



## **COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING**

**January 20, 2010**

**Mohegan Manor  
Baldwinsville, NY**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Call to Order**

Commission Chair Joseph Callahan called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and presided for the meeting.

#### **Welcoming Remarks**

Joseph Saraceni, Mayor of Baldwinsville, gave a brief overview of how the canal has impacted the Village of Baldwinsville and reviewed the history of Baldwinsville. One project that has increased tourism and economics in Baldwinsville was the installation of 14 power pedestals on the canal. He informed the Commission of a 100 year anniversary celebration in conjunction with New York State Barge Canals that will take place in 2011.

#### **Chair Callahan's Opening Remarks**

Commission Chair Callahan introduced Dennis Sick, owner of Mohegan Manor, who welcomed everyone to Mohegan Manor. He noted it is the 100 year anniversary of the building. In October through November, Mohegan Manor will partner with OHA to have an award exhibit displayed for 6 weeks at the Manor.

Callahan reminded everyone that is speaking to speak into the microphone as we are recording the meeting. He also welcomed Diane Jennings, the new Administrative Assistant to the Erie Canalway.

#### **Attendance**

Attendance was recorded and a quorum was present. The attendance sheet is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Secretary Alan Vincent called for additions or corrections to the minutes from the meeting on October 21, 2009 (*available online at [www.eriecanalway.org](http://www.eriecanalway.org)*). A motion was made by Commissioner Wiles to accept the Minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Smeenck and approved unanimously. A copy of the approved Minutes is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

#### **Budget Report**

Treasurer Peter Welsby presented the budget for the period ending December 31, 2009 which reflects 25% of our budget. On the expense side of the budget, there has been little activity and no line items show over their budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Daly to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously. A copy of the Budget Report is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

#### **Syracuse Inner Harbor Update**

Commission Chair Callahan introduced Joseph LaGiardia, Executive Director of Lake Front Development Corporation who presented on behalf of the Mayor of Syracuse. He shared the plans for the

Syracuse Inner Harbor and Onondaga Lake. A new RFP process was put in place in 2009. A site visit for developers who are interested in developing the harbor is planned for the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>. He noted the approach is different this time due to the parcels being separated into three sections of about 10 acres. The Board of Directors will select the winning developers. He also noted there has been a great deal of development activity over the last year. They replaced pedestals with power and water at the inner harbor and they hosted concert series within the inner harbor with great turn outs.

### **2010 Workplan**

Beth Sciumeca, Executive Director, gave a brief overview of the draft Commission Workplan. She noted this is only the second fiscal year of having a Workplan process and the first year programmatic committees provided guidance. Beth explained the three different discrete funding sources listed. The areas under other programmatic work are additional categories that we need to show to comply with how these funds are tracked for the National Park financial record systems. She noted the summary breakdown of categories at the bottom of the spreadsheet shows that the budget is evenly distributed to each category. There are fewer discrete projects as ECNHC moves towards having programs that sustain them from year to year.

The staff gave a brief overview of their program areas as follows:

#### Generic Historic Preservation

Andy Kitzmann gave an overview of Erie Partner program, Small Grants programs and State Agency Meeting. Ms. Leighton questioned about defining the areas for small grants. Andy indicated that the areas were left broad under historic preservation, programmatic, outreach, planning but will not include bricks and mortar.

Jean Mackay gave an overview of the Heritage Award of Excellence and asked Commissioners for recommendations for jury members.

#### Conservation

Conservation does not have a discrete program under this area however the staff participate in regional efforts such as DEC's Mohawk River Watershed effort and the canal clean-up.

#### Recreation

Lori Solomon-Duell gave an overview of the Bicycle Program and Trail Program.

Hannah Blake gave an overview of the Alternate Transportation Planning, Water Trail Planning and Canalway Trail Completion projects. Ms. Leighton mentioned that the Canal Corporation has a major grant pending to complete the path on the Erie. She stated that with regards to the bike trail, the key partnering opportunity is to work with the community on those loops. She introduced Lynn Bass of the Empire State Development Corp. is representing Bob McNary. She noted the Canal Corporation will have an interactive map to identify the water trail sites. Commissioner Ivey mentioned in the context of partnerships for the transportation work to make sure to take advantage of Department of Transportation information.

