

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Groat, Robusto, Johnson, Lasher, Jacobs, Chatfield and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli, Deputy Director Kathleen Bronson, Executive Director of Wayne County Cooperative Extension Elizabeth Claypoole, Tourism Director Christine Worth and Treasurer Patrick Schmitt.

Minutes from the June 2nd Committee meeting were approved as written.

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

--Authorization for the Director of Economic Development and Planning to submit a request to the NYS Legislature authorizing the conveyance of 165 Water Street and adjacent parcels under a conservation easement to a new owner. This is necessary because the County expended State Park funding when the ECCC was purchased/renovated. The property at 165 Water Street in Lyons has a conservation easement and the County's proposed project for the building was never completed. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the County to participate as a coalition member for an Environmental Protection Agency Revolving Loan Fund. The Office would like to submit an application on behalf of a coalition consisting of the County, Land Bank and the Wayne Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). The request will be for \$1 million with a 20% local match coming from WEDC. Funds will be used to address and remove barriers to the development of Brownfield properties. Loans would be made under the administration of the WEDC. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the submission of a Regional Economic Development Council application for grant funding from Empire State Developments Market New York Program. Funds would be used for a Wayne County Cider Festival in collaboration with the bicentennial. The County will provide a \$25,000 local match to the \$75,000 grant if awarded. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to release Requests For Proposals (RFP) soliciting a partner to expand broadband access in the County. The County identified significant gaps in coverage and availability of broadband service. Proposals providing technical solutions and cost estimates for expansion of broadband services to complete provision of service all County residents, businesses and institutions is being sought. Several Federal grant-funding sources available to expand internet coverage are contingent upon the municipality having a partnership with an outside service provider. Mr. Miller noted restrictions in Federal Recovery Act funding, in relationship to internet development, might limit use of funds or provide additional restrictions, as systems designed and funded need to accommodate future improvements and service standards. Approved 5-0.

Cornell Cooperative Extension and Lake Ontario Fruit Team Pest Management Specialist Dr. Janet Van Zoeren came into the meeting to update members on the European Cherry Fly and the quarantine on Wayne County cherries. The European Cheery Fruit Fly is the most serious pest of cherries. Damage associated with this pest is caused by larval feeding in the fruit pulp, which can result in losses of up to

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100% if left uncontrolled. Efforts are underway to stop the spread of this fruit fly so it does not spread to other parts of the county and threaten commercial cherry production. The Federal government is working to confirm these non-native pests are in New York. The fruit fly can be controlled using many of the insecticides already commonly used for cherries. Due to the fruit fly a quarantine zone for Wayne, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe and Erie Counties is in place. This fruit fly can survive through winter months. The State Ag. and Markets Office is in the process of monitoring in the quarantine zone. Extension Fruit Specialist have been working closely with cherry growers in all five counties and are reviewing the data collected. Each cherry grower is mandated to sign an agreement with the State stating they are aware of the quarantine regulations for treating this pest and for the selling of their fruit. Any questioned regarding the European Fruit Fly can be sent to Dr. Van Zoeren at jev67@cornell.edu Mr. Robusto questioned the economic affects to the County. Dr. VanZoeren said New York State is working with the Federal Government on solutions. Local traps have only identified two European Fruit Flies in Wayne County this year.

Supervisors were informed of a meeting held to update the local community about the area the Hill Cumorah pageant was held on and the Mormon community still owns. At that meeting local leaders were told pageant infrastructure and all other non-historic facilities will be removed from the property, the landscape will be rehabilitated and messaging of the Hill's historical and sacred significance will be improved. Work is already underway and parking areas have been removed. The Mormon Church plans to develop trails in the area and there will be small groups assigned to the general oversight of the property after changes are complete. The Martin Harris farm will be open to the public and the public will have access to a video of the 2019 Hill Cumorah Pageant on line.

The agenda included Tourism's monthly activities report. The report included a list of meetings Mrs. Worth attending during June. Staff continue to work on the Apple Tasting Tour, the County's Bicentennial, the Visitor's Guide, Harvest Brochure and public relations. Mrs. Worth noted all town committees' support is important for planning. The Office received an award letter they will be receiving \$31,142 in Matching Funds. On Monday, April 8th 2024, there will be a total solar eclipse in our area; the event will be promoted. The report included meeting/events the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator attended. He continues to update the County's web site with local fishing information.

There are approximately 50 murals around Wayne County; they are available for review on the Trails Works app.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th at 10:00 a.m.