

St. Lawrence County Planning Office
STAFF WORK REPORT
July 2019



ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORT

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB). The office received written notice from the Department of Agriculture and Markets certifying this year's Ag District additions.

County Planning Board (CPB). The Planning Board met on the 11th in Canton and heard four full review projects: Subdivision regulations for the Town of Brasher; Solar regulations for the Town of Louisville and Potsdam; and a use variance for commercial storage in the Village of Massena. The subdivision and solar regulations were approved with conditions, and the use variance was denied.

Environmental Management Council (EMC). The EMC met on July 17th. John Tenbusch presented a series of slides prepared by Tony David (International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board) about the high water events of this year, and how the ILOSLRB has responded. Keith Zimmerman then presented information about planning efforts for the Lake Ontario Resilience and Economic Development Initiative (REDI), announced by Governor Cuomo on June 10th.

The Emerald Ash Borer Task Force (EABTF) did not meet in July. The next meeting for the EAB TF will be held on September 17th.

John Tenbusch made a presentation to the Town of Morristown during July about recent developments concerning EABs.

Fair Housing Task Force (FHTF). The FHTF did not meet in July.

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Census 2020. John submitted mapping updates to the Census Bureau under the Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP). If accepted, the Census Bureau will be able to report data customized for the area within the Adirondack Park.

Jones & Laughlin (J&L) Site.

- Staff provide project oversight and management for redevelopment activities at J&L.
- Staff continued to facilitate administrative aspects of Phase 2.
- Staff participated in a DEC technical (clean-up) conference call on August 2nd. DEC anticipates release of remediation feasibility study in late summer 2019.
- Total funds committed for Phase 2 stands at \$1,715,000.
- Phase 2 work is complete. Staff participated in a local stakeholder meeting on July 9th to discuss final budget considerations.

Shoreline Resiliency. On June 8th, John travelled to Rochester to represent the County at the rollout of Governor Cuomo’s “Lake Ontario Resiliency & Economic Development Initiative” (REDI). Governor Cuomo pledged \$300 million to “develop a plan to protect and adapt infrastructure along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River waterfronts while strengthening the region’s local economies.”

Space Study. Staff continue to assist the Space Committee with space allocation. More work in this arena is anticipated in the coming months.

Employee Assistance Program. Planning Staff sit on the County’s EAP Committee. Work is starting to gear up for the annual County Employee Health Fair, which will be held at a new venue this year, the HSC building on State Highway 310.

COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Abbé Picquet Trail Project Management. On the 25th, Matilda participated in a final walk-thru of the park with Board members and staff from The Chazen Company to identify the location of tree plantings and path improvements to complete to close the project out.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The Planning Office administers two open grants: the Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program, Round 2 (CHRP 2) for housing rehabilitation; and the Septic Tank Replacement Assistance Program (STRAP). Staff prepared and submitted Program Status Reports (PSRs) for each program.

The County was informed that its recent grant application, for \$550,000 to operate a 23rd round of its Direct Homeownership Assistance Program, was approved.

Lead Hazard Abatement Program. This \$1 million award from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide lead-based paint stabilization, or abatement assistance, to up to 52 households throughout the county. The grant award also includes funds for the County Public Health Department to raise public awareness about the dangers of lead-based paint hazards through community outreach and education.

During June work has begun to secure qualified contractors for projects and environmental review processes are underway. Grant startup work is intended to take several months.

State Septic Repair and Replacement Program. Work has restarted on this program with several new participants securing engineering work for septic replacement. The Soil and Water Conservation District has offered an additional \$20,000 to help cover administrative and program delivery costs.

GRANTS MANAGER

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP). Staff worked with the Highway Department to develop and submit an application for \$400,000 for a salt storage building at the Russell Outpost. This WQIP application was submitted through the 2019 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).

Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Staff provided technical assistance to the SLC Snowmobile Association/SLC Trails Coordinator in the development of an RTP application through the 2019 CFA.

U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Program. Staff facilitated and participated in a de-briefing with the EPA Region 2 Brownfields Coordinator to discuss a FY2019 application; staff from the County Attorney's Office and Treasurer's Office also participated.

Grants Notice Distribution. The Grants Notice is distributed to County Department Heads, Legislators, Superintendents of Schools, local municipal officials and approximately 350 additional individuals representing organizations throughout the North Country.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

County Mapping Upgrades. County staff continue to discuss a re-tooling of GIS software for the County. A working group met with representatives from ESRI, the company that provides GIS software to the County. A conference call with our ESRI regional representative was held on July 24th.

Village of Potsdam Mapping. Staff is currently working on updating the Village zoning map.

PLANNING MATTERS

Potsdam Local Government Conference. Staff, along with CPB member Dawn Mullaney, sit on the planning committee for the annual Local Government Conference. Work continues with planning the October 15th conference.

Shoreline Resilience Study. The consultants delivered a "final" draft of their written report during July. Staff will review the draft.

Town of Brasher. Throughout the second-half of the month, Matilda incorporated the County Planning Board's revisions to the Town's draft subdivision regulations; and prepared the environmental review and legal notice for a public hearing scheduled August 12th.

Town of Morristown Comprehensive Plan. On the 16th, Heidi, Matilda and Jason facilitated the third and final community outreach meeting for Morristown's Comprehensive Planning at the Brier Hill Fire Department. Approximately 25 residents participated in the meeting and wrote suggestions on story boards about ideas to include in the plan. Those in attendance were also encouraged to participate in the community's online survey.

Village of Gouverneur. The Planning Office has a signed memorandum of understanding with the Village to do a comprehensive revision of Gouverneur's zoning regulations. Work restarted on this project in July, with an anticipated County Planning Board review in August and final approval in the fall.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

County Transit System. Throughout the month, Matilda prepared and submitted requests to the DOT to reimburse the County 90% of the purchase price for two 28-passenger buses that were delivered last winter. Matilda also prepared a resolution to hire a vendor for the installation of mobile wifi systems on the County's bus fleet, and a resolution to apply for Accelerated Transit Capital money to construct a bus lane, and install a bus shelter in front of the County's Social Services Building. Matilda also provided information to a CPA firm auditing The Arc's 2018 mileage and passenger records. Denise and Matilda prepared and submitted the County's second-quarter passenger and mileage count to the DOT. The County also received supporting documentation from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe for a Massena shuttle that would extend service into Akwesasne.

Emergency Services. Keith has been tasked as the interim Director of Emergency Services and some of the requirements of that Office have redirected his attention and energy temporarily away from the work of the County Planning Office.