

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
September 23, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Richard Scalera
Michael Benson

ALSO PRESENT:

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Chuck Brooks

Press: 1

Public: 1

Chairman Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) -Chuck Brooks, Executive Director

A long term strategic plan for the next five years was passed around. The plan was subject to numerous committees as well as a strategic planning day. C. Brooks plans to bring a power point presentation to the October committee meeting. It was reported that the Extension's administrative fees are much lower and more funding is being allocated to programming. A larger plan exists which includes action steps for their employees. This plan is being duplicated in Cortland County.

The Extension is in the process of putting together a Parenting Program with the Department of Social Services, of which they recently discovered a funding source for.

A. Bassin suggested that Cornell Cooperative Extension work to maintain a close relationship with the Columbia Land Conservancy and Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation. Board members and the nomination process were discussed briefly.

Agriculture

Value-Added Ag Program Update – It was reported that four loans in the amount of \$82,000.00 were closed on. Four local business received the funding.

Economic Development

2014 Budget Request – The Department has presented a budget with a 5% decrease. They are decreasing website and consultant costs. They have also had personnel vacancies.

Community Visitation Report was given. They plan to concentrate on agriculture next.

Project Update-

Flanders celebrated their two year anniversary.

A potential buyer, Atlantic Cape Fisheries, is visiting the local fish farm tomorrow. He will also address the Planning Board and is reported to be looking into a salt water operation.

Hudson Valley Creamery added a second shift and seven new employees.

LOVES is still planning to open. Discrepancies and issues with DOT continue.

Economic Data – Bureau of Economic Analysis- K. Flood sent out statistics from the Census Bureau.

Compared with Dutchess County, as well as the rest of the State, it was reported that Columbia County is doing well. Baer requested that wage rate statistics be provided at some point.

Start-Up NY – A meeting took place between R. Lopez, K. Flood and CGCC to see if Columbia County can take advantage of this program.

Airport – K. Flood explained that his portion of this matter is complete. It is now in the County Attorney's office. He explained that if nothing changes, the runway will have to be shortened or the County will have to

restrict what size aircraft can be used. A. Bassin questioned the legitimacy of this claim. After a discussion K. Flood said he would request that the FAA provide clarification on the run way length and what the exact definition of the jets are that they have referred to.
K. Flood will also look into having the 2003 airport plan posted on line.

The Columbia Economic Development Corporation budget was briefly discussed.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:09PM by A. Baer, seconded by A. Bassin, motion carried.

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