

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

July 22, 2013

PRESENT:

**Richard Keaveney, Chairman
Arthur Baer
Richard Scalera
Elizabeth Young
John Porreca
Ellen Thurston
Sarah Sterling
Michael Benson
Arthur Bassin**

ABSENT:

**Jeffrey Braley- notified
Ronald Knott
Robin Andrews- notified**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Rebecca Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Chuck Brooks
Erin Wadsworth**

Press: 1

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

Chuck Brooks gave a brief overview of his meeting with NYS Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk, who is a sheep farmer in Duanesburg, NY.

A presentation was given by Erin Wadsworth of Valatie who is currently working at the CCE office as a summer assistant. She works with the 4-H Agriculture program as well as the County Fair. She has completed her first year at SUNY Cobleskill and explained some of the experiences she has had while enrolled in the Honors Program. While in this program she was tasked with charting lamb growth and calculating the adjusted ratios. She also kept track of breeding. As a teacher of various 4-H programs, Erin has taught enrollees about pack goats and wool and fiber. She feels that her communication and organizational skills have greatly improved as a result of her experiences with CCE.

Agriculture

Adoption of the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan:

A public hearing was held at the July Full Board meeting. They have met all of the regulatory requirements. The State suggested they add the definition of Agriculture to the plan, which they plan to do. K. Flood would like the plan to be voted on at the next Full Board Meeting.

Resolution Request- Authorization to adopt the Agricultural and Farm Land Protection Plan by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Economic Development

Community Visitation Report – K. Flood explained that this program has worked out great as far as making connections with local businesses. He recently visited with Stuyvesant and Canaan. Almost every town is scheduled to receive a visit at some point. Discussion ensued regarding farmers converting to agricultural specialties.

A history of Columbia County Bountly was given.

Capital District Region Economic Development Council:

Catamount is resubmitting a CFA grant. An unmentioned builder plans to put equity into the building. They will be seeking funding to get this project underway.

As of this time, no word has been received regarding the local government efficiency grant that was applied for.

Consolidated Funding Application Round III

The County won an award and will have a signed contract next week. They will immediately be processing grants for four businesses.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:43P.M. by A. Baer, seconded by . Bassin, motion carried.

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