

Veterans' Committee Minutes  
March 7, 2011 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Vice Chairman Wright; Supervisors Barrett, Collyer, Lucia, Thompson, Yepsen, and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Andrew Davis, Veterans; Bud Mazurek, Saratoga County Rural Preservation Company; Jen Van Ort, Publication Specialist; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Collyer the minutes of the February 3, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mrs. Van Ort said she has been in contact with several bands with regard to the 2011 Saratoga County Veterans' Concert at SPAC. She said that SPAC is available either the weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, and they are willing to maintain the same costs as last year of \$9,500. All of the bands contacted have said they will need financial assistance, she said.

Mr. Barrett said he would like to look into the Navy Band of the Northeast, the larger 40-member band. Mr. Wright said he would also like a cost figure for the Coast Guard Band.

Mr. Collyer asked if the fees include the bus costs? Mrs. Van Ort said that the fees cover per diems, hotel rooms and bus transportation.

Mr. Barrett asked if SPAC would be offering a discount again this year on the concessions? Mrs. Van Ort said she would contact them to confirm.

Mrs. Van Ort asked for a preference on the concert date. Mr. Wright suggested September 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>, the committee agreed. He said there would be no fireworks again this year.

Mr. Mazurek gave a brief update from the Rural Preservation Company as follows:

The Guardian House is closing this week. Renovations are expected to be complete by July 2011, and at that time women will be brought into the home. Part of the Rural Preservation Company staff will also relocate to the house in May, and eventually the Guardian House will be home to up to eleven women.

With the Male Veterans House, since some of the staff is being moved out of that house, there will be three beds added to increase the total number of beds to 13.

The Permanent Housing for Formerly Homeless Veterans, RPC continues to maintain 14 apartments, both in the Town of Wilton and in the Village of Ballston Spa for Veterans

and their families. The long-term plan is to include developing more permanent housing for this population.

The Veterans' Administration, in conjunction with Section 8, has special vouchers for Veterans' who are homeless or near homeless that bypasses the normal Section 8 process and allows for support from the VA and RPC. A few months ago RPC expanded their employment services for homeless Veterans and near homeless Veterans to five counties, adding two additional Employment Specialists that work in the county to help homeless Veterans or those in danger of being homeless to find meaningful employment. The goal is to place 450 Veterans this year

Mr. Mazurek said there would be a grand opening and ribbon cutting in early June for the Guardian House.

Mr. Barrett said he preferred Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for the Veterans' Concert at SPAC. The committee agreed.

**On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom