



Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission

c/o Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program
The Boehlert Center at Union Station
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MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2021

4:30 PM

Remote meeting

Present

Chairperson Dave Glenn (T. of Whitestown)
Kyle Tritten (V. of Whitesboro)
Rick Sherman (T. of New Hartford)
Shaun Kaleta (T. of Whitestown)
Stephanie Wurz (City of Utica)
Dan Appler (OC E-911)

Kristina Markey (NYS DEC)
Amela Hrustric (Assemblyperson Buttenschon)
Celeste Friend (Utica Councilperson)
Maggie Reilly (Ramboll)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)

The meeting was opened at 4:30 pm by Chairperson Dave Glenn. The January 19, 2021 minutes were approved with a motion by Rick Sherman and a second by Kyle Tritten. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

Whitestown Sauquoit Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration Capital Project

Maggie Reilly provided a brief update on Project 1 at Dunham Manor Park and Project 2 near the CSX Bridge. The Town has been working with NYS DHSES to review the FEMA application for repairs on Project 1 from the 2019 Halloween Storm and the required permitting with regards to those repairs/changes. Project 2 timeline has changed due to the need for two easements for access to the project. NYS DOT has been assisting with the negotiations. The bid acceptance date has been moved to March until final easements can be secured. This will allow bidders the opportunity to review any final design changes which could impact the bids.

The three proposed flood plain benches for Project 3 are in preliminary design with archeological work to start this spring. These benches involve the Overbrook, Gadziala and Wadas properties in Whitestown. A NYS EFC-GIGP grant was submitted by the Town of Whitestown for Project 4 for additional bank stabilizations and work across the creek from the Tahan property.

Sediment and Debris Management Plan

Maggie reported a draft plan should be ready in the next two weeks and will be send for review. There will be a presentation in March that will include recommendations on bank stabilization, detention opportunities and a management plan. The report will be similar to the “Resilient NY”

plans done for Great Lake Communities. Kristin will provide the report to members for review and comment. Members would like to have an “in person” presentation of the report in March. Rick offered the Town of New Hartford Offices as they have a large meeting room and are now open.

USDA-NRCS Flood Plain Easement Program- Whitesboro

Kristin reported that her office is providing mapping for NRCS as part of the application and created a web app for the agency to review applications along with the Inundation Study information from the Commission sponsored report.

Treasurer’s Report

Kristin reported the balance in the Commission’s bank account is \$107,859.09. Upon a motion by Rick Sherman and a second by Kyle Tritten, the motion passed to accept the Treasure’s report.

Other Business

Member Reports

Chairperson Glenn requested members discuss any projects and concerns in their representative communities.

New Hartford: Rick reported that the Town of New Hartford submitted two grant applications last week for the Washington Mills Athletic Park for a flood plain restoration and stabilization grant and removal of a “waterfall” on the creek at Bleachery Ave and utilize an old brownfield for storage. In addition, this spring the Town will be submitting a Bridge NY Grant for the Clinton Street Bridge. The required detour when the bridge is closed is costly and would require a temporary light onto Commercial Drive. The Town is looking to alter the detour and utilize an existing traffic light to reduce the costs. Also, the Town is working with DHSES to assess damages to the Rayhill Trail from the Halloween 2019 storm with restoration of the banks using sheet piling to restore the bank to its pre-storm location.

There was questions about the status of the Town of New Hartford Wards 1 and 2 Drainage Study. The Town will be presenting the report soon to residents then will provide copies to interested members of the Commission. They plan on using the report to prioritize work in the drainage districts. Copies were provided to the City of Utica for their review and comment as the projects will directly impact them down stream.

Assemblyperson Buttenschon: Assemblyperson Buttenschon placed a request into the NYS budget for money to fund the SCBIC’s efforts for long term maintenance of the creek now that a plan is soon to be completed prioritizing maintenance.

Chairperson Glenn reported by officials from municipalities along the Oriskany, Big and Fish Creeks contacted him as they are looking to organize similar to the SCBIC and use the SCBIC as a model for their own efforts.

The next meeting date is March 16, 2021 and will be held remotely. Kristin will send out a WebEx reminder with log in information.