



MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2023, 4:30 PM

Kirkland Town Offices, 3699 NY-12B, Kirkland

Present

Chairperson Jon Scott (T. of Kirkland) *
Elizabeth Tantillo (V. of Clinton) *
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville)
Gene Whipple (T. of Sangerfield)
Jake Voelker (NYSDOT)
Alyssa Flint (Ramboll)
John Salka (Congressman Williams)
Brian Miller (NYS Assembly)
Steve Bellona (Citizen - Clinton)

Steve Johnston (Citizen - Clinton)
Janice Atkinson (Citizen - Kirkland)
Peter Atkinson (Citizen- Kirkland)
Alan Cole (Citizen- Kirkland)
Bob Jarrett (Citizen- Kirkland)
James Genovese (Oneida County/HOCCPP)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)
Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP Staff)

*Authorized or alternate voting representative

The meeting was opened at 4:35 pm by Chairperson Jon Scott. The July 20, 2023, meeting minutes were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

Sherman Brook Study

Alyssa F. mentioned that Ramboll is planning to have a date set for the final public engagement meeting by the next OCWC meeting. Highland Planning will host the event scheduled to take place in Fall 2023.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Grant: Pilot Program for Water Resources Projects for Small or Disadvantaged Communities

Jeff R. discussed this grant opportunity, noting a deadline extension to October 20, 2023. The grant requires meeting specific criteria to qualify as a disadvantaged community. This opportunity is intended to fund various types of small water resources projects (such as streambank stabilization, ecosystem restoration, flood mitigation, and more).

Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant: Oriskany Creek Watershed Study

Oriskany Creek was approved for \$100,000 in flood mitigation grant funds at the 7/12/23 Oneida County Board of Legislators Meeting. OCWC has been given a notice to proceed and will need to vote at the next meeting to have Ramboll commence work.

OCWC Project List

Jeff R. and Kristin C. discussed a Project List that had been developed for OCWC to begin prioritizing projects. This is intended to be a comprehensive, evolving lists of potential projects for the watershed. The projects were sourced from recent studies, reports, and input from residents and Commission. Prioritizing and matching the projects to available funding opportunities is a critical next step. There was discussion that it would be useful to have a method of prioritizing projects including a scoring and/or ranking system.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account is \$14,748.96. Approval of the treasurer's report was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

Member Reports

Clinton – Elizabeth T. discussed a potential issue with a lack of stormwater drains on Sanford Ave. There are some properties that regularly flood and a municipal pump station in the area. In response to flooding issues associated with the St. Mary's Brook culvert, Jon S. mentioned that the St. Mary's Brook study is likely to provide additional insight into the issues. Kristin C. mentioned storm sewer projects are eligible to apply for Oneida County Flood Mitigation grants.

There were several questions from residents about possibly illegal culverts in the Village and/or the Town of Kirkland.

Waterville – The large sinkhole near Schoolhouse Apartments that feeds into Big Creek was a topic of discussion. This sinkhole is currently the subject of legal action between the property owner and New York State. This is an issue that is known to the public but addressing it will likely be delayed by the litigation. The question of responsible party, the fix of the sinkhole and addressing the larger issue of flooding along Big Creek is anticipated to be a complex and costly project.

Additional discussion centered around a project along NYS Route 12 involving a culvert and NYSDOT is tying into the downstream work by the Village of Waterville in partnership with Trout Unlimited and US Fish and Wildlife. The project was funded by Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant Program.

The location of a problem dam mentioned in previous meetings in the Town of Sangerfield was identified as being Tower Hill, off White St.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is September 21, 2023, at the Waterville Village Offices at 4:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.