



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

July 18, 2017

4:30 PM

Whitestown Town Offices
8539 Clark Mills Road
Whitestown, NY

Present

Dave Glenn, Chair (Whitesboro)
Shaun Kaletta (Supervisor Whitestown)
Patrick O'Connor (Mayor Whitesboro)
John Bialek (Mayor NY Mills)
Joe Cirasuolo (Whitestown)
Larry Felitto (Yorkville)
James Christian (Supervisor Paris)
Tim Hughes (V. New Hartford)
Bob Frieland (Whitesboro)
Vincent Malagese (Whitesboro)
Chuck Tritten (Whitesboro DPW)
Oneida Co Executive Anthony Picente
Oneida County Attorney Peter Rayhill
NY Assemblyperson Brindisi
Keith Schieber (OC Legislator)
Bob Koeing (OC Legislator)
Steve Cox (Whitestown PB)

Dave Babowicz (OCDPW)
Al Ash (NYSDEC)
Tom Vigneault (NYS DEC)
Delores Caruso (NYS Governors Office)
Frank Sardina (Whitestown PB)
Kyle Tritten (Citizen)
Cary Flack (Citizen)
Gary Kielar (Citizen New Hartford)
Josiah Stevens (Citizen Whitesboro)
Judy Cusworth (Citizen Chadwicks)
M. Boehsurt (Citizen Whitesboro)
Don Rehm (Citizen Whitesboro)
Al Swierczek (Citizen)
Karl Schrantz (OB&G)
Shaun Gannon (OB&G)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP)

The meeting was opened at 4:30 pm by Chairperson Dave Glenn. The minutes of the June 20, 2017 meeting were approved on a motion by Supervisor Christian and a second by Joe Cirasuolo.

Paris Box Culverts Project Report

Paris Box culverts project will be going out to bid this week. The sealed bids are due August 8, 2017 at 1:30 at Union Station. The Town Highway department has done some tree cutting and brought in some rock as fill per the permit to get a start on the project. With recent rains, not much of the rock is in place. The Town of Paris will be lead agency under SEQR.

Whitestown Sauquoit Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration Capital Project

Shaun Gannon from O'Brien and Gere attended and briefly reported on the progress of the design study for the Sauquoit Creek flood plain restoration. He provided a copy of the preferred conceptual design locating eleven flood plain benches along the Commercial Drive/ NYS 5A corridor from the bridge near Symeon's Restaurant down to the Main Street Bridge in Whitesboro. The estimated reduction of water if the plan is implemented is approximately 1-2 foot reduction in flood waters.

Paris Highway Garage

DASNY had a lot of questions for the Town of Paris so Kristin and Supervisor Christian spoke with a representative on a conference call. They were able to clear up a few items and Kristin sent a revised budget and narrative to Supervisor Christian for his use to forward on to DASNY.

Role of the SCBIC, membership and future

Whitestown Supervisor Kaleta circulated a letter last month that was approved for circulation with regards to the importance of the SCBIC and the group's role in flooding. The letter was sent to members of the Commission and elected officials in the region asking for the full support of all seven member communities. The original IMA was signed by seven municipalities. At this date those who are not financially contributing are the Town of New Hartford (since 2011), Village of NY Mills (since 2015) and the Village of New Hartford (since 2014).

Treasurer's Report

Kristin reported the balance in the Commission's bank account is currently \$ 145,397.36. Upon a motion by Larry Felitto, and second by Supervisor Christian, the SCBIC unanimously approved the treasurer's report.

Kristin presented documentation for payment of HOCCPP's services for the first 6 months of 2017 in the sum of \$10,000. The payment of \$10,000 to reimburse HOCCPP for administrative services was unanimously approved on a motion by Tim Hughes and a second by Joe Cirusuolo.

Kristin presented documentation for payment to Alan Swierczek, PE for \$2,068.41 for reimbursement for work completed on the engineering for the Paris Bank Stabilization project. The payment for \$2,068.41 to reimburse Alan Swierczek, PE for work completed was unanimously approved on a motion by Supervisor Christian and a second by Larry Felitto.

Discussion of the July 1, 2017 Flood

Chairperson Glenn opened the floor to discussion of the recent flooding events. Here are brief bullets of comments from elected officials and the public who attended.

- A member of the public commented why the creek cannot be channelized like in California. He said CSX doesn't do anything and in the past 5 years he has flooded 6 times. Worried that he cannot sell his property.
- Oriskany Boulevard to the railroad tracks needs to have work done. State needs to alter their bridge so debris doesn't get stuck every time it rains or the snow melts.
- Supervisor Kaleta stated that ongoing maintenance is critical. Whitestown believes the Commission is vital to the success of addressing these critical issues and has the full commitment of the Town.
- OB&G said that right sizing the three bridges on Commercial Drive, Oriskany Blvd Bridge and Main Street Bridge along with maintenance will help to alleviate the flooding.
- County Executive Picente said that CSX was supposed to do regular maintenance of their infrastructure after the last floods in 2013. He will contact that agency about their commitment to clean the area near the bridge. County Executive wants the State to help along with the commitment of the whole Basin address flooding. Ongoing maintenance is critical. Oneida County has put forth money for mitigation and assistance for homeowners.
- Assemblyperson Brindisi says there is a need to alleviate the problems further and with all levels of responsibility. The Governor needs to announce assistance for homeowners to fix homes and money for major mitigation projects. There needs to be funding for those not living in homes due to damage to their residences or homeowners who need assistance as they repair. Long term funding needed necessary to address the issue.
- Mayor O'Connor wants a commitment from all the basin municipalities to continue the work of the SCBIC. Whitesboro will commitment any funds to keep the group going as it is too important to fold but don't expect work done in your community if you do not commit to the group. Whitesboro will lead the group and not be a follower in addressing flooding in their community. He hopes the state will come through with funds.
- Mayor Bialek thinks the creek needs to be reclassified and we need to get in the creek to clean it out. People dance around the creek and have watched NYS DOT clean but not able to do the same in the local municipalities.

- Kyle Tritten spoke about how he just moved into his new home days before the rain and it flooded. He thinks we need to take a biological approach to stabilizing the banks by working with NYS DEC in a way that is compatible with fish, wildlife, and restoration of the Mohawk River. The Hudson River model has worked. Maybe contact local ecology programs to look at wildlife restoration.
- Delores C. from the Governor's Office says the State is relooking at how we have address mitigation of flooding and responded to flooding through the different agencies. The local the concerns discussed today are noted and she brings them back to Albany.
- Joe C. said that cooperation and consolidation are important. We are working together as a Commission and even with in-kind labor and services, we still need money to operate. An ultimatum is needed to get the other non-participating members on Board.

Other Business

CSX tracks at Yorkville

Kristin heard back from CSX just before the flooding events. Halsey Brown said he did go down and it will be cleaned in Yorkville. *(After the meeting, it was reported that CSX did go down and do a major cleanup near the bridge to remove sediment and debris)*

The next meeting date is August 15, 2017 at the Whitestown Town Building located at 8539 Clark Mills Road, Whitesboro.