

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 25, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk
Angela Rothermel, Asst. Dep Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Chuck Brooks
Donna Peterson
Ronald Caponera

Press: 1

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

Agriculture

Farmland Protection Plan – John Brennan’s NYSAM Review/Comments-

K. Flood has been in contact with John Brennan regarding the Farmland Protection Plan.

Mr. Brennan has expressed his concerns about the weaknesses in the plan. K. Flood is working through these issues and is focusing on the implementation steps of the process. These steps have been drafted up, but there is a delay in the consideration of the plan.

K. Flood will be requesting a 2 to 3 month extension from the State and should have information for the Supervisors to look over and consider at April’s Committee Meeting.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – An annual report was distributed to all supervisors for review.

Presentation on Master Gardner, Donna Peterson, Horticulture Resource Educator-

A Spring Gardening Day flyer and agenda were distributed for review. Spring Gardening Day will be held April 20th, 2013 at Columbia Greene Community College and will be broken up into two 90 minute sessions. There has been over 171 volunteer hours in the Master Garden program since January. The volunteer hours involve assisting with office work, answering questions, and performing soil sample tests for Columbia County. 50 constituents have been assisted by the Master Gardeners Program so far this year. Currently there are 11 active Master Gardeners in Columbia County, as well as Greene County.

Economic Development

Economic Development Policy – A look at Columbia County’s employment data and discussion of future direction- K. Flood handed out information on the following three web pages.

<http://youreconomy.org/pages/growth.lasso?&state=NY&county=36021&year1=2000&year2=2010>

<http://youreconomy.org/pages/growthfactors.lasso?state=NY&year1=2000&year2=2010&county=36021>, and <http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/cbpnaic/cbpsect.pl>.

The information was examined. Long term trends show that from 2000 to 2010 Columbia County has had a tremendous growth of self employment (92% increase.) Taconic Farms and Columbia Memorial Hospital are the two biggest establishments in Columbia County.

Also included in the web pages above are the Labor and Agriculture statistics. Healthcare and Public Administration have grown. Finance and Insurance are also growing. K. Flood will be compiling this information and plans to provide it to the Director of Marketing, who will put together a strategic plan.

A. Baer said that K. Flood should question why some businesses are growing, and some are not.

Premier Brands and Purchase of Vacant Wal-Mart in Greenport-This matter is proceeding and should be closing next week. An annual meeting will be held the morning of March 26th, at Kozels,

where Steve Corsun will speak about Premier's plans, and Sharon Richards, of Richmore Aviation, will speak about the airport.

Trans-loading Facility Update-

This project is slowly moving forward. An IDA meeting will be held where they will approve Regal Engineering and Design Team for this project. Regal Engineering is a small, but reputable Engineering Company. The next steps of this process are to approve engineering and designs and to lay out plans for the Planning Board, where they will provide a brief status report on the project.

County Airport Development-

A meeting will be held with Commissioner Robinson on how to move forward with developments and improvements. A plan will be laid out to develop an additional hanger near the Beacon. Columbia County Supervisors will be approached in the future for a land lease. If it does not pass, the run way will have to be shortened by 800 feet and jets will no longer be allowed on the runway.

Project Update-

Loves is working with the Department of Transportation and Engineers to resolve any current issues.

Other Business-

Catamount was briefly discussed. Building should begin in 2014. They do not have financing at this time.

There will be a ribbon cutting for Greenport's new A&W on March 28th, Mobile on April 12th, and the Liquor Store on April 26th, all at 4:30 pm.

Tourism Marketing Event –

Rescheduled for May 28th 2013. There are 45 interested parties as well as a great interest in Greene County.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:57 P.M. by A. Baer, seconded by R. Scalera, motion carried.

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