

St. Lawrence County Planning Office
STAFF WORK REPORT
August 2022



ADVISORY BROAD SUPPORT

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. Matilda participated in Cooperative Extension's Local Foods Advisory Board meeting on the 11th. After a preliminary consultation with Cornell IRIS on draft Agricultural District 2 maps for each town in the district, Matilda uploaded revised maps for their review on the 31st.

County Planning Board (CPB). The CPB met via Zoom on August 11th. Several projects were returned for local action (RFLA). Five full project reviews were presented and discussed. The projects that were approved with conditions were: a car wash in Heuvelton; smoke shop in the Village of Massena; a 1 MW solar array in the Village of Potsdam; and a solar law in the Town of Colton. One project was denied: a 19.9 MW solar array in the Town of Lisbon; based on its impact to active prime farmland. The Board will continue to meet via Zoom while we can, however we are planning to transition to in person in the coming months.

CPB agendas and minutes can be accessed here:

<https://www.stlawco.org/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/CountyPlanningBoard>.

Environmental Management Council (EMC). The EMC did not have a meeting in August. However, Staff hosted a picnic at the Town of Waddington Beach and several EMC members and guests attended.

Staff have created a Facebook page for the EMC. Please check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/St-Lawrence-County-Environmental-Management-Council-105829918672342>

Staff are continuing to work with the Black Lake Association with regard to milfoil management at Black Lake. A website for this project is here: <https://stlawco.org/node/2777>

EAB Task Force. The Emerald Ash Borer Task Force will meet next on October 21st.

Fair Housing Task Force. On the 10th, Matilda consulted with CNY Fair Housing Executive Director Sally Santangelo and set October 4th and 5th as stakeholder meeting dates to update the County's Fair Housing Assessment. An evening session will be held on the 4th in Massena to meet and gather input from renters.

The Task Force met virtually on the 25th to hear about plans for the event, and heard updates from meeting participants.

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Countywide Broadband Assessment. Staff continue to work with a BOL committee to develop an implementation plan for the completed broadband study. In September, staff participated in two Committee meetings, had discussions with service providers, and developed an RFP for USDA

ReConnect Round 4 funding.

Jones & Laughlin (J&L) Site. No DEC technical conference calls have been held since March 24th.

COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

The Planning Office currently operates two awards that address housing rehabilitation needs:

- SLC-CARES award to conduct housing rehabilitation for populations vulnerable to COVID-19,
- The fourth round of the Countywide Housing Rehabilitation program (CHRP 4).

Lead Hazard Abatement Program. This \$1 million award from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing lead-based paint stabilization, or abatement assistance, to low- and moderate-income households throughout the county. By the end of August, the Planning Office reports that 19 units have been completed, and 14 clients are in an application phase.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

County Enterprise GIS.

- <https://gis.stlawco.org/portal/home/index.html>
- GIS Web App: Proposed Solar sites in the County: Updated monthly with County Planning Board reviewed projects.
<https://gis.stlawco.org/portal/apps/View/index.html?appid=6f3d7fb0923448ed90c3385eb0f8a872>
- GIS Web Map: 2021 Septic Repair Program Waterbodies with 250' Buffer:
<https://gis.stlawco.org/portal/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=d8a8b0c7e637400a9c269323b7670a19>

St. Lawrence County Recreational Trails Advisory Board

Staff assisted with updating a map for project scoping in the Towns of Lawrence, Stockholm, and Brasher.

GRANTS

DR-4480 COVID-19 Pandemic Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Staff responded to a request for additional information from NYS DHSES on the \$27,000 application requesting funds to complete an engineering study for storm water management in the area of the Courthouse Complex/Judson Street.

United Way Community Review Panel. Staff participated on a St. Lawrence County review panel for the United Way. The panel reviewed applications requesting a total of \$103,300 in funding for a diverse array of projects including food security, access to care, mental health, transportation, and suicide prevention; \$56,000 was available to be awarded.

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.

Hazard Mitigation Plan, 5-Year Update. Staff are assisting Emergency Services with the required five-year update of the SLC Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff await pending approval of the draft HMP from NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

Septic Repair Program. The County has funds from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to repair or replace deficient septic tanks within 250 feet of the St. Lawrence River in communities west of Ogdensburg, and along the lower portion of the Raquette River (from Norfolk through Massena). To date, 13 projects have been completed.

During August, the Planning Office received word about additional funds to be made available from NYS.

PLANNING MATTERS

Large Scale Solar. Staff are monitoring two projects in the County: [Rich Road Solar and Storage](#) and [North Side Energy Center](#). Staff attended a Public Service Board hearing on August 9th where the North Side project was denied its certificate of public good.

Raquette River Advisory Council / West Branch St. Regis River Advisory Council. John Tenbusch serves as the County's representative to these Councils. Both Councils will meet again in October.

Town of Hammond.

Staff assisted the planning board chair with gathering resources for hosting monthly meetings and short-term rental regulations.

Town of Rossie.

Staff contracted with the Town to revise the Town's existing site plan and subdivision regulations to reach full state land use regulation compliance. Staff is working on an updated draft in preparation for the project's first public hearing on August 31st.

Website. Lisa and Dakota, with staff input, continue to work on updating/editing the Planning Office page on the County's new website.

- Updates continue to be made for events, meetings and content on some pages.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

County Transit System. On the 2nd, Matilda virtually met with the DOT to review the status of Public Transit draw requests and the remaining balances for prior project awards. On the 12th, Matilda met with JCC staff and a 19A Examiner to set up the Public Safety Complex's 2nd floor conference room as a classroom for a two-week Entry Level Driver Training course. Ten students successfully completed the classroom portion of the training and now receiving drive time training to become future Public Transit drivers for The Arc. Also on the 12th, Jason, Lisa and Matilda met with the Deputy Treasurer to discuss the 2023 Public Transit budget and accounts. On the 30th, Matilda, Jason and Lisa reviewed, finalized and submitted a resolution to modify certain Public Transit 2022

accounts. On the 12th and 24th, Matilda met with The Arc's Dispatch Office staff to review and finalize Public Transit's July STOA spreadsheet which records trips and miles for every route that was in service. During the week of the 22nd, Matilda reviewed payment requests for First Mile Last Mile and Mobility Management. During the week of the 29th, Matilda secured signatures to renew a bus advertisement agreement with Volunteer Transportation Center.