

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION, CULTURE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD AT YOGI BEAR'S JELLYSTONE PARK CAMP-RESORT IN WOODRIDGE, NY ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2000.**

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT**

VINCENT DUNN, Chairman  
FRANK FELICELLO, Deputy Chairman  
DAVID DONALDSON  
EDWARD JENNINGS

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED**

JOAN EVERY  
BILL BEESMER  
SAM MAGARELLI

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

GERRY DAVIDSON, Ulster County Development Corporation, MICHAEL FARGIONE, Cornell Cooperative Extension, PETER CAROFANO, Director Ulster County Tourism, PATTY JACOBSEN, Group Tour Consultant, Ulster County Tourism. MICHAEL ZALKIN, Yogi Bear Jellystone Park Campground, BOB LONDON, Skyway Campground, MIKE WALKERWICZ, Owner Ellenville Press.

A quorum being present, Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and recognized Michael Fargione from Cornell Cooperative. Mr. Fargione was representing Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Mr. Fargione presented a resolution for the Farmland & Protection Board and asked that a date be set for a "public hearing" on the proposed law-The Ulster County Agriculture Good Neighbor Law for Nov. 1, 2000. Legislator Jennings moved to approve the resolution and Legislator Felicello seconded. The resolution was unanimously carried. Mr. Fargione passed out copies of Cornell Cooperative Extension's newsletter "Legislative Update". Mr. Fargione also stated that a task force has been put together to work with elected officials on behalf of the farmers who had lost their crops due to this year's storms. Two bills are now being considered one on the State level and one on the County level to aide the farmers.

Chairman Dunn then recognized Gerry Davidson, Director of Ulster County Development Corporation to give his report. Gerry Davidson discussed a resolution authorizing the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA) in an amount not to exceed \$7.0 million for the Clearly Tech, L.L.C. Legislator Jennings moved to approve the resolution and Legislator Felicello seconded. The resolution was unanimously carried. Gerry Davidson informed the committee that the Fiber Optics firm Hudson Valley Data Net is still looking for companies to come on board. The county being one of the biggest employers should be urged to considered working with Hudson Valley Data Net and that the committee should speak to Lee Taylor about working with Hudson Valley Data Net. Mr. Davidson also asked that the Ad Hoc Committee review all the projects that are already

budgeted for the year 2001 for UCDC. The Ad Hoc committee may be submitting duplicate projects that are already in place and budgeted for 2001. Mr. Davidson also stated that the IDA has agreed to give \$25,000 to the Hudson River Institute project for the purpose of marketing a proposal and lobbying for the Institute to be located in Ulster County.

Chairman Dunn then recognized Peter Carofano, Director of Ulster County Tourism to give his report. Peter Carofano updated the committee as to the shows that the office will be attending in the month of October. The Governors Tourism Conference will be held in Buffalo this year on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> thru the 4<sup>th</sup>. Peter Carofano and Patty Jacobsen will be attending this conference. On October 17<sup>th</sup> thru the 19<sup>th</sup>, Patty will be attending the Syracuse/Buffalo Bus Blitz. Peter will be at Travel Agents shows in Westchester on October 17<sup>th</sup> and Fair Field, NJ on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Peter stated that the office has had a very busy month of September. There were numerous festivals (Ellenville Harvest Festival, New Paltz/Woodstock Arts and Crafts, The Taste of New Paltz and the Garlic Festival).

Chairman Dunn thanked Peter Carofano, Director of Tourism, for putting together tonight's meeting which was held at the Jellystone Camp/Resort. Chairman Dunn thanked the following people for attending the meeting: Supervisor Craft from the Town of Wawarsing. Mike Walkerwicz the owner of the Ellenville Press. Bob London, owner of Skyway Campground and Michael Zalkin, owner of Yogi Bear Jellystone Park Camp/Resort. Ulster County has four campgrounds that are listed in the top 100 campsites in the nation they are: Skyway Camp Resort, Yogi Bear Jellystone Camp/Resort at Birchwood Acres, Yogi Bear Jellystone campground in Gardiner and KOA of Plattekill/Newburgh. Ulster County is honored that these four campgrounds are rated among the top 100.

Michael Zalkin and Bob London hosted tonight's meeting. Michael and Bob both addressed the committee. Michael Zalkin stated that camping industry is always open to each other in helping brain storm on making improvements to their sites. The camp owners feel that their efforts will filter through out the entire county. Michael asked that the County also continue to make improvements. Michael thanked the legislators for taking the time to come see the camp resorts and for listening to Michael and Bob's suggestions. Michael mentioned that he felt the Tourism Office needs to be taken seriously through their budget process and asked that the legislators support this years' budget. Michael feels this is a necessary step for the County to take in order for the tourism office to continue promoting the campgrounds and all other tourism related properties. Bob Lunden stated that he agreed with everything that Michael had to say and added that he has been in business for over 30 years and his sons will continue running the business for years to come and that he appreciates all that Ulster County Tourism has done to promote the campgrounds. Legislator Felicello commended both Skyway and Jellystone camp/resorts for all their hard work, seeing both campgrounds were proof of why they are ranked among the top 100 campgrounds in the nation. Both Michael and Bob hoped that now the legislators had a better understanding of what these two camp/resorts have to offer.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Felicello and seconded by Legislator Jennings, and Chairman Dunn declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vincent Dunn, Chairman