the new recreation guide reprint, will know more in January.

#### **Finance Report**

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Doyle thanked the commission for the assistance with their grant.

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

#### **Adjourn**

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary