

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION, CULTURE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD AT THE ULSTER COUNTY BUILDING ON APRIL 21, 1999.

LEGISLATORS PRESENT

VINCENT DUNN, Chairman
FRANK FELICELLO,
DAVID DONALDSON
JOAN EVERY
EDWARD JENNINGS
SAM MAGARELLI
JOHN NACCARATO
JEANETTE PROVENZANO

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

RICHARD GERENTINE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

GORDON HOWATT, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College, BRUCE BURGHER, Ulster County Historian, GERRY DAVIDSON, Ulster County Development Corporation, LEE REIDY, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, PETER CAROFANO, Director of Ulster County Tourism, TINA IAPOCE, Deputy Director of Ulster County Tourism.

A quorum being present, Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m. and recognized Gordon Howatt, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College, to give his report. Dean Howatt discussed a resolution outlining new and existing grants. Legislator Felicello moved to approve the resolution and Legislator Magarelli seconded. The resolution was unanimously carried. Dean Howatt informed the committee that the budget is on the SUNY agenda on April 28th and should have full support on funding. The computer room will be opened after spring break.

Chairman Dunn then asked the committee to review a resolution by the County of Ulster to assist in the finance for a traffic light to be placed in Ellenville at Schrade Court and Route 209. After a brief discussion, Legislator Magarelli moved the resolution and Legislator

Naccarato seconded. Chairman Dunn called for a vote and the resolution to approve the sum of \$20,000 payable to the Town of Warwarsing was carried unanimously.

Chairman Dunn then called upon Bruce Burgher, Ulster County Historian to give his report. Mr. Burgher referred to the annual report that was available on file and thanked Legislator Felicello and Randall Roth, Clerk of the Legislature for their assistance. He also discussed the possibility of an individual teaching local history at Ulster County Community College. Kathleen Bruing at Ulster is looking into this. Mr. Burgher informed the committee that the Town of Esopus would be receiving a plaque in honor of Sojourner Truth. Legislator Donaldson informed the committee that there is a one woman play on Sojourner Truth titled, "Aren't I a Woman" with Rashid Hasan that is excellent. He also informed the committee that there is a Hudson Valley Heritage Class at Roosevelt High School.

Chairman Dunn called upon Gerry Davidson, Director of Ulster County Development Corporation to give his report. Mr. Davidson passed out a report regarding number of nonfarm jobs by place of work and reviewed the report with the committee, noting that there is a backfill of approximately 16,000 technical jobs. Legislator Donaldson noted that very few employers are paying minimum wage. For example, Fleet is starting employees at \$9.00 per hour. Mr. Davidson thanked the committee for their ongoing support. Legislator Magarelli asked how the company Surgicare was progressing. Mr. Davidson responded that negotiations are still going on.

Chairman Dunn then called upon Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension to give her report. She reminded the committee about invitations sent out for the Volunteer Recognition Reception being held at Rivendell Winery, Thursday April 22nd at 7:30 and encouraged the Legislators to attend. The annual sale of conifer trees sold in lots of ten for a \$1.00 each went extremely well and were sold out. The Master Gardeners program graduated ten new students who are currently working on projects with Seamon Park, Rondout Gardens, Old City Hall Peace Park, Huguenot Society and the Gomez House. Ms. Reidy reported that the public hearing for the Agricultural District 3 attended by approximately twenty people, discussed a net loss of farmlands and farms. Further on this subject, there is a tremendous amount of interest and support with (PDR) Purchase of Development Right for farms to gain monetary support. New York State along with local towns throughout the state are working on monies through grants and contracts and connecting the farming community to both economic development and tourism. Ms. Reidy stated that farm bankruptcy is at its highest as is the demand for help to circumvent bankruptcy. Ms. Reidy closed her report with the upcoming events and their dates: Clothing Event - May 7th, Annual Cornell Cooperative Golf Tournament - May 21st, FIMA exercise at Indian Point - May 25th through May 27th.

Chairman Dunn called upon Peter Carofano, Director of Ulster County Tourism to give his report. Mr. Carofano discussed the status of the Group Tour Planner for Ulster County and is

confident that this project will be completed toward the end of June. He explained that it will be a valuable tool as the office begins to pursue the group tour market, a segment of the tourism industry that is growing rapidly. Mr. Carofano reported that the Ulster County tourism information cabooses open in Kingston and Ellenville on May 15th. The RSVP volunteers received their training this past Monday the 19th and are enthusiastic to begin the season. The Dual region designation proposal has been submitted to New York State and is currently under review. This would allow Ulster County to be recognized on the state level in both the Catskills and the Hudson Valley. Equally important is the recognition our tourism properties in the Hudson Valley would receive. Currently in state publications, Ulster County is only recognized in the Catskills Region. Mr. Carofano completed his report with discussion on the continuing community outreach program with UCDC.

Legislator Magarelli then requested the floor through Chairman Dunn and was granted such. He passed out a draft resolution asking the Governor and the leaders of both houses of the New York State Legislature to request that the New York State Education Department develop and promote a civic values curriculum for all grade levels. Following discussion by the committee, Legislator Magarelli will work on the resolution and present to the committee next month.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Naccarato and seconded by Legislator Jennings, and Chairman Dunn declared the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vincent Dunn, Chairman
Education, Culture and Economic Affairs Committee