

Economic Development Committee Minutes  
August 8, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Committee Members Jack Lawler, Tom Richardson, Tim Szczepaniak, Matt Veitch; Supervisor Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Jenniffer McCloskey, Employment & Training; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Marty Vanags, Shelby Schneider, Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Richardson, the minutes of the July 8, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Lawler said that he was not at the July 8, 2019 meeting and has read the minutes of that meeting. Mr. Lawler commended SEDC for providing so much information and reports. Mr. Lawler said that he would like to have it noted in the minutes for this month's meeting, that while information and reports were provided, it does not satisfy the resolution which this committee and Board passed, which requires an opinion from the ABO. Mr. Lawler said that he appreciates Ms. Skaine's opinion that SEDC are not subject to ABO regulation, however the opinion they are looking for is the ABO's opinion, which Mr. Dorsey is diligently attempting to secure. While the information provided was good, it is not a substitute for what is required, nor did anyone suggest that it was.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize the Chair to enter into the necessary agreements to apply for, accept and administer a New York State snowmobile grant-in-aid program grant, and authorizing the issuance of a negative declaration. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper said that this is an annual resolution and the grant is pass through funds received from NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The funds pass through the County and out to the Snowmobile Association, and then disbursed to each of the clubs in the County. The Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs, comprised of the Charlton, County Trailblazers, Galway, Lincoln Mountain, Mulleyville and Sacandaga snowmobile clubs, develop, maintain and operate the 169 miles of state grant-funded trails throughout 17 municipalities within Saratoga County. A portion of the registration fees for snowmobiles goes back to the clubs. Last year \$56,784 was provided and they had a total cost of \$128K. The remainder is made up with fundraising, etc. This year Country Trailblazers has applied for one new trail. The application will be submitted to Parks as a part of the application. Part of this is a type 2 action, and a negative declaration will be prepared as part of the resolution. Mr. Kemper previously distributed a memo to the committee members including maps for the new trail. Mr. Kemper said that if the trail gets approved, the club will need to apply for permission from landowners and the Town of Stillwater. Mr. Barrett said that this program has been a terrific public private partnership and seems to work for all involved.

Mr. Kemper gave an update regarding timber harvesting related to the Airport and the mitigation process. Mr. Kemper distributed a map outlining the properties in the towns of Wilton and Northumberland where the new habitat will be established. It's a total of 180 acres. The timber minus some shade trees will be removed from the properties, and a field and butterfly habitat will be created. These parcels were chosen due to the close proximity to existing Karner Blue habitat, sandy soils, not steep slopes and lack of wetland. Mr. Kemper said that there is a proposed 100 ft. buffer around the perimeter of the parcels. Mr. Barrett said that he would like to ensure that harvesting is done within a set time limit in the morning and afternoon if the area is very close to neighborhoods, as he is concerned about noise from trucks, chainsaws etc. Mr. Kemper said that this item will be brought up at Buildings & Grounds next week for approvals related to the project. It's anticipated that harvesting will begin January 2020.

Mr. Barrett said that he spoke with Supervisor Lucia regarding the parcel in the Town of Corinth. Mr. Lucia has spoken with his Town Board, they would like to keep their options open regarding the parcel and may want to play a role in the future of it. No specific plans are made at this point and they will be in touch within the next few months about any future options they may want to pursue. At this point, it does not appear that there will be an auction in September so there is no immediate concern regarding timing. The next auction will be held in March 2020.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lawler the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board