

# MINUTES

## PLANNING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Fred Lightfoote, Chairman

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

4:00 PM

Conference Room 205

Municipal Building

<b>Members Present</b> Chair – Supervisor F. Lightfoote Supervisor J. Gallahan Supervisor D. Marshall Supervisor N. Teed Supervisor D. Vedora	<b>Members Excused</b> Vice Chair – Supervisor R. Green	<b>Staff and Guests:</b> Tom Harvey, Planning Betsy Landre, Planning Reliefia Kramer, Planning Michael Wojcik, Economic Development Tim Davis, OC CCE Russ Welser, OC CCE Valerie Knoblauch, Tourism David Lee, Tourism
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TIME	TOPIC	NOTES & DISCUSSION
4:00 p.m.	<b>Opening of Meeting</b>  <b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Chair Lightfoote opened the February 2, 2016 Planning and Research Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. Vice Chair Robert Green was necessarily absent.  Chair Lightfoote requested a motion to approve the January 12, 2016 minutes.  <i>A motion was offered by Supervisor Marshall, and was seconded by Supervisor Gallahan to approve the January 12, 2016 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.</i>
4:02	<b>Cornell Cooperative Extension</b>	Chair Lightfoote welcomed Tim Davis and Russ Welser.  Mr. Davis introduced OC CCE Senior Resource Educator, Russ Welser. Mr. Welser said that the subjects that he deals with are general agriculture, natural resources, and consumer horticulture.  Mr. Welser distributed the Master Gardener Volunteer Report (a copy of which is on file with the official minutes in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors) and discussed the program with the committee. He said that participants go through 40-60 hours of intensive training. The training covers a wide range of horticultural topics. When they sign up, they agree to give 100 hours of volunteer time back to the Cooperative Extension over a 2 year period. The training is done on a regional basis and there will be 5-7 counties that participate. Mr. Welser told the committee that Ontario County currently has 43 Master Gardener volunteers. In 2015, the Master

		<p>Gardeners offered 24 gardening/horticulture workshops. They spent 780 hours on consumer inquiries. Mr. Welser discussed other Master Gardener activities with the committee. Their major fundraising activity is a plant sale. They have used the proceeds to fund a \$500 scholarship to a full time FLCC Horticulture student from Ontario County and funds for 2 to 4 4-H Camp Bristol Hills camperships.</p> <p>Mr. Welser answered questions from the committee.</p> <p>Chair Lightfoote thanked Mr. Welser and Mr. Davis.</p>
4:20	<b>Tourism</b>	<p>Chair Lightfoote welcomed Valerie Knoblauch and David Lee.</p> <p>Mr. Lee distributed two brochures (copies of which are on file with the official minutes in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 Finger Lakes Must-dos</li> <li>• Finger Lakes Region on the Water! - Map &amp; Guide</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Knoblauch explained the above mentioned brochures with the committee. Ms. Knoblauch said that the numbers for the winter travel season have been down because of the weather and the Canadian exchange rate. She said that 30% of the winter business is from Canadians, particularly Canadian skiers.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch said that they came up with a Canadian focused marketing campaign “More Loot for your Loonies”. Mr. Lee is handling that program.</p> <p>Mr. Lee explained the campaign to the committee and said it will be launched on February 5<sup>th</sup> and will be extended into May.</p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch discussed and recommends approval of the first request of funds from Ontario County for 2016 in the amount of \$582,837.02</p> <p><b><i>Motion to approve the above mentioned first request of funds was made by Supervisor Vedora, seconded by Supervisor Marshall. Motion carried.</i></b></p> <p>Ms. Knoblauch explained to the committee that two individuals that were reappointed on December 3, 2015 failed to take their oath of office and the resolution needs to be approved again. Ms. Knoblauch recommends approval of a resolution – Re-appointment to the Ontario County Four Seasons Local Development Corporation – Alexa Gifford and Mike Kauffman</p> <p><b><i>Motion to approve the above mentioned resolution was made by Supervisor Gallahan, seconded by Supervisor Vedora. Motion carried.</i></b></p> <p>Chair Lightfoote thanked Ms. Knoblauch and Mr. Lee.</p>
4:34	<b>Planning</b>	<p>Mr. Harvey requested that Ms. Landre discuss agenda items 4. A., 4. B., and 4. C. with the committee.</p> <p>Ms. Landre discussed and recommends approval of a resolution – Authorize Executing a Contract with Oswego County SWCD for Transfer of SFY 15-16 FL-LOWPA State Grant Funding Under the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed</p>

Protection Alliance. This will be for receipt of money allocated by the state in 2015.

***Motion to approve the above mentioned resolution was made by Supervisor Vedora, seconded by Supervisor Teed. Motion carried.***

Ms. Landre discussed and recommends the approval of a resolution – Authorizing 2016 Contribution to Seneca Lake Partners in 5 Counties (SLAP-5). The County has contributed \$2,000 annually to SLAP-5 for a number of years. Supervisor Vedora talked briefly as the County’s representative to the new Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO). It is just getting organized, but its mission is to work with all the watershed communities to coordinate and prioritize the action items in the recently approved watershed management plan.

***Motion to approve the above mentioned resolution was made by Supervisor Marshall, seconded by Supervisor Gallahan. Motion carried.***

Discussion took place regarding the salt issues of Seneca Lake. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Vedora explained that salt levels are so high that the New York State Dept. of Health has issued an advisory to people with high blood pressure and infants. Historically Seneca Lake has had high salt levels because of the subterranean salt deposits. They have been rising, possibly from both road salt usage and possibly salt mining activities.

Ms. Landre reviewed the report on the 2015 Aquatic Vegetation Management Program. She told the committee that we try to make this program an adaptive program in a changing ecology. In addition to harvesting the program employees have been helping out with clearing vegetation around the weir and outlet and cleaning up debris from storm events and flooding that occurred during the past two years. She said that the plant populations have been on the decline the last two years, although our tonnage of vegetation removed from the lake has dropped and the operation’s efficiency has continued to increase, as measured by the tonnage removed divided by the hours of staff time used. She credited the use of the larger harvester and the weed bed mapping that is done through the summer by Terry Gronwall from the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force. This allows the harvester operators to target where the weed growth is most dense. Ms. Landre said that the blue/green algae blooms have become more of a concern to residents because of the heightened awareness of harmful algae blooms. As a result, the state is doing toxicity testing on Honeoye Lake during the summer months.

In regard to adapting the program’s operations, Ms. Landre proposed acquisition of a small work barge. This would be used to capture weed fragments that wash up on the shoreline whether from the harvester, boat props, or natural die off. They got the idea from a tour of operations in Chatauqua Lake, and how it not only helped remove vegetation and thus nutrients from the lake but provided a service for residents. Ms. Landre said that if approved by DEC, it will be purchased with 100% state funds.

Mr. Harvey discussed and recommends the approval of a resolution – Appointment of Representatives to the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority – Jessica Holloway and Joshua Watkins. Mr. Harvey explained that the statute creating the authority grants Ontario County two representatives on the authority’s board of directors. That statute leaves the term of office up to the discretion of the County Board

		<p>of Supervisors. He explained that after discussion with Chair Lightfoote and Tim Davis, they wanted to make sure there was better communication between the county’s representatives on the Authority and the county. Thus, the resolution requires the County’s representatives to provide minutes and agenda’s to the County, make an annual report to the committee, and provide information on any grant or other programs and issues to the Director of Planning and Cooperative Extension of Ontario County. The term for each representative would be 2 years. The committee can then judge how well the communications are going and whether they would recommend a longer term for the representatives in the future.</p> <p><i>Motion to approve the above mentioned resolution was made by Supervisor Marshall, seconded by Supervisor Teed. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>Mr. Harvey discussed and recommends the approval of two resolutions – Resolutions of Appreciation for Service on the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority – Edward Hansen and Gertrude Watkins.</p> <p><i>Motion to approve the above mentioned resolutions was made by Supervisor Gallahan, seconded by Supervisor Vedora. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>Supervisor Marshall discussed and recommends the approval of a resolution – Resolution of Appreciation for Service on the Ontario County Planning Board – Peter Osborne.</p> <p><i>Motion to approve the above mentioned resolution was made by Supervisor Marshall, seconded by Supervisor Gallahan. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>Mr. Harvey discussed Governor Cuomo’s announcement of \$11 million to assist farmers with water quality protection projects as an informational item. This was an issue discussed with P. J. Emerick (Director of the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District) at the last meeting, when it was unknown what the timing of the grant applications and amount of money available would be.</p> <p>Ms. Landre discussed current water quality projects with the committee.</p>
5:16	<b>Adjournment</b>	<p>There being no further business for discussion, Chair Lightfoote requested a motion to adjourn.</p> <p><i>Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Vedora, seconded by Supervisor Teed. Motion carried.</i></p>

Respectfully Submitted,

*Reliefia Kramer*