

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 25, 2013

PRESENT:

Richard Keaveney, Chairman
Robin Andrews
Elizabeth Young
Art Bassin
Jeff Braley
Ellen Thurston
Sarah Sterling
John Porreca
Arthur Baer
Ronald Knott
Richard Scalera

ABSENT:

Michael Benson

ALSO PRESENT:

Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Stephen E. Hadcock
Chuck Brooks

Press: 2

Chairman Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM

Agriculture

Farmland Protection Plan Review-

The public meeting scheduled in Ancram has been moved to this Thursday the 28th due to inclement weather. Following the meeting, the Committee will convene to take into account all comments made by public, draft a final plan, and hold a Board of Supervisor's Public Hearing. They are hopeful the Public Hearing will take place in April with adoption of the plan following in April or May. S. Hadcock reported that turnout has been good at the public hearings. It was decided that this committee, Economic Development, will eventually make a motion to send it forward as it is responsible for agriculture.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Chuck Brooks, Executive Director and Stephen E. Hadcock, Beginning Farmer and Market Development Educator of the Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program

Update at Cornell: The Capital Area Agriculture & Horticultural team has existed for two years and is one of the two major programs funded 100% by the County. Members of this team include Tom Gallagher, Livestock Educator; Chuck Schmitt, Commercial Horticulture Educator; Steve Hadcock, New Farmer and Marketing Educator; Sandy Buxton, Farm Business Management Educator; and Aaron Gabriel, Agronomy Educator .

A. Baer requested to know how much of the County's employment force is engaged in farming fulltime. K. Flood estimated around 5% but will provide statistics according to the census.

The team is doing the best they can to assist farmers with a variety of topics. The percentage of funding for this program is based on percentage of agriculture in the County.

An addition of Agriculture News was passed around to the Committee. This can be received electronically if supervisors request it.

Economic Development

Greenport Crossings Opening- They plan to be fully opened by Friday. K. Flood reported that it is a quality facility and the food is great. They plan to apply for a building permit for a hotel very soon.

Premier Brands– This company was previously looking into occupying a building on 2nd street in Hudson and has now contracted to occupy the vacant Wal-Mart due to environmental issues. Retail will be very small and March 21st is the expected closing date.

Trans-loading Facility Update- Constant conversations with NYS, regarding what they are going to require for this project to continue moving forward, have been taking place. There is a deadline at the end of next year for construction to be completed.

Project Update:

LOVES is progressing with the town. They submitted all permit applications to DEC, DOH, and the Thruway. K. Flood has received an outline of an agreement between LOVES and his Department regarding a structure for a visitor center.

K. Flood reported that he is working on a new project and will have more information on this at a later date. He did advise the Committee that it involves two gentleman who want to open a farm and distillery. They have decided to locate here and are hopeful to open here next year. He explained that NY is top three in the nation for farm wineries and farm distilleries, as the State laws are very friendly towards those businesses.

The Crystal Apple Awards were briefly discussed.

Announcements:

A Goat Farming Company would be coming into the area, and Hudson Valley Creamery is hoping to work with them.

Quite a few businesses in the area are saying that they can't find a workforce. Applicants are not considered employable. Ken is working with Workforce Investment Board to address this.

Required State Reports are available on the State Authorities Budget Office website.

Local Ocean PILOT- The County has received the money due and has dispersed it to the correct towns. These IDAs are now required to give the County one year of taxes to go in an escrow account upfront.

Other Business

Small Business Seminar – February 27th

The County Clerk is sponsoring this on Wednesday from 8:30-12:30PM. Topics of filing a DBA Sales Tax, etc. will be reviewed. A representative from NYS Department of Motor Vehicles will be there to discuss wording on trucks. Small business owners have recently been caught making up DOT numbers for their trucks. K. Flood will send supervisors the seminar agenda.

Tourism Marketing Event - March 19th - K. Flood had a meeting with a prior high executive of Disney marketing. He brought up an idea for businesses to work with tourism to produce more marketing on social media. There is a local man who will assist with this and will give a one day seminar. K. Flood plans to invite all tourism businesses.

K. Flood announced that Carol Wilber has been hired for their marketing department as Director. She will be doing some long term planning.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:18 PM by R. Knott, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Richard Keaveney, Chairman

Michael Benson

Robin Andrews

Arthur Baer

Jeffrey Braley

William Hughes, Jr.

Ronald Knott

Elizabeth Young

John Porreca Sr.

Richard Scalera

Sarah Sterling

Ellen Thurston

Arthur Bassin