

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

April 22, 2013

PRESENT:

**Michael Benson, Deputy
Richard Scalera
Elizabeth Young
Arthur Bassin
Jeffrey Braley
Ellen Thurston
Sarah Sterling
Ronald Knott**

ABSENT:

**Richard Keaveney-Notified
Robin Andrews-Notified
Arthur Baer-Notified
John Porreca**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Angela Rothermel, Asst. Dep Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Ronald Caponera
Chuck Brooks
Marilyn Wyman
Liz LoGuidice
Theresa Mayhew
Chris Watz**

Press: 2

Deputy Benson called the meeting to order at 5:03P.M.

Cornell Cooperative Extension- C. Brooks introduced employees Liz LoGuidice, Marilyn Wyman, and Theresa Mayhew of Cornell Cooperative Extension to the committee members, and gave them a chance to share some important information.

M. Wyman spoke to the committee about the Emerald Ash Borer. She explained that the Emerald Ash Borer is a very troublesome bug that is spreading rapidly through Greene County. The Emerald Ash Borer kills the Ash Tree, which is a common tree to line the roadways in municipalities, causing a real risk to pedestrians and vehicles that are nearby a dead Ash Tree. M. Wyman went on to explain the ways of taking care of the trees before they become a risk. The most cost effective way to take care of the trees would be to cut them down and replace them with a new type of tree, before the Emerald Ash Borer takes over killing the trees and creating danger.

L. LoGuidice spoke to the committee, and handed out information, about the Hudson Estuary Watershed Resilience Project. The project addresses the challenges of flooding, stream, and watershed management L. LoGuidice is in partnership with the DEC and the counties of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam. The reason for this project is to have better planning and flood plains, due to the fact that we are being faced with environmental changes such as greater precipitation events.

Economic Development- K. Flood

K. Flood passed around handouts for all the Supervisors to look over, and mentioned that The Barlow should be open by the end of May.

Economic Development Activity in Hudson- A handout was passed around to all Supervisors showing a list of businesses in the City of Hudson receiving business assistance from CEDC for 2013 and 2013.

Rail Trans-loading Facility- A continuing DOT funded project. It is a local project, but it does not receive local funding. K. Flood said that Greenport Town Board are potential operators, but will need to meet on the topic. The construction target is for next year, and will be taking care of 2,500 feet of rail.

Columbia Development Leasing Corporation Dissolution Plan- The building was reverted back to the county, and there was an attempt to contract with 325 Columbia Street, but there was no use for the corporation. The county has paid for the bonds and audits for the last two years, but there is no longer a use for this building.

Resolution Request: Authorization to Approve of Columbia County Development Leasing Corp's Dissolution Plan. Motion to approve by E. Young, Seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

New York Philharmonic Summer Home- K. Flood explained to the committee that the New York Philharmonic is looking for a summer home in Columbia County. New York City did not want this information public, but the Poughkeepsie Journal has already written an article about it. They want to build a several hundred million dollar summer home on over 100 acres of land, with a large parking lot and field, the only thing they really do not like is that there are not very many hotels around. The article hinted that they would like to use Olana, but K. Flood has not heard any more on that yet. R. Scalera stated that it would be a good idea for Columbia Greene Community College to build dorms, they could be occupied during the Fall and Winter months by the school, and by the New York Philharmonic for Summer.

Love's Travel Center- An agreement has been made with the DOT to move forward with the rest of the improvements. CEDC presented a loan last week to Dirt Works, a landscape and dump truck hauler, who is also a veteran.

Agriculture

Farmland Protection Plan- There has been an extension given by Agrimarket and John Brennan. K. Flood said we are trying to come up with implementation steps to advance.

NY Value Added Grant Program- There are four businesses. CEDC and the Board for Loans are moving forward.

Capital District Region Economic Development Council

Update: K. Flood explained that the county is being pushed from region 8 to region 1. DOT met with region 8 and admitted that the regents do differ with implementations and restrictions. Region 1 is more compatible.

County Attorney- C. Watz

C. Watz, the Junior Assistant County Attorney, updated the committee on Meadow Greens. He explained that the owner of Meadow Greens still does not want to sell for what the county has offered. A public hearing will be held next month on this topic, and things will go from there. The county is looking to purchase the land from Meadow Greens to expand the airport and be within the safety limits. C. Watz will be attending all committee meetings to fill every committee member of the update.

Request to move into EXECUTIVE SESSION by A. Bassin, seconded by E. Young at 6:03 P.M, motion carried.

REASON- Possible Litigation

Motion to RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION by A. Bassin, seconded by S. Sterling at 6:15 P.M, motion carried.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:16 P.M. by E. Thurston seconded by S. Sterling, motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Richard Keaveney, Chairman

Michael Benson

Robin Andrews

Arthur Baer

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John Porreca Sr.

Richard Scalera

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