

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
January 26, 2010

PRESENT:

Lynda Scheer, Chairwoman
Richard Keaveney
Lawrence Andrews
Elizabeth Young
Robin Andrews
Arthur Bassin

ABSENT:

Jeffrey Braley, notified
Arthur Baer, notified
Jesse DeGroot, notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Courtney Radley, Asst. Deputy Clerk
John Musall
William Hughes
Kenneth Flood
Ann Cooper
Roland Vosburgh
Steve Hadcock
Adam Miller
Public: 3

Press: 1

Chairwoman Scheer called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

Agriculture Update:

K. Flood introduced S. Hadcock from the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

S. Hadcock gave a handout of graphs relating to farms in Columbia County to the committee. S. Hadcock explained how agriculture is changing and how it is an economic engine. Discussion ensued in regards to the importance of agriculture in Columbia County.

Chairwoman Scheer recommended that there be a special quarterly meeting to discuss only agricultural issues.

Discussion ensued regarding adding property to Agricultural District #4.

Chairman Scheer read through the State Environmental Assessment Form

Resolution Request: To approve the addition of Section 303-B property to Columbia County Agricultural District No. 4

Resolution Request: To determine that the addition of Section 303-B property to Columbia County Agricultural District No. 4 will not have a significant environmental impact and will not require an environmental impact statement. Motion to approve both resolutions by E. Young, seconded by R. Keaveney, motion carried.

Environmental Management Council:

Resolution Request: Appointing Jamie Purinton of Ancram to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council. Motion to approve by R. Keaveney, seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

Resolution Request: To create and fill two non-voting agency representative membership positions for the Columbia County Environmental Management Council. Appointing Ed Van Nostrand from the Columbia County Department of Health and Theresa Mayhew from the Cornell Cooperative Extension as non-voting agency representatives of the Environmental Management Council. Motion to approve by L. Andrews, seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

County Planning Board:

Resolution Request: Appointing Cheryl Gilbert to the Columbia County Planning Board representing Region #1 consisting of the Town of Chatham, Kinderhook, and Stuyvesant to a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2012. Motion to approve by L. Andrews, seconded by R. Andrews, motion carried.

Tourism:

Amtrak Station: Brochure rack has been moved and a proposed temporary solution is in process of being negotiated.

Hillsdale Visitors Center: Tourist information will be available at B&G in Hillsdale. Designs for the signs and display area are being created now. The Chamber of Commerce is planning to hold a Chambers After Hours in April to unveil the new visitors center.

New Columbia Tourism Logo: Update will be available for next month's meeting.

Resolution Request: To authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a contract with Titan for a 2010 Metro-North poster campaign. Motion to approve by L. Andrews, seconded by E. Young, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request: To establish a pool of marketing professionals to support 2010 tourism promotional efforts. Motion to approve by R. Andrews, seconded by E. Young, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

County Public Transportation: Update on Transportation Coordination Plan will be available for next month's meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the issuance of Recovery Zone Facility Bonds.

Resolution Request: Designating Columbia County as a Federal Recovery Zone pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the purpose of issuing Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds and assigning recovery zone facility bond volume cap to the Columbia County Industrial Development Agency pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 for the purpose of issuing Recovery Zone Facility Bonds. Motion to approve by L. Andrews, seconded by R. Keaveney, motion carried.

K. Flood invited all to attend the presentation by AeroCity Windpower LLC on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at Space 360 at 10AM. K. Flood also stated that he has been invited to give the introduction at the event.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn at 6:07 PM by R. Keaveney, seconded by R. Andrews, motion carried.