



Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission

c/o Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program
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MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2017

4:30 PM

Whitestown Town Offices
8539 Clark Mills Road
Whitestown, NY

Present

Dave Glenn, Chair (Whitesboro)
Shaun Kaleta (Whitestown)
Tom Hughes (V. of New Hartford)
James Christian (Supervisor Paris)
Bob Frielander (Whitesboro)
Vincent Malagese (Whitesboro)

Steve Devan (WP&WQC)
Al Ash (NYS DEC)
Katherine M. Czajkowski (NYS DEC)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP)
Tim Hughes (public)
Al Swierczek (public)

The meeting was opened at 4:30 pm by Chairperson Dave Glenn. The minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting were approved with a motion by Supervisor Christian and a second by Vince Malagese.

Project Updates

Paris Box Culverts

The project is to start this week with CNY Construction. Contractor looked over the sites with Town of Paris officials and noted additional tree cutting would be necessary at two of the sites. The one at Tucker's Brook will need a crane and a temporary stoplight as Oneida Street will have to be one lane for a several days. This will be an additional cost of about \$800 in a change order. There is one other location that needs additional tree cutting but the contractor will not charge for that work.

Supervisor Christian will get someone to go to the locations and take pictures of the sites prior to any work being done for comparison at the end of the project's construction.

Whitestown Sauquoit Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration Capital Project

Supervisor Kaleta reported that the flood bench design is at 60% complete for submittal to NYS DEC for comments. He also reported O'Brien and Gere (OBG) examined the gravel Bar behind the dealerships and the hydrological impacts of removal. OBG recommended to DEC that the gravel bar be removed.

As a side note but connected to the flood bench design, Supervisor Kaleta reported that the Whitestown Planning Board postponed a vote on the proposed Hoffman Carwash project located on Commercial Drive in the Town of Whitestown. The Planning Board based their decision on waiting for the final flood bench design so an informed decision can be made by the Town before approving additional development along the creek after so much downstream flooding this summer.

Also, Oneida County is waiting on the announcement of CFA awards this fall/winter for the application for an additional \$2 million requested from EFC for acquisition and restoration. Oneida County is also putting together an EPA brownfields grant to do a community assessment of the study area in the sum up to \$300,000 along the Sauquoit Creek on Commercial Drive.

Renewal of the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA)

The current IMA is set to expire again in 2018. With new elected officials, the group should re-sign the agreement for another term. Kristin will send voting members a copy of the existing document for comments as now would be the time to make any changes.

This is a good time to make any changes/updates as there is now full participation of all seven municipalities. Members need to review and report projects they would like to have done in their community so a project list is available for any upcoming grants. Also, the Commission may want to have an attorney. In the past, Peter Rayhill as Town of New Hartford's attorney acted as a Commission lawyer. Would any municipality be able to assist with this now?

Treasurer's Report

Kristin reported the balance in the Commission's bank account is currently \$148,842.20. Upon a motion by Supervisor Kaleta, and second by Supervisor Christian, the SCBIC unanimously approved the treasurer's report.

The balance reflects payments by NY Mills, Yorkville, Paris, Village of New Hartford, Whitestown and Whitesboro. A voucher was received from the Town of New Hartford and will be reflected in the next statement. Also, \$110 will be deposited from the non-return of bid books by contractors for the Paris Box Culverts.

Kristin presented documentation for payment to the Town of Paris for reimbursement of \$16.59 for the overnight mailing of a bid book for the Paris Box Culvert Project. The payment of \$16.59 was unanimously approved on a motion by Supervisor Christian and a second by Vince Malagese.

Kristin presented documentation for payment to Alan Swierczek, PE for \$933.08 for reimbursement for work completed on engineering services for the Paris Box Culvert Project. The payment for \$933.08 to reimburse Alan Swierczek, PE for work completed was unanimously approved on a motion by Supervisor Kaleta and a second by Vince Malagese.

Other Business

Whitesboro Storm sewer pipe: There was a change of plans and the project is being applied for through the Oneida County Flood Mitigation Program instead of HMGP. Whitesboro is putting together the information to apply and has spoken with Kevin Lewis at Oneida County Soil and Water to set up a site visit. The benefit of this change is the project will be funded in months versus years and in-kind can be used as a match with assistance in bidding, contractor selection etc. from Soil and Water.

Whitesboro Housing: There is a perception that there is an increase in the rental population in the Village of Whitesboro since summer the floods. Oneida County Planning looked at the census numbers of owners versus renters in the Village since before the floods and after along with the surrounding villages. Data shows the number of rental units has remained stable between 2000 and 2015. This information is valuable when planning how to address a course of action for acquisition of properties or potential projects to address flooding.

Training: HOCCPP is hosting a conference at the thINCubator located at 326 Broad Street on November 2, 2017 from 5-8pm. Speakers will be from the NYS DOS and DEC to discuss the role of PBs and ZBAs in stormwater decision making.

Mauro Litigation

Some members of the SCBIC were served papers by the attorney for the Mauro family in Whitesboro. The claim is similar to past suits but this time is requesting one million dollars in damages to the creek shoreline due to the July 2017 floods. Members discussed the history of the tax parcel and previous litigation. One comment was has any entity looked at acquisition of the parcel that could be used as a flood bench such as Whitesboro, Whitestown, Oneida County or CSX Rail Road. Members agreed that this could be an idea worth pursuing.

Genesee Street Bridge, New Hartford

Tom Hughes reported that the precast bridge is scheduled to be fixed this spring on Genesee Street over the Sauquoit Creek by the NYS DOT.

Land Development on the Creek

Bob Friedlander proposed that there be no development on the Sauquoit Creek until some of these projects are completed. He stated that someone has to be the first to take a stance and proposed the Commission come out with a strong statement to municipalities on the Creek to halt development. There was discussion among members.

The next meeting date is November 21, 2017 at the Whitestown Town Building located at 8539 Clark Mills Road, Whitesboro.