



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board

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Paul W. Pinckney, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

MINUTES

**Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
Board of Directors Meeting
May 26, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Julie Abbott-Kenan, Pamela D. Caraccioli, Daniel S. Dineen, Linda Dickerson Hartsock, Kipp Hicks, Kevin A. Holmquist, Scott Ingmire, Cydney M. Johnson, David Knapp, Daniel Kwasnowski, Stephen F. Lynch, Mary Ann Messinger, Christopher Newell, Paul Pinckney, Garry VanGorder, Stephen Zabriskie

Guest: Chuck Lawson, National Park Service

Staff: Kathleen Bertuch, David Bottar, Chris Carrick, Jean Gleisner, Bruce Keplinger, Amanda Mazzoni, Patricia Wortley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Paul Pinckney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and noted the meeting was being conducted as a virtual zoom meeting only.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda as presented and the minutes from the meeting on April 28, 2021; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. National Parks Service – Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Chuck Lawson of the National Park Service (NPS) was introduced and gave a presentation regarding the NPS's role in promoting and supporting the eligibility of the Finger Lakes region of New York as a National Heritage Area.

Mr. Lawson began his presentation by outlining how the NPS conducts studies focused on examining areas for inclusion in the NPS system and, as in our case, supporting feasibility studies (by direction of Congress) for areas proposed as a National Heritage Area (NHA). He proceeded with a powerpoint presentation for members to review during his remarks.

Mr. Lawson began the presentation with an overview of the NHAs program, explained how feasibility studies are conducted, and summarized the goals of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility study. Mr. Lawson noted that NHAs are areas designated by Congress that are “lived-in” landscapes where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a nationally distinctive landscape, with a clear regional story to tell. Mr. Lawson noted that while NHAs are not part of the national parks system, they do promote the mission of the NPS by fostering community stewardship of the nation’s heritage. Mr. Lawson indicated that each NHA is about the designated area and its communities and, through local management, supports the needs of those communities. It was noted that once created, NHAs are eligible for annual federal funding, which requires a match from individuals and entities in the NHA.

Mr. Lawson continued his remarks by noting that NHAs involve a wide range of activities that promote the well-being and advancement of the communities they comprise. Conservation efforts, historic preservation, recreation and education, and community and economic development, are just a few examples of what NHAs promote. Mr. Lawson indicated the feasibility study is being conducted to determine what resources in the Finger Lakes area are worthy of highlighting, and—should designation be granted—ascertaining the potential of a NHA sustaining wide community support. Mr. Lawson noted that soliciting and analyzing public input is part of the study process.

Mr. Lawson’s concluded his presentation by reviewing links to resources related to the Finger Lakes NHA Feasibility Study and addressed several questions and comments from members.

At the conclusion of the formal presentation and question and answer period, a motion was introduced and seconded for the CNY RPDB to write a letter of support to the NPS for this initiative; the motion was approved unanimously.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Bottar initiated his remarks by noting the progress being made with the broadband survey and noted the study consultant feels we are on track with where we should be one month into the survey. He encouraged members to promote the survey in their communities and he outlined upcoming promotion efforts of the agency including paid advertising and distribution of more promotional matter through town and village offices, school districts, and local banks and libraries.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by noting staff efforts underway to evaluate the guidelines that have been issued for use of the American Rescue Plan funding by local governments with specific attention to opportunities to use this funding for projects the agency is currently working on across the region.

Mr. Bottar also noted the State recently announced funding for its annual Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) program with applications due on July 31st. Members were asked to contact staff to request assistance in preparing applications for proposed projects in their communities. Mr. Bottar concluded his remarks by noting the next full Board meeting is set for June 23rd with a presentation by Houtan Moaveni of the NYS DOS on the State’s initiative for large-scale solar installations.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was introduced and seconded to adjourn the meeting; the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

L. Michael Treadwell, Secretary/Treasurer