

**Economic Development & Energy Committee Meeting
Held In Room #318
Putnam County Office Building
Members: Chairman Birmingham & Legislators DiCarlo & Tamagna**

Monday

June 25, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Birmingham. Legislator DiCarlo led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Tamagna, DiCarlo, and Chairman Birmingham were present.

Item #3) Approval/Minutes from May 5, 2012

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4) Presentation/Bike Trail along Route 9-D/Mark Wildonger, Scenic Hudson

Steve Rosenberg, Senior Vice President at Scenic Hudson introduced himself to the Committee along with Mr. Mark Wildonger.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that the Bike Trail is ultimately planned to go from the Cold Spring Train Station to the Beacon Train Station. Their hope is to apply for a State Funding Grant. Hopefully, Putnam County through the Legislature, will be supportive of this project and they can perhaps partner together to ultimately make it a success.

Mr. Wildonger went on to show the Committee via diagramed pamphlets, just how the Bike Trail would progress.

County Executive Odell stated that Libby Pataki has been working very closely with Scenic Hudson, and she will continue as the Director of Tourism. We are hoping that the Regional Tourism Incentive that Governor Cuomo has proposed will help us as a tourism attraction.

Legislator Tamagna stated that we will do everything that we have to do in order to support a Grant application for this project.

Legislator DiCarlo asked if there were any federal grant dollars available for this project.

Mr. Wildonger stated that they are working with Hudson Valley as well as the NYS DOT at this time, and they will be communicating in the next few days as to what type of Federal Highway monies will be available.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that the NYS DOT offered to review the feasibility study again that had been done in 2007, to try to refine the overall cost estimate. Senator Schumer's office stated that they would seek to find funding sources that would be available sooner rather than later.

Legislative Chairwoman Conklin questioned what type of materials would be on the surface for these trails.

Mr. Rosenberg stated they would most probably be blacktop.

Chairman Birmingham explained that the approval must come from the Legislature first prior to applying for a Grant.

Mr. Rosenberg questioned the wording of the application.

Chairman Birmingham explained the process, as well as the wording for the application.

Chairman Birmingham asked for a copy of the 2007 Feasibility Study.

Mr. Rosenberg stated he would send a copy out tomorrow.

Item #5) Correspondence Fr: K. Bailey To: L. Pataki Ref: Resignation from Putnam Visitors Bureau – President

Duly Noted

Item #6) FYI/Unemployment Report

Duly Noted

Item #7) FYI/Foreclosure Report

Legislator Tamagna stated he is shocked by the number of foreclosures that are happening in Putnam County, and gave the committee some statistics.

County Executive Odell questioned if these foreclosures are owner occupied.

Deputy County Clerk Michael Bartolotti stated he does not know for sure, but he feels that each one of the homes is single family dwellings.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that this is a very serious situation. We really need to put some pressure on our State and Federal Congress representatives, as the next bomb to hit this country is student loans that are not going to be able to be paid. There are so many young men and women graduating from College, and there are absolutely no jobs to be had for these graduates. Their loans are going to have to be paid. The parents have co-signed the loans, and now there is the possibility of the parent's salaries being garnished to pay these loans.

Item #8) Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Item #9) Adjournment

Being no further business to discuss, Chairman Birmingham made a motion to close the meeting. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Claire E. Muller
Administrative Assistant