

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisor Spickerman, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, via ZOOM Supervisors Groat, Robusto, Johnson, Lasher, Eygnor and Miller, Tourism Director Christine Worth, Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli, Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Elizabeth and Extension Field Crops and IPM Team Leader Mike Stanyard.

Minutes from the February 3rd Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly activities report for the Tourism Office was distributed with the agenda. The report included a list of meetings Mrs. Worth attended in February and activities the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator participated in. The Tourism Office is assisting the County's Bicentennial Committee with preparation of a two-year calendar. The Office has not received any update on 3rd or 4th quarter Matching Funds payments for 2020; at this time reimbursement from the State is not expected. The royalty-free agreement for the I Love NY logo was approved. A summer calendar of events will not be produced this year, due to many restricted activities. Design changes are being considered for the Fall and Holiday Brochures due to COVID restrictions. The 2021 Visitor's Guide has been sent to the graphic designer. A wedding section has been added to the Tourism Website. Mrs. Worth noted the number of new businesses that are opening, a new brewery/restaurant in Macedon is scheduled to open in August and an agriculture products/bakery is being built in Savannah.

Ms. Claypoole noted the Extension Office received several calls regarding establishment of new farms in Wayne County.

Mr. Stanyard was introduced to the group and reviewed his history with Cooperative Extension. Prior to the meeting, Supervisors were provided with a report on soybean production from 2000-2019. At this time, Wayne County ranks second in the State for soybean production with 25,000 acres planted. A copy of the latest NWNYS Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team newsletter was also distributed through e-mail; the publication contained an article on soybean production. The New York State Soybean Champion is Pit Farms in Wayne County with a yield of 91.22 bushels per acre; this is the first time any farm has produced over 90 bushel per acre. Ag Teams are a partnership between Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices in Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Wyoming Counties. Mr. Stanyard noted the local growth of soybeans. He is working with area farmers to make sure they have a healthy crop; white mold can result if ground conditions are too moist. Knowing which insects will likely take the biggest bite out of crop production prior to planting can be helpful for planning yield loss prevention strategies. Mr. Stanyard works with area farmers on techniques and methods to improve their production. Research continues through Cornell and Extension on improving farm production and crops. Soybean production is generating a large amount of

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money into the Wayne County agricultural economy. Mr. Robusto questioned the decline in soybean production in the County in the past year or two; Mr. Stanyard said production differs from year to year based on the planting season.

The following transmittals were presented for the Economic Development Planning Department:

--Authorization for the Department to apply for HTF program funding for a County First Time Homebuyer Program. The Office is planning to apply for \$1 million, if received; funding will be used to provide financial assistance to first time homebuyers to assist with down payment/closing costs. Mr. Robusto questioned qualifications for first time homeowners and who would be administering the program. Mr. Pincelli said the program would involve a partnership with other agencies in the County; details are still being worked out on specific partners and administration plan. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to appoint Roberta Wolf of Lyons to the Wayne County Agricultural Development Board. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Pincelli said his Office remains busy with previously approved grant applications, and are awaiting status updates on REDC CFA funding opportunities potentially available in 2021. At this time the State is working on distributing funding from some 2020 programs. Staff are making every effort to bring new businesses into the County to assist with COVID recovery of the economy.

In other business, Mr. Miller noted Gene Bavis, President of the County's Bicentennial Committee, would be giving a presentation following the March 16th Board meeting. Interested Supervisors may stay for the 20-30 minutes presentation.

Mr. Pincelli informed members the National Park Service is currently performing a feasibility study of the Finger Lakes Region to determine potential establishment of a National Heritage Area. There will be future opportunities offered for formal presentation of the study to the Board of Supervisors. Such designation can bring resources into a community. Mr. Pincelli said he would provide additional information on this issue to the Committee as he receives it.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th at 10:00 a.m.