

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2021– 11:00 A.M. Supervisors' Chambers

Supervisor	Present	Absent	Late	Time In
MOSES	X			
Ostrander	X			
Jones	Zoom			
Magliocca		X		
Stokes	Zoom			

PRESENT:

Committee: **Cliff Moses**, Joe Ostrander, Dave Jones, and TJ Stokes

Absent: Joe Magliocca

County Staff: Ellen Bowe, Karin Bump, Cindy Edick, Melissa Martel Felton, Scott Flaherty, Kipp Hicks, Scott Ingmire, Becky Marsala, Myron Thurston, Tina Wayland-Smith, and Gwen Williamson.

Meeting was called to order at 11:01 A.M. by Moses.

A-1: The April 22, 2021 minutes were approved on a **MOTION** by Jones and seconded by Stokes at 11:03 A.M. 4/0/0

A-2: Cindy Edick presented the Sales Tax Update. Edick added 2019 to the Sales Tax Distributions Report to allow for an expanded period (including pre-pandemic history) for comparison purposes. Edick is cautiously optimistic with the positive numbers. She reminded the Committee that the state uses estimates and reconciles later, so changes and inconsistencies are common and expected.

A-3: Becky Marsala presented the Treasurer / Real Property Update. There are 32 parcels from 2019 tax roll and 3 from 2018 tax roll that will need to be posted. There is a total of 109 parcels for inclusion in the land tax auction.

Marsala reported that there are interested parties in the quarry property on Valley Road in Madison. Melissa Martel Felton suggested confirming County ownership by survey if necessary. Ingmire will search the parcel on Pictometry, Marsala will contact Ron Bono, and Melissa will reach out to contiguous property owners to establish cornerstone locations. This issue will be revisited at the June meeting.

A-4: Ellen Bowe presented the Career Center Update. The Summer Youth Program is still accepting applications. Please share information about it on the municipal websites if possible to help reach more youth. The Madison County Outreach Initiative training at Marquardt Switches went very well with 27 employers participating. The unemployment rate is currently at 6.3%. Bowe asked NYS DOL how many MC residents were collecting unemployment and has not yet received the answer. The Career Center is open by appointment with all staff returned to the office except the NYS workers. The list of available job openings is growing, forcing some businesses to offer hiring bonuses. Professional jobs are filling up faster than manufacturing or food-related jobs. Hicks mentioned that Green Empire Farms is planning job fairs in Oneida and Canastota and they are offering good pay, good benefits and looking for local employees. Jones noted that the news reported 8.1 million jobs available right now.

A-5: Kipp Hicks presented the IDA Update. MC IDA will soon make a decision about a PILOT for Meier's Creek Brewing Company and working on possible loan funding for Erie Canal Brewing Company. Kipp is working with Jamie Kowalczyk on an affordable housing tour for an interested developer. Kipp attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. IDA is working with Scott Ingmire regarding a Community Development Block Grant for PELCO/Harrison. The NYS money is starting again for the Alliance for Economic Inclusion Program. Grow NY applications are still being accepted. There will be a Regional Economic Development Council meeting today where they hope to receive details on the CFA funding (which had been closed last year due to the pandemic and is anticipated to reopen this year).

A-6: Karin Bump and Myron Thurston presented the CCE Update. Karin reported the Food for Thought Program has been relaunched. The Seed to Supper Program had 40 participants and was made possible with grant money. One grant is finishing and another beginning for development of a full teaching garden. Six farms have shown interest in the carbon soil test funding. The 4-H program will begin meeting in person again and will include on site programming on cultural heritage. The Dairy Ag. In the Classroom program has launched. The CCE will not be participating in the NYS Fair, however, they are working with the MC Fair, currently navigating COVID guidelines and will report more as plans evolve. Open Farm Day has 13 farms so far and is scheduled for July 31st. The "No Petting Zoos" guideline has affected participation.

Myron reported that an offer was made to Megan Henderson for the full time Educator position. The process has begun for the part-time educator position; already narrowed down to a handful of potentials. AED is working on the Curbside at Cornell Program after talking with the insurance agency and is considering possible options/concessions to allow this program to move forward. Regional trainings have been going very well, including succession training, and conservation easement topics. AED attended the Large Scale Solar Summit and they plan to create a resource kit and have sessions to disseminate that information. Myron also mentioned training for Planning and Zoning Boards. Myron noted that there is one application being submitted for the Grow NY Competition.

