

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, Barry J. Cheney, Thomas Faggione,
Kevindaryan Lujan, Joseph Minuta, James D. O'Donnell,
Rob Sassi, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Kathy A. Stegenga, Legislator
John S. Vero, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
David Church, AICP, Commissioner of Planning

Chairman Ruskiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Mr. Lujan who arrived at 4:04 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was Mr. Church to review SEQRA and applications for inclusion of lands into the Orange County Agricultural Districts Nos. 1 & 2.

Mr. Faggione moved to review SEQRA and applications for inclusion of lands into the Orange County Agricultural Districts Nos. 1 & 2, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Church confirmed with the committee that they received the adjustments to the application in regard to the contact information and address on two of the applications, which they did receive.

Ms. Reed added that they did verify with the Pushkals in the Town of Wallkill and explained that Pushkal Sr. is a legal resident of Flushing, New York and he amended his application to reflect that. Mr. Serviss' property in the Town of Newburgh has been verified and it is Harry Serviss, Jr. and is one in the same as Harry Serviss. He has two houses, one in the state of Florida which is the address shown on the deed and the other home is in the Town of Newburgh.

Chairman Ruskiewicz questioned the soils map and mentioned that he understood that the maps may not be accurate.

Mr. Church stated that the county has a mapping issue and there is a consultant currently fixing it. There is a soils data which could have some inaccuracies in it and then they were provided additional data which had different problems. He did not believe it had any impact on the applications before them.

There was further discussion on the soils and it was noted to be a classification difference.

Mr. Church stated that the public hearing was held and the Environmental Assessment forms were submitted. The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board held a meeting and made their recommendations and there were some written comments submitted.

Mr. Cheney mentioned the letter from the Town of Newburgh and how they were taking a neutral position and asked if that was still the case.

Mr. Church explained that they had a meeting with the town representatives about a month ago to discuss this. Most of the discussion was about properties being put into the Agricultural District for tax purposes. There is an exemption available for operators of farm operations anywhere in New York State which is technically an assessors decision. Other questions that came up were about the ownership which has been addressed. The other question was the timber harvesting and it turned out that the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board advanced the permit under the condition that there was an understanding and there would be documentation provided because it was still subject to a timber harvesting permit from the town. He received a copy of the permit today.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Next on the agenda was to set public hearing date for the 2018-2019 OCCC Budget which will be August 2, 2018 at 3:15 p.m.

Mr. Sassi moved to set public hearing for
2018-2019 OCCC Budget for August 2, 2018
at 3:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The last item on the agenda was Legislator Ruszkiewicz requesting a resolution of the Legislature of the County of Orange recognizing the contributions of William Grohoski to the Drowned Lands Historical Society and Black Dirt Region.

Mr. Faggione moved the request for resolution
of the Legislature of the County of Orange recognizing
the contributions of William Grohoski to the Drowned
Lands Historical Society and Black Dirt Region, seconded
by Ms. Tautel.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz explained that he was approached by the Drowned Land Historical Society and they would like to designate William Grohoski as the official Black Dirt Historian. He was born and raised here and knows all the history on the black dirt region.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the motion of Mr. Sassi, seconded by Ms. Tautel, the meeting adjourned at
4:17 p.m.

