

Economic Development Committee Minutes
May 1, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lawler; Supervisors Daly, A. Johnson, Kinowski, Peck, Richardson, Sausville and Barrett; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Jason Kemper, Planning; Julie Stokes, Saratoga PLAN; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the April 3, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Stokes said there is one proposed addition to the Saratoga County NYS Open Space Plan as follows:

Round Lake and Anthony Kill Corridor – The area around Round Lake is identified in the Saratoga Green Infrastructure Plan as exhibiting all four of the green infrastructure theme areas; natural systems, working landscapes, recreation and trails, and cultural landscapes. The lake itself is important for recreation, fishing, and watershed protection and provides wetland and natural habitat protection. Round Lake is a well-known resource for non-motorized boats and is an excellent water fishery. The Anthony Kill flows east from Round Lake into the Hudson River and is habitat for threatened fresh water eels. When it is running you can enjoy class 11-111 rapids with a mix between natural and urban surrounds. Protection and public access efforts have been taken by NYS Saratoga County, municipal and private partnerships.

Mrs. Stokes made the recommendation that the proposed mention of the Malta Ecological Park not be added to the plan with regard to the Karner Blue Butterfly recovery unit at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to approve the addition of the Round Lake and Anthony Kill Corridor to the Open Space Plan as described above. Unanimous. (Committee approval only)

Mr. Kemper said there will be four parcels harvested this year beginning in the town of Moreau. He said everything was running on schedule until a fire burnt a piece of equipment on the parcel. He said the sole responsibility would be on the logger, with no liability to the county. The project is now approximately a week and a half behind in logging, but should be completed by next week, he said. The original projection for revenue from this project was \$14,000. The current projection is \$17,500.

Mr. Lawler requested an Executive Session to discuss contractual matters.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting moved into Executive Session for the purpose of Contractual Matters. Unanimous.

Mr. Lawler said in January of this year when Chairman Grattidge appointed him as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee he charged the committee with updating and reviewing all the relationships that Saratoga County has with various economic development partners. Since that time, in January, members of the committee have met with all of the partners in terms of economic development, including the Chambers of Commerce, Convention Bureau, SEDC, etc. One of the things that the Chairman indicated that he wanted the Economic Development Committee to consider was to, where appropriate, make changes so the county could accelerate economic development efforts for the benefit of our taxpayers, not only for Saratoga County, but for the entire region. In the process of discussions, one of the things that this committee has become supportive of is moving in a new direction in terms of economic development. Saratoga County is going to maintain its relationship with SEDC through 2013; however, through the course of 2013 steps will begin to create a new economic development entity that will be responsible for economic development activities in Saratoga County.

SEDC has been a strong vibrant partner of the County and they have grown to become a very successful organization in their own right. Far beyond economic development, they are a very vibrant membership organization and they have a number of programs that they provide for their members. At this point, the economic development committee thinks that the county's economic development objectives would be better served by having an organization that is solely focused on economic development, and that is the direction that the county is going to take. Over the course of the rest of this year the economic development committee will work to create the new economic development effort, define it, and move forward with it so that it is in place as we start 2014.

Mr. Lawler said the county would like to thank SEDC's current and past administration and board members for their service to the county, wishing them every success for the future. We certainly realize that it is quite possible that we could be collaborating on economic development activities with them in the future, and look forward to working with them should that option present itself.

The press release was distributed to all committee members.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom