

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: AUGUST 20, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: MCDEVITT
LEGETT
BRAYMER
STROUGH
MAGOWAN
SIMPSON
WILD

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT

REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
CHRIS BELDEN, ASSISTANT PLANNER
SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS COORDINATOR
RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
AMY LAVINE, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: BEATY
HOGAN

FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS: GERAGHTY

SOKOL
MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
JOANNE CONLEY, TOURISM DIRECTOR
BETH GILLES, INTERIM DIRECTOR, LAKE CHAMPLAIN-LAKE GEORGE
REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the August 20, 2018 meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2018/economic/>

Mr. McDevitt called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 9:40 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who informed they had updated the Warren County Recreation Mapper with the four seasons as requested by the Committee last fall. He indicated this process was interrupted by the census updates for the LUCA (*Local Update of Census Addresses*) Program. He advised Sara Frankenfeld, *GIS (Geographic Information System) Coordinator*, was in attendance to review and demonstrate where to find the Warren County Recreation Mapper, which would be made available to the public on August 31st. He reported for two years through the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Program they had been highlighting a hiking trail of the week on the County Website and this had received a lot of attention; he added the last trail of the week feature would be the introduction of the Warren County Recreation Mapper.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ms. Frankenfeld who provided a Power Point presentation entitled "*Warren County Recreation Mapper*", which she reviewed in detail. *A copy of the presentation is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Ms. Frankenfeld mentioned the Warren County Recreation Mapper would be available on the GIS page of the County website, on the First Wilderness site and the First Wilderness Facebook page. She informed each one of the hiking trails was rated with a difficulty level, the address and directions with links to the website. She reported the Lake George Land Conservancy had shared their resources and provided permission to link to their existing trail maps. She advised there was a listing of parks and the amenities they provided, along with canoe launches and beach locations, as well as bike trails that were linked to Ride with GPS (*Global Positioning Software*) for those who were looking for road rides.

Mr. Wild inquired if the hiking trails could be downloaded to Google Maps and Ms. Frankenfeld replied this was a responsive app that would re-format to work on a cellular phone or tablet. She added that the trail information was not owned by the County, but rather by the NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) and their rules for GIS data prevented the Planning Department from distributing the information; she advised the only GIS data they were able to distribute was the data they developed. She mentioned a link could be added to the NYSDEC website through a KMZ (*Keyhole Markup Language Zipped*) file or a Google Earth file for accessibility. Mr. LaMothe explained Google Maps did not always put the placeholder where the item was and that GIS provided geographic accuracy. Mr. Strough mentioned he had an app on his cell phone that could tell him where he was located on a hiking trail. Ms. Frankenfeld remarked they had discussed developing an app that would be similar to the one Mr. Strough referred to; she apprised developing an app that contained a full inventory of hundreds of hiking trails, plus all the resources that were on the website, would entail custom work to make an app that was user friendly, which, she said, would require a contract with a vendor. Regarding the aerial photography, she advised the photos had to be taken on a clear day after the snow melted and before the leaves were out. She indicated there were no viable photos for 2017, but said the County had been re-flown in 2018 at no charge for those photos.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, pointed out this was a marvelous marketing tool and he inquired how the Warren County Recreation Mapper would be promoted. Ms. Frankenfeld replied it would be integrated into the Warren County Tourism website, making it available to link with individual devices. She reiterated the link would also be on the First Wilderness Facebook page along with being on the Visit Lake George website. Mr. LaMothe informed he would send the link to the Clerk of the Board for distribution to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Braymer inquired about the status of the Smart Growth Grant and Mr. LaMothe replied he did not have any information as the grant was being handled by the Department of Public Works.

Concluding the Planning & Community Development agenda review, Mr. McDevitt reported there was one action item on the agenda, that being a request from the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board to pay the annual payment of \$7,000 to the Treasurer of the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board for its share of the proportionate financing of the organization in conjunction with the other participating Counties of Clinton, Essex, Hamilton and Washington.

Beth Gillis, *Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board*, indicated the Regional Planning Board had updated their bylaws and forwarded them to the five oversight counties for approval. She advised they currently had fifty-nine active loans, of which six had not paid, but they were working with the delinquent accounts to get them brought up to date. She mentioned at the end of July they had submitted five CFA's (*Consolidated Funding Applications*) on behalf of the counties for various projects. She informed she had received authorization to hire a Senior Account Clerk because their secretary was retiring September 1st; she said she was working with the Warren County Civil Service Administration to aid with finding applicants. Ms. Braymer inquired what the balance of the Regional Planning Board's operating fund was and Ms. Gillis reported the funds provided by the counties were utilized as match for their Federal Economic Development Administration Grant. She added that Aaron Frankenfeld,

Director AGFTC (*Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council*), and herself worked on getting the AGFTC reimbursement time down to a few days, which she said, helped with their cash flow. She reported they were owed funds through an NYSDEC Internal State Grant Gateway System. She apprised they were working on getting the money they were owed and putting it back into the organization. Ms. Braymer asked what their operating expenses were and Ms. Gillis answered their operating expenses were low; she said the funds they received from the EDA (*Economic Development Administration*) consisted of a \$70,000 grant which required \$70,000 local match. She stated they were not maximizing the \$70,000 and there were ways they could restructure the way they were using funds to do so. She commented they received another \$70,000 grant from the NYSDEC for the Water Quality Program that was used for operating expenses, informing they also used interest from the Loan Funds.

Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, inquired if the other four counties had paid their contribution amounts and Ms. Gillis replied affirmatively. Ms. Braymer queried the amounts they paid and Ms. Gillis responded Washington County provided \$3,500, Clinton County provided \$9,300, Hamilton County provided funds in the \$12,000 to \$13,000 range, while Essex County paid \$6,000. Mr. McDevitt asked what formula was used to determine the amount of the allocations and Ms. Gillis responded they were changing the formula which was currently based on population. Ms. Braymer remarked these figures did not add up to \$70,000 and Ms. Gillis replied the reason was they used other funds, explaining that was the reason they were not maximizing the \$70,000. She opined funds could be utilized differently to be able to reach the \$70,000 by revising the way funds were distributed to maximize grant funding. She indicated they were only able to have a local match of \$35,000 with in-kind services provided by the accounting firm they had through Glens Falls National Bank, who, she mentioned, did not charge for the services they provided for the Loan Funds which remained at \$35,000 a year. She remarked the goal was to reach \$70,000 so they could receive \$70,000 from the Federal Government to help with operating expenses.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried by unanimous vote, with Ms. Braymer abstaining, to approve the request to authorize payment to the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. Wild inquired if Ed Bartholomew, *President Economic Development Corporation*, would be speaking and Mr. McDevitt indicated Mr. Bartholomew had left, but would speak at next months Committee meeting. Mr. Moore apprised he would contact Mr. Bartholomew to request copies of the presentation he had intended to make and would distribute it to the Committee members when received. Mr. Wild asked if a special meeting could be held next week so that Mr. Bartholomew could make the presentation himself and Mr. Moore advised he would contact Mr. Bartholomew to see if this was a possibility.

As there was no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Leggett and seconded by Mr. Simpson, Mr. McDevitt adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist