

## MINUTES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:00 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Johnson, Chatfield, Robusto, Lasher and Eygnor, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Tourism Director Christine Worth, Cornell Cooperative Extension Wayne County Office Representatives Elizabeth Claypoole and Laurie VanNostrand and Purchasing Clerk Christopher O'Connor. Supervisor Groat was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the May 4<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

Ms. Claypoole asked Supervisors to save the date of July 29<sup>th</sup> for this year's County Ag Tour; a formal invitation to the event is forthcoming. The event will begin with breakfast at the Extension Office in Newark with a guest speaker from Cornell. The tour will emphasize solar farms in the County with three stops planned. The event is co-hosted by all agricultural agencies in the County.

Ms. VanNostrand reviewed activities of Wayne County Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners Program. Trained volunteers answer questions on vegetable gardening, flowers, fruits, herbs, houseplants, lawns, tree & shrubs, composting and more. Plant, weed and insect identification can be made and recommendations for controlling plant diseases and insect pests can be given. Supervisors were given a pesticide education fact sheet on how to select a pesticide product. Volunteers through the Master Gardeners Program do not make recommendations for the use of home remedies for pest control unless they have been proven and test through Cornell to be safe and effective. The Master Gardeners hotline is available to the public Tuesdays and Friday from 9:00 a.m. – noon at 315-331-8415.

Committee members received handouts on Jumping Worms and the Spotted Lanternfly. Jumping Worms quickly convert good soil into grainy dry castings that cannot support many native plants. They can reproduce without mating and their populations grow fast. Sightings of the worms should be reported to the State Department of Biological Sciences [www.nyimainvasives.org](http://www.nyimainvasives.org). The Spotted Lanternfly feeds on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees. They are invasive and can be spread long distances by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses. If allowed to spread, this pest could seriously impact the local grape and orchard industry. If a Spotted Lanternfly is seen it should be reported to [spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov).

The monthly activities report for the Tourism/Publicity Department was included with the agenda. The report included a list of meetings and events attended by Mrs. Worth and staff. The 2022 Apple Tasting Tour includes 12 partners. Event brochures will be printed for the first time in two years. There will be new challenges for participants, either through the brochure or through an app. Supervisors were informed the Tourism Office Assistant retired earlier this week; a new person was hired and worked with the current staff member to learn the job.

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The Bicentennial Children's Activities book was so successful a second printing is being done. Due to a lack of response on the RfP, printing of the Visitor's Guide is being re-bid. If cost are high, Mrs. Worth may request fewer Guides be printed. The report included a list of activities the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator participated in during May. He continues to update fishing reports on the Department's web page.

Supervisors were informed an Eagle Scout constructed a viewing platform along Maceyville Trail in Sodus as a scouting project.

Mrs. Worth and Mr. House reviewed with Committee members an e-mail received from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) questioning if Wayne County would want to host a meeting in relation to the proposed designation of a national marine sanctuary along the State's eastern shoreline of Lake Ontario. With this designation NOAA would manage, interpret and improve public access to a nationally significant collection of maritime heritage resources, including historic shipwrecks. This designation would promote tourism and recreation in the area, while providing opportunities for people to learn about and explore the maritime landscape above and beneath the water. During the pandemic, meetings regarding the project were conducted virtually. Mr. House said the designation would not interfere with local shipping; however, would restrict diving in certain areas that would disrupt shipwrecks. It was agreed Wayne County would send a response that they would like to host a meeting regarding establishment of a national marine sanctuary.

Chairman Eynor left the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Mr. House informed the group the State Assembly passed the County's request for an occupancy tax; however, the Senate companion bill never made it out of committee. He is hopeful the request will be address this fall when the Legislature meets again in Albany. All revenue earned from this tax will be reinvested into the Wayne County Tourism Department.

Mr. Johnson commended Mr. Pincelli and staff for the effort made to acknowledge small businesses in the County during Small Business Week.

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

--Authorization to submit a Climate Smart Communities application. Mr. Pincelli said the \$200,000, if received, would be used for development of a smart growth comprehensive plan to promote the quality of life and economic opportunities for our residents and workforce. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to accept Environmental Protection Agency Revolving Loan funds in the amount of \$1 million and authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with Wayne Economic Development Corporation for loan fund management. Approved 4-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a sub-recipient agreement with Pathstone for program administration and program delivery services under a Community Development Block Grant Farmworker Mobile Home Replacement Grant in the amount of \$1 million. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with RTS for bus service to be utilized for a policy-maker breakfast and tour of farms throughout Wayne County. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to appoint Patricia Marini of Walworth to the Wayne County Planning Board. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign easement documents with the New York State Electric and Gas Company for a new utility pole on County railroad property. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to release Requests for Proposals for the implementation of a GIS Shared Services Project and authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract for this project through the local 2021 Local Government Efficiency Program. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to release Requests for Proposals for development of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan for Wayne County and authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign related contracts with NYSE&G Make-Ready Program and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with MRB Group for a comprehensive housing study for a cost of \$55,710. This project is being paid for with Community Development Block Grant funds. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to amend the tuition reimbursement budget for Economic Development and Planning with an increase of \$4,000. Mr. Pincelli noted two staff members are interested in taking advantage of this program. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget for the purchase of furniture with a transfer of \$1,200 from the General Fund. Approved 4-0.

Supervisors watched a segment of an Empire State Trail episode showcasing Wayne County, in particular, mural mania.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/.Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.