

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

July 23, 2012

PRESENT:

**Richard Keaveney, Chairman
William Hughes, Jr.
Elizabeth Young
John Porreca
Ellen Thurston
Sarah Sterling
Arthur Baer
Robin Andrews
Ronald Knott
Richard Scalera**

ABSENT:

**Art Bassin - notified
Matt Murell – notified
Jeff Braley – notified
Michael Benson**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Donna Peterson
Todd Erling**

PRESS: 1

Chairman Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

Agriculture

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Donna Peterson

D. Peterson is the Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator at Cornell Cooperative Extension. She gave an update on their activities which includes providing information to the gardening community, performing PH soil tests, and teaching classes related to gardening.

A list of upcoming events was provided to the committee as well as a newsletter written by the master gardeners.

Farmland Protection Plan – Todd Erling, Executive Director, HVADC

An update of the plan was given.

They have received input and the next steps include finalizing and prioritizing recommendations.

They will determine case studies and best case practices that can be applied to Columbia County.

T. Erling asked the Board to be prepared to make a decision on this plan by the end of October.

The committee encouraged him to expedite this date to September for BOS approval. A public hearing should take place as well.

Consolidated Funding Application – Value Added Agricultural Program

CEDC and the County submitted three CFAs, one falling under agriculture. It seeks assistance in expanding value added agriculture business in the County.

Economic Development:

Columbia County Future Impact Analysis (Airport) was passed around. The same methodology used by the State was used in determining aviation impact numbers. K. Flood has determined that any investments the County makes should be consist of what the FAA considers a requirement.

Not meeting these requirements would result in shortening of the runway which could have many negative effects on the operation.

Columbia County Airport CFA – The County submitted a CFA grant. 2.5 million was requested for replacing the sewer in Commerce Park and expanding it to the Airport. The Catamount CFA was submitted as well for the Sewage Plant.

K. Flood expects to know if the County will receive funding from these grants by October or November.

He was able to secure money for a GIS system. There would be a match of around \$1,700 required on the county's behalf. It includes a printer as well as the software.

Congressman Gibson's Broadband meeting is scheduled for August 14th. He is requesting all providers to be there. The County will then need to determine what they can do to expand accessibility and improve quality of broadband.

Project Updates:

Greenport Crossings – This project is still moving forward. The hotel is being discussed, and there are hopes that the foundation will be in by the end of the year.

Premier Brands –Decided not to move into the building on Second Street in Hudson. Another project may be going in there at this time called Plastic Excursion.

Sustainability Plan – the State has given the Regional Counsel \$1million to do a sustainability plan for the region.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:56 PM by A. Baer, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr. motion carried

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