

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1, 2007 – 3:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Daly, Gutheil, Janik, Richardson, Sausville and Grattidge; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Jaime O’Neill, Jason Kemper, Planning; Press.

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

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Janik the minutes of the January 10, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. O’Neill said the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors has a thirty day annual time frame from October 1st – 30th for anyone that would be interested to be included into either of the Consolidated Agricultural Districts, they may petition the Board of Supervisors. One petition was received to be included in the Town of Malta on East High Street. It is a 42 acre parcel known as the, Dakota Ridge Llama Farm. The request is to be included into Consolidated Agricultural District #2.

Ms. O’Neill requested a resolution to amend Consolidated Agricultural District #2 to include a 42-acre parcel in the Town of Malta known as the Dakota Ridge Farm.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve a resolution to include a 42-acre parcel in the Town of Malta known as the Dakota Ridge Farm into Consolidated Agricultural District #2. Unanimous.

Ms. O’Neill said the New York State Ag and Markets has a Farmland Liability Grant, which is a 50/50 matching grant that they offer to Agricultural and Farmland Protection Boards throughout New York State. The grant is used to do various projects with respect to agriculture, and trying to foster agriculture in areas that are under significant development.

In 2005, all of the Ag and Farmland Protection Boards in Rensselear, Saratoga and Washington counties have begun to get together with county planning boards and American Farmland Trust, to learn how to foster some interest in education, regionally, about agriculture and its importance as a land use and how it is affected by zoning.

A grant was received in 2005, which Rensselear County Ag and Farmland Protection Board was the applicant on. There was a one-day conference that took place in the Town of Easton where there were 150 people in attendance from Rensselear, Albany, Saratoga, Washington and Warren Counties. Speakers from across New York State discussed topics such as purchasing development rights, Ag districts, conservation subdivisions, and how to support agriculture through zoning.

Ms. O’Neill said through applying for another grant they would like to take a bus tour downstate to the lower Hudson Valley. A proposal to Ag and Markets to do a bus tour was made, for a whole day.

Ms. O'Neill said the Saratoga County Farmland and Protection Board applied to the Ag and Markets at the end of June for \$7,100 grant, which was accepted.

Ms. O'Neill is requesting a resolution to accept the \$7,100 from Ag and Markets to help facilitate a bus tour to the lower Hudson Valley.

A motion was made by Mr. Gutheil, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve a matching 50/50 grant in the amount of \$7,100 to help in facilitating a bus tour to the lower Hudson Valley for the purpose of Agriculture and Farmland Protection. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update from the Planning Department as follows: He said the last time he spoke, the planning department was working with DOT to try and segment out the lower portion of the Zim Smith Trail. Approval has been received to segment out the lower portion of the trail, and it is expected that approval will be received shortly from DOT to advertise for bids. The bids will then be received during the third and fourth week of April.

Mr. Kemper said the planning department applied for a grant to the State Department of Education for a GIS needs assessment and implementation plan for \$28,000. A firm would be hired to take a look at how GIS is done in the county and advise on how the system can be improved.

Mr. Kemper said there were approximately 520 who attended the annual planning and zoning conference with 25% of those who attended from outside the county. On January 1st DOS initiated a mandatory compliance that all planning and zoning board members have four hours of training.

Mr. Neils requested reappropriation of funding for the MS4 Stormwater grant in the amount of \$344,000 into the 2007 budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Gutheil, seconded by Ms. Daly to approve a resolution to reappropriate funding for the MS4 Stormwater grant in the amount of \$344,000 into the 2007 budget. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Janik, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom