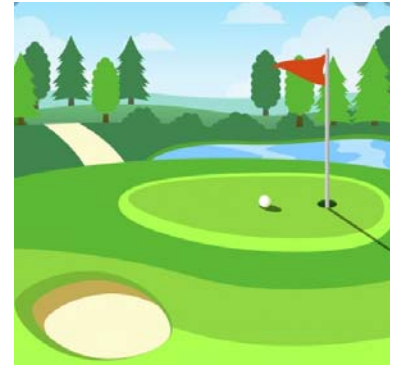


**St. Lawrence County Planning Office**  
**STAFF WORK REPORT**  
**August 2019**



**ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORT**

***Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB).*** Matilda met with Cooperative Extension Executive Director Patrick Ames on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to begin preparations for a “Careers in Agriculture” daylong field trip for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students on October 11<sup>th</sup>. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, Matilda participated in a telephone interview with Cornell University student Roberta Nilson to discuss the preservation of prime agricultural lands when siting large-scale solar arrays.

***County Planning Board (CPB).*** The Planning Board met on the 12<sup>th</sup> in Canton and heard three full review projects: Solar energy regulations for the Town of Canton; Zoning Code and Map Amendments for the Village of Gouverneur; and Town of Waddington Zoning Code Amendments. All three projects were approved with conditions.

***Environmental Management Council (EMC).*** The EMC did not meet during August. Instead, EMC members and their families, and Planning staff and their families, met at the Waddington Town Beach for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual EMC Picnic. More than 20 people attended; good food and good company abounded.

The ***Emerald Ash Borer Task Force (EABTF)*** did not meet in August. The next meeting for the EABTF will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

**BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**

***Census 2020.*** Christopher Iven, of the U.S. Census Bureau, made a presentation to the BOL Operations Committee about the Census Bureau’s plans to achieve a Complete Count in the 2020 Census. Iven recommended that the County, and various municipalities, establish Complete Count Committees that would work in conjunction with the Planning Office and with the Census Bureau to make sure that hard-to-count segments of the population are encouraged to complete their Census forms.

***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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, as well as a meeting at the Ranger School on August 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss interpretive signs and other possible finishing touches for Phase 2. Anticipated release of DEC’s remediation feasibility study in late summer 2019 may be delayed.
- Total funds committed for Phase 2 stands at \$1,715,000.
- Phase 2 work is complete.

***Shoreline Resiliency.*** In August, Planning staff worked with the Jefferson-St. Lawrence Planning Committee for the Governor's Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program to review over 200 proposals that were submitted. Successful projects will be those which increase shoreline resilience and improve economic development.

***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 on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

***Abbé Picquet Trail Project Management.*** Final close out of this project is anticipated in the next several months.

***Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).*** The Planning Office administers three open grants: the Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program, Round 2 (CHRP 2) for housing rehabilitation; the Septic Tank Replacement Assistance Program (STRAP); and the 23<sup>rd</sup> round of the Direct Homeownership Assistance Program.

During August, staff worked on the Environmental Review for the recent DHAP award, and participated in required program webinars.

***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 August, Planning staff prepared the Environmental Review for this grant.

***NYS EFC Septic Repair and Replacement Program.*** Work on this program continues 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**

***Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (SNAP-Ed II).*** Received notice of award of funds from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of St. Lawrence County to administer SNAP-Ed programming for a six-county region. Staff assisted CCE with this application, which has yielded \$3.4 million over a five-year period and is anticipated to result in the creation of five FTE jobs in St. Lawrence County and the creation or maintenance of four and a half FTE jobs in partner counties.

***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.

***Village of Potsdam Mapping.*** Staff are 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 15<sup>th</sup> conference.

***Shoreline Resilience Study.*** John made a presentation to members of the Chippewa Bay community highlighting the results of the Shoreline Resilience Study.

***Town of Brasher.*** Following a public hearing on the 12<sup>th</sup> with no public comments on the Town's draft subdivision regulations, the Town unanimously adopted the regulations prepared by Planning staff and local committee members.

***Town of Morristown Comprehensive Plan.*** On the 13<sup>th</sup>, Matilda and Jason attended the Town of Morristown's public hearing on the preparation of its comprehensive plan. Jason highlighted elements of the plan, next steps and project timeframe for completion. No comments were received from the public.

***Village of Gouverneur.*** The County Planning Board reviewed the draft zoning law at its August meeting. The next step is for the Village to adopt the final version of the Code and then final printing will commence.

***Keith Zimmerman Retirement.*** After almost 33 years of service, Keith Zimmerman retired as Planning Director on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Several retirement parties were held in his honor. Keith will not be a stranger however, he will be returning in a temporary position through the end of the year and anticipates working as consultant for the County after that.

***Emergency Services.*** Keith has been working as the interim Director of Emergency Services for several months. The County anticipates hiring a new Director for that department in the near future. Keith will be assisting with the transition.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

***County Transit System.*** Throughout the month, Matilda, County Mobility Manager Frank Doldo and The Arc Transit Manager Rena Ryan met to respond to three sets of auditor questions about the County's 2018 STOA program. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, Matilda, Jason and Assistant County Administrator Dylan Soper submitted an electronic application to the State Department of Transportation to construct an off-street bus land and stop at the County's Social Services building. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, Matilda traveled to The Arc's Transit Office to conduct a monthly check of STOA mileage and ridership counts for random bus routes. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Matilda, Frank Doldo and Rena Ryan participated in a webinar about bus route applications to assist Mobile wifi systems were installed on all 10 county buses during the week of the 19<sup>th</sup> to give riders complimentary internet access.