

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Daly, DeCerce, A. Johnson, Yepsen, and Gutheil; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Larry Benton, Planning; Henrietta Ogrady, Halfmoon Trails Committee; Anne Magnuson, League of Women Voters; Press.

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the December 1, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Peck announced the appointment of Mr. Johnson as Vice Chair. Mr. Johnson accepted.

Mr. Wickerham said the County has an Empire Zone with SEDC as the administrator of that zone. He requested authorization to contract with SEDC in the amount of \$65,000 for the year.

A motion was made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mr. A. Johnson to approve a contract with SEDC for the administration of the Empire Zone in the amount of \$65,000 for the year. Unanimous.

Mr. Benton requested a resolution that would amend the boundaries of the two Consolidated Agricultural districts. Currently there are two consolidated districts. One of the current districts is located along the Hudson River in the Town of Moreau, swinging south to Northumberland, Saratoga and Stillwater, which is the major agricultural area in the county, he said. The other district is largely in the Town of Ballston and partially in the town of Galway and Charlton. This parcel also includes a number of out parcels, including Malta and Clifton Park and a small portion of Saratoga Springs. There is 111,000 acres within these two districts, which is 21% of the county's land mass. It used to be that you had to wait eight years to update the district, allowing for people to leave or join the district, he said. Agriculture and Markets changed the State Law, now giving a thirty-day window each year in October that anyone can petition to get into the district. There are five petitioners that submitted requests to be included in these two districts. The five petitioners have a total acreage of 550 acres that would be added to these districts.

A motion was made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Ms. Daly to approve amending Consolidated Agricultural Districts One and Two. Unanimous.

Mr. Benton said the county's planning board sponsored its second annual planning conference made up of all volunteers, boards and planning boards throughout the county. He said the planning board can enter into a minor contract with the approval of the county attorney and administrator if it is under \$10,000, which they did. Based on the estimate from the hotel and the estimate of many attendees there might be, the numbers used were between 260 – 270. However, there were approximately 350 attendees, which resulted in additional expenses.

Mr. Benton requested a resolution to amend the contract with Saratoga Hotel and Convention Center for an approximate total of \$12,000.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve an amendment to the contract with Saratoga Hotel and Convention Center for an amount not to exceed \$12,600. Unanimous.

Mr. Peck said questions continue to come forward to the committee from the Association of Snowmobile Clubs in the county with regard to the Zim Smith Trail. A subcommittee was formed last year to begin to discuss with the various organizations, whether it be snowmobilers, horseback riders or cross country skiers, to research the best way to manage such a trail.

Mr. A. Johnson said he was part of a subcommittee that meet with a snowmobile club, both State and local chapters. Several equestrian groups were met with as well. He recommended continuing with the subcommittee to establish one countywide use after obtaining input from the different groups.

A new subcommittee was appointed consisting of Mr. Peck, Mr. Johnson, Mr. DeCerce and Ms. Yepsen.

Mr. Benton gave a brief update on the progress of the Zim Smith Trail. He said the design, budget and bid documents are all being prepared for final approval by both the County and State and should be ready in approximately a month, he said.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. DeCerce the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom