

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
October 21, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Richard Scalera, notified
Michael Benson
John Porreca, notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Chuck Brooks
Todd Erling
Ronald Caponera

PRESS: 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 plan. C. Brooks presented a power point presentation to the committee members.

Brooks briefly went through the Plan and it was reported that the Extension's administrative fees are lower and more funding is being allocated to programming. A larger plan exists which includes action steps for their employees. The Extension has added a Parenting Program with of which they recently discovered a funding source for.

HVADC: T. Erling

T. Erling and staff have been working as Co-Chairs of the Ag & Foodshed working group for the MHRSP effort and has assisted in bringing in produce and agribusiness to provide a regional perspective on sustainable agricultural issues. These broad reaching issues range from energy to economics to sustainable farming practices. Throughout the planning process, HVADC has worked with leaders from Columbia County to ensure Columbia's interests have been represented. Other topics Erling mentioned briefly were Columbia County Ag and Farmland Protection Board, NYS Consolidated Funding Applications, Hudson Valley Food Hub with a brief Project Summary, this is now in Phase II in order to expand the infrastructure of two successful food processing and distribution firms in order to meet the growing demand for local healthy food grown by NYS Farms and HV Farms.

Economic Development: K. Flood

2014 Budget – The Department has presented a budget with a 5% decrease. They are decreasing website and consultant costs. They have also had personnel vacancies. A discussion ensued for quite some time and a motion came from Chairman Keaveney seconded by A. Bassin to remove the County's HVADC contribution from CEDC's 2014 Budget to a separate line item directly in the County's General Fund, it came down to a vote, where 2 voted no, 1 abstained and 4 voted yes. This motion was carried.

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

Project Update-

LOVES is back on track. They will plan to have a Visitor's Center in a separate part of the building.

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 is looking 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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