

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / PLANNING COMMITTEE

April 23, 2012

**PRESENT:**

Richard Keaveney, Chairman  
Matt Murell  
John Porreca  
Ronald Knott  
Michael Benson  
Richard Scalera  
Sara Sterling  
Ellen Thurston  
Arthur Bassin  
Robin Andrews  
Elizabeth Young  
William Hughes  
Jeff Braley

**ABSENT:**

Arthur Baer - notified

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk  
Kenneth Flood  
Ronald Caponera  
James Waterhouse  
Ed Cross  
Todd Erling  
Linda Tripp

Public: 1

Press: 1

Chairman R. Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:03P.M.

**Agriculture**

**Farmland Protection Plan Update** – Todd Erling and Jim Waterhouse

A draft plan outline was passed around.

Over eight out-reach meetings have been completed at this time. They have also sent surveys out to farmers. Funding was discussed.

The second draft of the Columbia County Demographics and Consumer Spending and the Agricultural Profile has been completed and circulated to the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB). The first draft of the Inventory of Agriculture assets has been completed and circulated to the AFPB. A list of recommendations from several sources has been developed regarding strategies and recommendations.

Local towns will not be obligated to pass resolutions adopting this plan.

They plan to have this plan up on the web so it is easy to find and navigate. Business dealers will have the link to the website. A Resource Guide will be looked into.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension** - Linda Tripp

The position description has been released and interviews should take place in May for the Executive Director position.

Pamphlets on the Capital District Vegetable and Small Fruit Program were passed around, as well as pamphlets on the Agriculture and Horticulture Program. Five Counties contribute to this regional program. They use a formula to determine contribution.

Cornell's 2011 annual report was passed around. Their program areas were briefly discussed.

This included 4-H, Agriculture and Horticulture, Family and Consumer Science, Eat Smart NY, and Natural Resources and the Environment.

A list of their 2012 programs was passed around.

She requested that staff be welcomed to attend meetings to share different specifics on their programs.

**Economic Development**- K. Flood

**Consolidated Funding Application Priorities-**

This is a product of the Regional Development Council that the Governor established. This brings together all funding into a signal portal, so that applicants no longer have to determine what they may be eligible for. The County needs to decide what they want to apply for and what the priorities of the County are. He believes that water and sewage to the Airport and sewer plant improvements to Commerce Park should be at the top of the list.

Catamount and the truck route should also be discussed.

The County needs to look into the Broadband situation. The lack of accountability that the providers have was discussed. It would cost around \$35,000.00 to have a study completed that would determine where the gaps in Broadband service are in the County. K. Flood plans to return next month with a drafted RFP for this study. He will also put together an outline of County priorities for the next meeting.

Rail Trans-Loading Facility –They have an approved application, but the application does not fit the rules that need to be followed. K. Flood is currently working with DOT to learn more about the process. They had a meeting with ADM who is very excited about this project. There will be a total cost of \$3.3 million. The County was awarded \$2.2 million. There has to be a match of \$1million in funds and assets. The facility will have to be publicly owned for 30 years as that is the life of the bond. Project details were discussed.

The County will have an insert in the Legislative Gazette which will be issued May 8<sup>th</sup>. This is the State Employee Government News Paper. They are going to gear it towards tourism and there is no cost to the County.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:02PM by E. Young, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., motion carried.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ PLANNING:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Keaveney, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Andrews

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Baer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Bassin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Braley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Benson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Murell

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Porreca

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Scalera

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Knott

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Hughes Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ellen Thruston

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffery Braley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Young