

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**January 23, 2012**

**PRESENT:**

**Richard Keaveney, Chairman**  
**Jeff Braley**  
**William Hughes**  
**Ronald Knott**  
**John Porreca**  
**Richard Scalera**  
**Sara Sterling**  
**Ellen Thurston**  
**Arthur Bassin**  
**Robin Andrews**  
**Arthur Baer**

**ABSENT:**

**Matt Murell - notified**  
**Michael Benson - notified**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk**  
**Kenneth Flood**  
**Ronald Caponera**  
**Jim Waterhouse**  
**Ellen Jouret-Epstein**

**Public: 1**

**Press: 1**

**Chairman R. Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.**

**K. Flood gave a brief history of his employment with Columbia County. He started in 2008 when the position in the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) and the Planning Director were combined into one.**

**He gave a description of the staff at CEDC.**

**He has recently hired a new employee. This person will handle a large amount of the financial end of the business.**

**A. Baer requested that K. Flood bring a work chart of his Departments and staff to the next meeting.**

**A list of accomplishments for the year 2011 by CEDC, Columbia County Industrial Development Agency, and Columbia County Capital Resource Corporation were handed out. CEDC handles all of the economic growth of the County.**

**K. Flood announced that the CEDC board meetings are the last Tuesday of every month. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has a seat on the Board. Supervisors Scalera, and Porrecca (for when chairman is not available) are also appointees.**

**COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 2012 GOALS, OBJECTIVES  
AND MAJOR PROJECTS**

**The IDA was recently awarded 2.2 million for a Transloading Facility. This will enable them to extend a rail bed and a part of a building. The total project cost is estimated at 3.3 million. The IDA was best to handle implementation of this project as it had to be publicly owned. DOT will visit the site this week. They have to RFQ for engineers.**

**Columbia County Airport – K. Flood explained that the Airport needs to be used as an economic development engine for the County. A business plan was handed out to the Committee. He would like this to be discussed substantially at the next meeting. He would like one of the agencies such as CEDC to be in charge of the upkeep and planning for the future of the airport. An audit of the airport should take place. The return on the investment should also be calculated. It was decided that one hour prior to the next committee meeting, the Supervisors would meet for a tour of the Airport.**

**Marketing – Develop new marketing program and materials including website; goal is also to establish periodic communications with CEDC members (i.e. newsletter). At the Next CEDC meeting, K. Flood plans to recommend that Allen Coons be employed to do the website.**

**Micro Business Program- Received additional \$250,000 SBA loan to then be loaned to small businesses.**

**Expanded Outreach to County Businesses by Executive Director.**

**Office/Building Ownership – Soil and Water Building**

**In 2010 this building reverted ownership to the county with a 63/20 leasing corporation. The County Attorney’s office has been speaking with DEC. DEC is concerned that that the building may not be under County control and this would violate a previous consent order. The option of moving CEDC, Planning and Tourism out to this location and creating a visitor center is being looked into.**

**Catamount Resort – Approval for this project was received three years ago. It will be a resort with hotel and condominiums. A sewer treatment plant is needed. K. Flood is still trying to obtain funding for this. The company moves forward and is completing feasibility studies. This is a high priority project.**

**Greenport Crossings Continued Development - This project continues to move forward as well . They are meeting regulatory issues from the state. They are building a family entertainment center, A&W restaurant and Comfort Inn and Suites. This is an eighteen month construction project that is not planned to start until around June.**

**Hudson Valley Creamery- They are hoping for production to begin in March. They are going to be selling goat cheese. Part of the 10 yr plan is to develop goat farms in the area.**

**Broadband Plan/Strategy- K. Flood continues to discuss this issue with providers in the area. It is at a standstill. The problems that arise are primarily with the cost of the infrastructure.**

**The Local Support Program was briefly discussed. Donations can be given and used as a write off. A press release on this will be coming out very soon.**

**Other upcoming projects include Technical Assistance for Larger Businesses and Development of the CEDC owned 33 acre parcel which is currently undeveloped and zoned correctly. They would like to run the water and sewer underneath the road.**

**Agriculture- J. Waterhouse**

**- Farmland Protection Plan**

**A hand out was given. LESA: Land Evaluation and Site Assessment. Used to rate the importance of agricultural lands. LEASA sensitive lands in the county have been identified. They have also identified the needs of the land owners and put together the maps.**

**A list of goals was passed around. A draft plan will be put together by April at the latest and a public hearing will be held.**

**It was confirmed that the Supervisors would meet at 4:00 P.M. at the Airport for the next committee meeting. They will then meet at 5P.M. at the Soil and Water Building.**

**With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:33 by A. Baer, seconded by R. Andrews, motion carried.**

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