A-7: Scott Flaherty presented the Tourism Update. Tourism is seeing positive trends with a 37% occupancy increase and 41% of travelers planning to travel in the next 60 days. The NYS matching funds are being restored. New categories for pay-per-click ads will be boating, fishing, and family fun. MC Tourism is participating in the Roam the Empire campaign which encourages vacationing in NY State. Flaherty said that they are hosting a group tour operator with a focus on farm visits. The chairperson of the Tourism Board has been re-elected.

A-8: Scott Ingmire presented the Planning Update. Scott attended the Outreach Initiative Summit with Ellen Bowe and Kipp Hicks and found the training and the tour to be very impressive. Scott shared a quick video highlighting the Marquardt Switches Facility. Ingmire said that everything is in place to move forward with PELCO in our role as grant pass-through. Scott noted a proposed wind project in DeRuyter. Tina Wayland-Smith commented from a legal perspective on the 94C ruling that replaced Article 10 and how it will affect future Madison County projects. Myron added that 94C only applies to 20 megawatts or above, however 20-25 could potentially be referred to the State if local laws are prohibitive. He said that ordinances would need to be in place before the projects begin. AED plans to distribute information in the next month or two titled "What are Your Rights?". Much discussion followed regarding NYS and renewable energy. Ingmire updated the committee on the progress at Delphi Falls Park. Design services are being provided by EDR for the parking lot, bridge and trails. The existing ADA trail will be improved and include an overlook to the lower falls. A rendering of a new trail with three overlooks affording views of the upper falls was shared. RFPs were received and reviewed for potential structural improvements and/or additions to the park. One RFP has been selected but not yet notified. Planning is very excited about the future of Delphi Falls Park.

A-9: The resolution adopting Local Law 3 for the Year 2021 pertaining to a Pilot Youth Deer Hunting Program was unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Ostrander and seconded by Jones at 12:20 P.M. 4/0/0

A-10: The resolution authorizing a contract with Madison-Oneida BOCES for the 2021 Summer Youth Employment Program was unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Stokes and seconded by Ostrander at 12:20 P.M. 4/0/0

A-11 & 12: The resolutions authorizing the modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget, one pertaining to Oneida Lake Revitalization and one pertaining to Delphi Falls Park- DASNY EXP, were unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Ostrander and seconded by Stokes at 12:22 P.M. 4/0/0

A-13 & 14: The resolutions appointing Crystal Guzzardo and Micheal Messersmith as members to the Workforce Development Board of Herkimer-Madison-Oneida Counties was unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Jones and seconded by Ostrander at 12:23 P.M. 4/0/0

A-15: The resolution reappointing John Becker, Kipp Hicks, Scott Ingmire, Joseph Magliocca, Mary Ann Messinger, Cliff Moses and Joseph Wisinski to the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board was unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Moses and seconded by Ostrander at 12:24 P.M. 4/0/0

A-16 & 17: The resolution reappointing Jim Petreszyn to the Region 7 Fish & Wildlife Management Board and the resolution reappointing James Petreszyn to the Region 7 Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Advisory Committee on Open Space were unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Moses and seconded by Ostrander at 12:24 P.M. 4/0/0

A-18: The above resolutions (except the budget modification) are to be included in the preferred agenda on a **MOTION** by Moses and seconded by Jones at 12:24 P.M. 4/0/0.

A-19: Ingmire announced that the Weed Harvesting Program will not be run this season due to numerous reasons, not the least of which is complications due to timing and employment challenges caused by the pandemic.

Moses asked for, and committee members present agreed, that the August Planning Committee meeting be held in a picnic setting at Delphi Falls Park.

A-20 The next scheduled Planning Committee meeting date is June 17, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.

A-21: The meeting was adjourned on a **MOTION** by Ostrander and seconded by Stokes at 12:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Williamson

Following the meeting on the same date, Ingmire requested votes from the Committee members on a resolution that was discussed at the meeting regarding the Delphi Falls County Park Feasibility and Design Project. The resolution was not presented for vote during the meeting due to the RFP company not yet having been notified of selection. The company has now been notified. Scott received unanimous affirmative votes from all committee members authorizing a contract with Beardsley Architects and Engineers for a Delphi Falls County Park Feasibility and Design Project. 5/0/0