

Economic Development Committee Minutes
February 1, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Matthew Veitch; Supervisors Alan Grattidge, Art Johnson, Todd Kusnierz, Jack Lawler, Scott Ostrander, Tom Richardson and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Kevin Hedley, Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, the minutes of the January 4, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper gave an update on current Planning Department projects. Mr. Kemper previously distributed a memo via email containing the details of each project.

Planning Conference

Mr. Kemper said that this year's Planning Conference was the largest turnout ever with over 580 registrations, representing over 65 municipalities and 11 Counties. The event was very successful.

Agricultural District Amendment

Mr. Kemper said that the county received three petitions, two from the City of Saratoga Springs and one from the Town of Malta. The amendments have been approved by the Saratoga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board. A public hearing has been set for February 14, 2018 at 4:25pm and if there are no objections, a vote will be set for the February Board Meeting. SEQR action will also need to be taken in February.

Champlain Canalway Trail.

Mr. Kemper said that they have been working on a section of the trail with the Town of Waterford, Town of Halfmoon and numerous other municipalities, which would extend from the Town of Halfmoon/Waterford town line, south 1.2 miles. In March 2013 Saratoga County acquired an easement over a portion of the trail. In October 2017 the Hudson River Greenway announced that the project received 100% funding for full construction of the project, grant amount was just over \$400K. Mr. Kemper said that the grant is a reimbursable grant. The Planning Department will be seeking Board approval in the future to secure all necessary agreements to facilitate construction of this portion of the trail. The section will be paved.

Zim Smith Trail – Mechanicville School District.

Mr. Kemper said that the Planning Department has been working on preparing the Zim Smith Project to go out to bid. A portion of the project is the construction of a parking lot on Elizabeth Street Extension. The lot is planned to be the eastern terminus of the trail and will also serve as an entrance point for the Mechanicville School District planned new bus garage and athletic fields.

The original plan was for the County's contractor to install the culvert pipe for the parking lot and entrance when the entire Zim Smith Project went out to bid around June 2018 however, the School District has pushed that portion of their capital project forward and will be going out to bid this week with a bid opening February 20, 2018.

After discussion with the engineers, Mr. Kemper said that the easiest path is to have the school district build the parking lot and entrance and have the School District reimbursed by the County. Costs should remain the same. Any extra work for the School District can be put out as an alternate bid so that they County's portion can be separated. It was decided that the County's engineers would do a site inspection. The committee agreed with the plan moving forward.

Mr. Veitch introduced Mr. Kevin Hedley, Chairman of the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership. Mr. Hedley gave a brief update on the SCPP. Mr. Hedley said that the Prosperity Partnership works on attraction, retention and expansion of business, work with Globalfoundries and Luther Forest Tech Campus among other items. Mr. Hedley said that attraction of new businesses is a long play process and involves not only local business but finding businesses in other parts of the country. The global economy is changing dramatically and the plan is to stay ahead of it by reaching out to global semiconductor alliance network, groups, organizations and trade shows. Working with organizations involving arts and culture is also very important. The SCPP also support small business, examples include providing quick books training for small businesses and they are also launching a mentoring program for business owners. SCPP has also aided several organizations with Consolidated Funding Applications. The Next Wave Network is working with real estate owners and developers to find a cost effective way for businesses to come to the area. The Next Wave Advisory Council is chaired by Dr. Gary Patton from Globalfoundries. Mr. Hedley said that SCPP has invited all Supervisors to attend their meetings, they have also reached out to Supervisors for any help they may need in each of their municipalities. Mr. Hedley said that they are having conversations with SEDC to work on a more collaborative relationship.

Mr. Johnson said that the IDA is purchasing 20 acres in the Luther Forest Technology Campus and putting in infrastructure to that point, it will be positioned so that other pods can extend lines form that point.

Mr. Kusnierz said that the Town of Moreau is very excited about the new grain hub project in their area.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board