

Economic Development Committee Minutes
August 7, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: Vice Chairman Daly; Supervisors Grattidge, Johnson, Kinowski, Lewza, Richardson, Martin and Sausville; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Annamaria Belantoni, Todd Shimkus, Brian Strauter; Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce; Jason Kemper, Planning; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the July 2, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper said that the Agricultural District #2 Public Hearing was held with no comments made. A request was made to approve the amendment to the Ag District where three parcels in the town of Hadley were added totaling 88.96 acres; and two parcels deleted in the town of Ballston totaling 211 acres.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the amendments to Agricultural District #2 as described above. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the Zim Smith Trail stating that two minor contracts are coming to an end. The first one is with Gilder and Van Gilder Associates, who prepared all the right of way maps from Coons Crossing to Elizabeth Street in Mechanicville. At the end of the process there will be a right of way map for every parcel that is needed to acquire land from for the construction of the Zim Smith Trail. Occurring at the same time there is a separate contract with Greenman Pedersen Engineering refining the conceptual layout. Mr. Kemper said at the last Trails Committee there was a request to move forward with the full design and right of way acquisition from Coons Crossing in Halfmoon to Elizabeth Street in Mechanicville. He said there is money in the Capital Budget for this project. He said his office is working very closely with DOT to obtain full design and right of way acquisition done within the existing funds in the capital account, and at the same time following the federal aid process, so as to not jeopardize any federal aid in the future. Mr. Kemper said this is an RFQ process where proposals will be sent out to engineering firms and a decision will be made based on qualifications. A fee will then be negotiated with the chosen firm to complete the project.

Mr. Shimkus distributed the Tourism Marketing Report from the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to all committee members and gave a brief overview. He said for the first two quarters of 2014 the county is up 14.1% in occupancy tax collections, setting a record for five consecutive quarters. The twelve month running average revenue per available room for Saratoga County through June 2014 is up 6.4% with occupancy up 3.5% for the same twelve months.

Mr. Shimkus said the money that is available in the Marketing Partnership varies each year based on County Contribution from I LOVE NY Matching funds and Cooperative Ad Contributions. The total for 2014 is \$478,689. He said the membership dues from the Chamber fund all of the salaries and benefits for the staff. The \$78,500 in Cooperative Ad Contributions is a record for private cooperative ad funds with 12 area tourism destinations and hotels contributing a minimum of \$5,000.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom