

Economic Development Committee Minutes  
October 4, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Matthew Veitch; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Tara Gaston, Alan Grattidge, Art Johnson, Scott Ostrander and Tom Richardson; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer; Jason Kemper, Allison Hargrave, Planning; Annamaria Bellantoni, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce; Carm Basile, Jaime Watson, CDTA.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, the minutes of the September 6 and September 12, 2018 meetings were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Kemper previously distributed his memo via email.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, to amend Resolution 222-2015 to modify the funding details of the 2015 Farmland/Open Space Preservation Grants to the Towns of Charlton and Wilton, authorizing the transfer of funds from the Farmland/Open Space Preservation Reserve and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper said that there are two Farmland and Open Space Projects that are ready to be closed. One in the Town of Charlton and one in the Town of Wilton. The current balance in the open space account is \$53,139, and \$68,044 is required to close the projects, therefore a transfer of \$14,095 is needed.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to recommend the 2018 Trails Grant Awards. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper said that the Trails Committee met on August 29 to review the 2018 applications. They received eight applications for a total request of \$69,083.18. The municipalities requesting funding are Mechanicville, Wilton, Saratoga, Halfmoon, Saratoga Springs, Charlton, Malta and Edinburg. There is a 50% grant match requirement. The Committee evaluated two options, one was funding each project request at a 72.38% level, the second option was if an outstanding project was not going to be pursued, the level of funding would have increased. Mr. Kemper said that it is his understanding that project is still viable. A summary of each of the projects was included in Mr. Kemper's memo.

Mr. Veitch said that all of the projects were approved as they are all good and viable projects, and leverage at least \$140K of trails investment in the County. Mr. Veitch asked the Committee if they would support a recommendation to Law and Finance to find the funding to make up the gap and fully fund the eight requests. The difference is approximately \$19,000.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to designate the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the County's Tourism Promotion Agency and**

**Authorizing the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to apply for an "I Love New York" grant in 2019. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Bellantoni distributed a handout and gave a brief overview of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce Marketing initiative. The handout gave an overview of their budget, market segmentation, occupancy statistics, 2018 summer and fall campaigns, and social media promotions. The 2018 YTD occupancy tax revenue is up 8% over Quarters 1 and 2 in 2017. The demand for rooms is increasing, up 4.4% in 2018 and 9.7% in 2017.

Mr. Basile from the Capital District Transportation Authority presented a brief powerpoint. The two most heavily used routes in Saratoga County are the Route 450 service and the Northway Xpress. Ridership has generally been down this year however the Northway Xpress ridership has increased this year. CDTA has a corporate relationship with Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. CDTA actually has agreements in place with all colleges and universities in the Capital Region whereby the CDTA smart technology fare box system can recognize the college ids and calculate and bill rides. Transit works best in dense urban centers, where there is a college campus or other large institution, and where there are large retail clusters. Transit does not work as well in rural areas, suburban areas, and areas where there is high automobile ownership. Sidewalks greatly help public transportation, an example of this are the sidewalks that have been put in on Route 50 in the last 10 years, and ridership has doubled on this route. Mr. Basile believes that the time is right now for an attempt to re-introduce public transportation into Clifton Park.

An opportunity they are looking at is Microtransit, which is similar to ridesharing but operated by CDTA. It has the potential to provide service to low-ridership areas. They have partnered with a company called TransLoc which is a software company based in North Carolina. They will be working with CDTA to identify where this service could work. The Microtransit pilot is set to begin in 2019.

**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