



MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2023, 4:30 PM

Kirkland Town Offices, 3699 NY-12B, Clinton, NY 13323

Present

Chairperson Jon Scott (T. of Kirkland)
Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany)
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville)
Elizabeth Tantillo (V. of Clinton)
Jake Voelker (NYS DOT)
Bob Jarret (Clinton Resident)
Ken Ford (T. of Marshall)

Colleen Baldwin (T. of Marshall)
Steve Johnson (V. of Clinton)
Liseli Haines (Clinton CSC)
Amy Heiderich (HOCCPP Staff)
Alyssa Flint (Ramboll)
Shaun Gannon (Ramboll)

The meeting was opened at 4:30 pm by Chairperson Jon Scott. The April 20, 2023 meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Chris B. and a second by Elizabeth T. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Invoices were sent out by HOCCPP on March 25th for member contributions. Trustee Stern will check with the Mayor of Waterville to ensure that the invoice was received and check on a payment timeline. The current balance is \$13,122.84. It was noted that Sangerfield will be making a payment and Westmoreland had already paid. No money was spent over the last month. Elizabeth T. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and a second by Chris B. Approval of the Treasurer's Report passed unanimously.

Trees for Tributaries: Buffer in a Bag Program

There was an update on the Buffer in a Bag grant program. The program notified us that the application was accepted. The trees were delivered to the Kirkland Town Offices on May 15, 2023. Jon S. and Rob R. will work to find a place to plant them since the original location already has lots of trees. The potential site is where a water main break occurred and washed some landscaping out or on Chenango Ave. Jon S. will keep them watered until they get planted.

Nominations for a Chairperson

Amy H. informed the OCWC that it will be a year in June since Jon S. became chairperson and that the IMA states the position is held for 12 months. The members were asked to think of nominations for chairperson and a vote will take place at the June 2023 meeting.

Other Business

Amy briefly updated the group that the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) is now open until July 28, 2023, with a variety of programs focused on flood mitigation including Climate Smart Communities and Water Quality Improvement Projects. Shaun G. stated that the CFA should be used this year for planning funding, then for construction funding next year. Also, the Bond Act has \$1.2 Billion in funding this round. Any town that is interested in applying needs to adopt a resolution and have a project scope. It is easier to apply for state funding versus federal, so now is the time to apply.

Member Reports

Whitestown, Westmoreland, Sangerfield: Absent

Village of Waterville – No update. Larry S. is a newly appointed trustee for the Village and getting familiar with the OCWC.

Village of Oriskany – Chris B. spoke with DOT about the tree near Route 69.

Town of Marshall – No updates. It is their first meeting. Colleen B. notified the OCWC that Jack B. is no longer Town Supervisor, that she is. Amy H. had asked if they had a resolution to join with them. Colleen will be checking with the Town Clerk to get the resolution. They asked if the DEC came to meetings. Yes, Randy Y. is often in attendance to answer questions and provide information. There was mention of DEC handling creek cleanup. Shaun G. said that DEC had walked the Sauquoit Creek and told the Commission where they can remove debris and where they require a permit.

Town of Kirkland – Jon S. stated that the Town has bid on the Norton Ave. culverts since the bridge replacement was so cost prohibitive. The hope is that these culvert additions will relieve water pressure toward the Village of Clinton.

Alyssa F. from Ramboll reported that the Sherman Brook Study will be wrapping up during the week of May 22nd and that a 2nd public engagement session is scheduled for June 1st at 6:00 pm at the Kirkland Town Offices. Ramboll will present a new summary of findings and identify the items that can be completed first.

Village of Clinton – A resident of Sanford Ave. sent a letter about flooding issues. Amy H. has filed it and sent Jon S. a copy. Elizabeth T. asked for a timeframe on the Norton Ave. culvert additions. Jon S. stated that it is too late to complete this year due to aquatic habitat reasons. People are not allowed in the water after a certain date in September due to disrupting the creek bed. This is where trout lay their eggs. There is also a steel shortage. Clinton has an issue with flooding caused by private property owners and asked what to do about this. Shaun G. responded by saying that public money cannot be spent on private property and there has to be proof that they are the cause of the flooding issues. This would be a question for Randy Y. and the Village lawyer. There may be some easement about not cutting trees along the creek or a fishing access easement.

Public Comments

Paul F. of Kiwanis has an erosion concern near the dugout of Kiwanis Fields along Sherman Brook. Shaun G. asked if this is something the Commission is interested in working on through CFA funding Flood Mitigation Funding or some other available grant.

Liseli H. of Clinton CSC stated she takes monthly samples of the Oriskany Creek for synoptic testing, but the samples are taken upstream. Farmland runoff would be more downstream. She is wondering about getting some testing completed downstream. Shaun G. will put her into contact with a professor that can assist. Elizabeth T. stated that the WWTP was testing during Covid and still conducting weekly tests.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is June 15, 2023, at the Waterville Village Offices, 122 Barton Rd. at 4:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

