

**Minutes of Meeting
North Shore Council of Governments
Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Constantia Town Hall
14 Frederick Street
Constantia, New York**

Attending:

Constantia: Richard Colesante, Tom Moran, Frank Tomaino

West Monroe: Vern Sundet

NorCOG staff: Paul M. Baxter

Tug Hill Commission: Katie Malinowski, Matt Johnson, Matthew Smith

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. and attendees were introduced.

North Shore Economic Development Initiative: The group discussed the potential of economic development efforts for the North Shore. County planning director Dave Turner had put the cost of such a multijurisdictional study in the neighborhood of \$75,000. It's possible this could be funded in part from town, village, and county ARPA funds. Vern mentioned that there were two past studies with content worth considering as we look at potential new efforts.

A part of the economic development picture is the upcoming Micron plant in adjacent Onondaga County. There is anticipated to be an increased need for housing in the area, some of which is expected to affect Oswego County. This will also impact infrastructure -- water, sewer, roads -- and drive demand for support businesses, both for Micron and to meet the needs of new residents.

This also intersects community comprehensive plans. Economic development should be an element addressed by municipal comprehensive plans. Constantia is updating theirs now; West Monroe's is in need of update.

The county economic development plan does not have a North Shore focus, focusing instead on the 481 corridor.

One of the two golf courses in West Monroe is reportedly up for sale.

Katie will explore options for a North Shore economic development study on behalf of North Shore, and will develop a one page proposal. The board discussed holding an early-2023 community meeting, sponsored by Constantia and West Monroe, perhaps to be held at A.A. Cole Elementary.

Waterfront is a significant North Shore asset. The village of Cleveland has a first-phase LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan); this may be a possibility for other North Shore communities. Matt mentioned that Sylvan Beach had a plan available for examination.

COG membership and participation: Discussion followed on encouraging participation. Rip will talk with Cleveland mayor Lauren Tackman, and Vern will talk with Hastings supervisor Tony Bush. Hastings is not currently a member, but was a member of NorCOG's predecessor organization, the North Shore Cooperative Planning Board, and NorCOG has periodically approached Hastings about joining NorCOG since.

Route 49 traffic study: Tug Hill was able to get limited new traffic data performed for the North Shore, and presented an analysis. State Route 49 is scheduled for redevelopment in Central Square in 2024, and some traffic analysis was done in relation to the planned protracted closure of Route 49 between I-81 and U.S. Route 11 for repairs and renovation, as those will force those west of the closure to seek alternate routes to enter I-81.

Report from Tug Hill: Tug Hill Executive Director Katie Malinowski reported on the upcoming (2023) local leaders survey, which is conducted every five years. The commission has also been involved in a social cohesion study. The Local Government Conference will be returning to Turning Stone in 2023.

Financial: NorCOG fiscal agent Vern Sundet presented the financial report. Discussion followed on pending expenses and next year's budget. There are significant anticipated upcoming expenses, including purchase of replacement toner for the color laser MFP, a replacement laptop, and potentially most significant, support of increased utilization of associate circuit riders.

Vern moved for NorCOG to be a sponsor of the 2023 Local Government Conference as in past years. Rip seconded; carried.

Next meeting date, location, agenda items: Tuesday, January 10, 2023, Constantia Town Hall; topics to include election of officers, economic development, preparedness for Micron impacts, and North Shore issues and priorities for Rip to bring to the annual Tug Hill Commission meeting with COG chairs at the end of January 2023.

Respectfully submitted

Paul M. Baxter
Municipal Management Consultant
North Shore Council of Governments