

Economic Development Committee Meeting  
November 3, 2010 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Grattidge, A. Johnson, Kinowski, Richardson, Sausville and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Jim Angus, SEDC; Jason Kemper, Planning; Todd Shimkus, Greg Dixon, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Johnson the minutes of the September 20, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Dixon said tourism in the county was successful this year despite some of the uncertainty earlier in the year. June and July were some of the best months that we have had in quite some time.

Mr. Dixon said we are poised to have a good year next year. A lot of the forecasts in the industry nationwide seem to suggest anywhere from a 2% - 3% growth in the travel industry. Mr. Dixon said they are trying to step things up digitally on line, with improvements to the website, and HD video. The next step is the mobile platform, i.e. smart-phones, stepping into this with travel guides and tourist information. Frugality is still a major issue both nationwide and in Saratoga County. The demand is good, and the hotel industry has been strong, but the rate has been flat to slightly down. This is a nationwide trend, and it is anticipated that it will continue until the unemployment numbers go down.

Mr. Dixon thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support and expressed appreciation for the partnership.

Mr. Dixon requested a resolution designating the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the County Tourism and Promotions Agency, and authorizing them to apply for "I Love NY" grants for 2011 for the maximum amount of \$189,300. These monies are matched out of the county tourism allocation that is in the budget each year.

Mr. Grattidge asked if the grant requests are prepared in-house? Mr. Dixon said, yes.

Ms. Daly said the amount in the county budget that is used for tourism is approximately \$385,000.

**A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve designating the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the County Tourism and Promotions Agency, and authorizing them to apply for "I Love NY" grants for 2011 for the maximum amount of \$189,300. Unanimous.**

Ms. Daly thanked Mr. Kemper for coordinating the opening of the Zim Smith Trail. Everyone enjoyed the day that was shared with residents from Maplewood Manor, Animal Shelter, and Saratoga Bridges, in helping to send the message that the trail was built for everyone.

Mr. Kemper said every year the county tries to generate \$35,000 from county forestlands, which helps to pay the local taxes and school taxes for those parcels. The parcel has already been identified in the plan for 2010-2011 in the town of Moreau. As this was a large land of timber it will be a two-year cut generating \$35,000 by the end of 2010. The process will be finished up in the spring for at least an additional \$35,000 for 2011. Bids were sent out with only one response from G&T Enterprises. The process is handled through Saratoga Land Management where they do the timber marking and monitor the logging operation.

**A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to enter into an agreement with G&T Enterprises to remove timber from a parcel in the Town of Moreau for the county timber harvest for 2010-2011. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper said when the County received the Federal Stimulus money, we were able to take some of the original grant money to the Zim Smith trail, and spread it out further south. This week paving will begin approximately 3,000 ft. south of the Village of Round Lake, so from Oak Street to 3,000 ft. south of the Village of Round Lake it will totally be paved. Ms. Daly said this section has already been built with stone dust. What remains is a gap from south of the Village of Round Lake to Coons Crossing that is only stone dust. Mr. Kemper is requesting committee support to apply for a Recreational Trail Grant maximum amount of \$200,000 for a grant total of approximately \$240,000 to pave from south of the Village of Round Lake to Coons Crossing, which is approximately 2.95 miles. He said there is money leftover in the capital account because the inspection came in about \$48,000 less for the federal portion.

Ms. Daly requested a show of support from the committee for Mr. Kemper to pursue with a recreational trail grant application. The committee agreed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom