

Economic Development Committee Minutes
October 3, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Kinowski, Lawler, Richardson, Sausville, and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Jason Kemper, Planning; Kathleen Fyfe, Denise Rameo and Annamaria Bellontoni, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the September 5, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Bellontoni requested a resolution to name the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) for the county so they can apply for the “I Love NY” matching grant. In the terms of the grant you can apply for up to \$190,000, she said. Last year the Chamber received \$39,000 from the grant. She said she is hopeful that the Chamber will receive a little more from the State this year because there is more money available. Ms. Bellontoni said there is only one TPA allowed per county throughout the State and that is how the grant is administered. She said the money that the Chamber received from the County last year and years prior is what is used for the match. The paperwork for the grant is due at the end of October, she said.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve the designation of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the Tourism Promotion Agency for the county so they can move forward and apply for the “I Love NY” matching grant. Unanimous.

Mr. Sausville said he would like to see some cooperation and sharing of the grant funds with the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce so the two agencies can work together more closely and share the resources that are available to the county.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the sustainability plan, which is a grant project that is being worked on through the Capital Region Economic Development Council. As part of the plan the workgroups have come up with their own initiatives to be included in the final plan. There have been a series of public forums across the region with approximately 135 people participating and approximately another 250 people who submitted comments, he said.

Mr. Kinowski said the third quarter meeting of the Trails Committee will be held on October 4th, at 3:00 p.m. He said one of the goals is to continue the Zim Smith southern portion of the trail, which was broken up into three phases. The southern portion near the school is moving forward and is looking good for strong progress, he said. The northern portion is looking even better with a number of residents that have been contacted and approximately three remaining for a position to acquire agreements. He said there is a very small portion that the railroad

owns and that is still in the works to alleviate the county from the five year contract. He said there are a number of ownership issues and filing issues that have not been accomplished, so a little bit of who actually owns the small piece of land is in question. He said he has been in conversations with Pan Am Southern, CP Rail, Delaware and Hudson as to ownership. He said the equestrian trails in Moreau could potentially open in late October.

Ms. Daly said one of the entities that the subcommittee met with was the Southern Chamber, starting an extensive dialogue about the community development and the kinds of things they were involved in doing. The Chamber has outlined a funding request for a Community Development Plan specific to the kinds of activities that they are interested in pursuing for next year. She said she would forward an email copy to all committee members for their review.

Ms. Daly said Mr. Kinowski has been working with SUNY Albany in creating relationships with a couple of individuals that will be able to assist in a comprehensive plan, in part, memorializing some things that have already been done in terms of economic development. She said she has drafted a letter requesting committee input, with comments to be submitted to Pam Hargrave, Clerk of the Board by October 24th. Once all information has been compiled it will be forwarded to all Supervisors for their review.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom