

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING  
TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 3, 2019**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Legislators:** Dale Weston, Ed Hollenbeck, Mike Roberts, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

**Staff:** LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Andy Fagan, CCE

**Guests:** Jim Pratt, VP Board of Directors, CCE

Legislator Weston called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

- Approval of minutes from August 6, 2019 – Legislator Weston asked for approval of minutes from the August 6, 2019 committee meeting. Legislator Hollenbeck made a motion to accept the August 6, 2019 minutes, seconded by Legislator Roberts. All were in favor.

**CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (CCE):** Andy Fagan – Report for June through August 2019 was distributed. Mr. Fagan reviewed his report highlighting the following: 4-H Youth Development, Youth Development, Agriculture & Horticulture, Regional Dairy Team, Family Development, and Community Development. Mr. Fagan also had a PowerPoint Presentation reviewing various budget expenses, as well as the proposed budget for 2020.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING:** LeeAnn Tinney – Agenda, attachments and highlights previously emailed. Ms. Tinney introduced Megan Griffiths, the new Agricultural Development Specialist in the Economic Development and Planning Department. Ms. Griffiths spoke a little bit about herself and added she was looking forward to working with TEAM Tioga.

Director's Highlights follow:

**Meetings Attended**

- Regional Economic Development Council- Meeting attended.
- Regional Economic Development Council, Executive Committee – Met and scored the Consolidated Funding Applications adding Tioga County applications are well represented.
- Town of Nichols- Met with Kevin Engelbert to discuss activities in the Town of Nichols and possible developments in Lounsberry.

- Tioga County Property Development Corp.- Attended the Land Bank Press Conference in Waverly with an active demolition going on in the background. One media representative in attendance.
- ST8 (Southern Tier 8) – Met with the CED's Planning Committee (Committee for Economic Development).
- Best Buy- Met with representatives to discuss their expansion; an auto sort and retrieval system that will increase their productivity and make them more effective within Best Buy Corporate.
- Waverly Central School- Attended the Workforce Based Learning Steering Committee Meeting. They are reaching out to local employers to work directly with their students for internships and work programs. A good meeting.
- Southern Tier 4<sup>th</sup> Wave- Exploring battery technology in the region. This initiative is moving forward; partnering with Schuyler, Chemung, Broome and Tompkins Counties.
- VEDA- Attended the monthly meeting.
- Tioga County Housing Initiative- Phase 2 of the Housing Initiative is complete, but have not received the final report yet. Moving forward with putting a group together to enlist what was outlined and recommended in the housing initiative. Looks like a lot of interested partners within the County.
- Voigt & Schweitzer- Steel galvanization plant; construction continues.
- Southern Tier 8/ Southern Tier 4<sup>th</sup> Wave– ST8 is conducting an energy infrastructure study; connecting ST8 with the Southern Tier 4<sup>th</sup> Wave project, making it possible to share information; meeting this afternoon.

Not on the agenda, Ms. Tinney reported an LDC Board Member has resigned. A recommendation for a new board member will be coming in the near future.

### **Department Highlights**

- Regional Council Executive Committee CFA rating.
- ST8 Energy Infrastructure Impact Assessment and Strategy.
- Southern Tier 4th Wave Study.
- Projects
  - HEMP (Waverly)- The old Grand Union warehouse building has been purchased and renovations are underway; anticipating 10 – 15 employees by the fall.
  - Housing
    - 2 developers exploring housing opportunities in Owego.
  - 2 State leads- Responded to both.
- Land Bank- Demolition complete on 9 properties.
  - Of the 3 slated for rehab, 1 is a possible demolition.
  - Appraisals are going to be done on demolition properties to begin the process of selling the properties to get them back on the tax rolls.
- Restore NY projects in progress:
  - 358 Broad Street, Waverly
  - 167-169 and 171 Main Street, Owego
- 2020 Census Complete Count Committee- This committee was set up at the fair, marketing materials purchased and a Facebook page has been set up; outreach ongoing.
- Grants
  - Preserve NY Grant- Awarded \$8000 to the Village of Owego; funding a Cultural Landscape Report for the Evergreen Cemetery.
  - REAP USDA Code Enforcement Officer Shared Services Feasibility Study; under contract and will be completed June 2020.

- Town of Richford wastewater collections system- Ms. Jardine is working with Ms. McCafferty to look at issues that the Town of Richford is having with their water system; wells are being tested.
- 239 Reviews presented to the County Planning Board:
  - County Case 2019-012: Town of Nichols, Solar Energy Systems permit, Lodestar Energy; resulting in a non-action by the County Planning Board.
  - County Case 2019-013: Town of Nichols Special Use permit, Burlingame; approved by the County Planning Board.
- 2020 Budget
  - Economic Development- Tracking
  - Planning- Tracking

Not on the agenda, Ms. Tinney reported beginning preparation for the DRI; working with project owners and the Village. Ms. Tinney reported we are many months away; 33 projects outlined in total and they will all be handled differently. There will be contracts between the project owners and each of three entities: Department of State, Housing Community Renewal and Empire State Development. The ED&P Department has begun outreach to each project owner to ask for their patience, it will be months before contracts are in place.

Also, not on the agenda, Ms. Tinney reported sending out an email to this Committee regarding the Tourism budget. Ms. Tinney is putting together information to support why the temporary increase that was made to the Tourism budget should remain in place going forward and will be asking this committee for their support.

**Resolutions** – The following resolutions were presented and approved:

106- Designation of Tioga Co. LDC DBA Tioga Co. Tourism as Authorized Tourism Promotion Agency for 2020

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Linda Sampson  
 Administrative Assistant to Economic Development & Planning