#### Interpretation and Orientation

Jean Mackay noted that most of the projects are continuing and gave an overview of the Day Peckinpaugh Exhibit Design project, Volunteer program, Canal Social Movements and Ethnic Groups, World Canal Conference, and Photo Contest and Calendar.

### Economic and Revitalization

Hannah Blake gave an overview of General Outreach projects, Pilot Grants program, Heritage-In-Arts Initiative and Economic Impact Survey. She introduced Ellen McHale and Lisa Oversholser from the New York Folklore Society, David Lewis, PhD. from SUNY Albany and Carmen Lorentz and Rachel Selsky of Camoin Associates.

### Heritage Tourism

Lori Solomon-Duell gave an overview of General Tourism and Marketing Development, Tourism Education and Workshops and Lake to Locks.

Jean Mackay gave an overview of the Visitor Guide. She developed a mock up of the guide which was shared with and reviewed by the Commission.

Commissioner Brown commented that this is outstanding work and reinforces that we have exciting plans. He stated that what makes this organization unique is our ability to bring people together and suggested integrating mapping of historic theaters and arts and culture assets along with existing designated historic sites to the work being done on the canal structures themselves and knit together all of these assets that no current state agency has responsibility to do. The other suggestion is to bring all the entities related to the Erie Canalway together for a Canalway Wide Summit. Beth noted that one of the goals of pulling groups together is for us to learn how to best serve them. When we look at 2015 and whether we are going to get re-authorized, it is going to be because we helped many people, organizations and many communities along the way and how you learn to do that is by talking with them. So as we are developing programs and projects, we make an ongoing effort to reach out to those people. One of the challenges to pulling all these groups together is the small organizations. Jean Mackay mentioned that we will incorporate the Heritage-In-Arts Initiatives into the 4 different sections already on the web. Dr. Lewis mentioned that he has been working with the Hudson Valley Greenway to map multiple venues onto the web. They hope to roll this out in 4-5 months and want to develop a relationship with Erie Canalway for distribution.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown to accept the 2010 Workplan as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ivey and approved unanimously. A copy of the 2010 Workplan is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

### **Niagara Falls National Heritage Area**

Commission Chair Callahan mentioned that Debbie Conway, Superintendent of Fort Stanwix National Monument and Acting Executive Director of Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, is not able to join us today. An update will be scheduled for a future meeting.

### **Rural Development Office of USDA in New York State**

Chair Callahan shared an update he received from Jill Harvey, the appointee to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who runs the USDA Rural Development Office for New York State regarding Economic Development Forum that will be sponsored on February 5, 2010 from 8:30am-12:30pm at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The format will combine panels of experts with audience inputs and discussions, which will center on renewable energy and green jobs, the credit lending situation, agriculture and value-added activities and business climate, tourism and recreation. The purpose of the forum is to collect ideas on economic development and forward them to the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. Chair Callahan gave some background information on the Rural Development Office and noted that more information is available at [www.rurdev.usda.gov.ny](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov.ny).

### **Economic Impact Study**

Commissioner Callahan introduced Dr. David Lewis of SUNY Albany, who gave an overview of how the project study came about, the focus groups and training for the survey. He introduced Carmen Lorentz and Rachel Selsky from Camoin Associates, who performed the analysis of the data. Ms. Lorentz noted that they are doing an economic impact analysis for the eastern corridor by obtaining the visitor statistics from the survey sites. A copy of the presentation and on-site survey data, as presented to the Commission, is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

### **World Canals Conference**

Commissioner Smeenk presented on the conference on behalf of Commissioner Grasso. He gave an update on the planning process of the conference, which is scheduled to be held September 18-24, 2010 in Rochester, NY. He gave a brief overview of the proposed agenda for the conference. Commissioner Daly mentioned that the Erie Canalway NHC and Canal Corporation co-chair the Program and Content Committee and there is a call for papers due March 1, 2010 for the conference.

### **Staff Report**

Executive Director Sciumeca gave an overview of the staff report. She noted that she and Commissioners Callahan and Andrews will be heading to Washington DC for several meetings: the National Heritage Conference Alliance meeting on February 1, 2010; a meeting with Director Jon Jarvis on February 2, 2010 and Congressional meetings on February 3 and 4, 2010. The Erie Canalway is renegotiating a cooperative agreement with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and will have an opportunity to acquire additional office space in the visitor center building. A meeting will be scheduled to talk about Pier A in New York City.

Jean Mackay added a new feature on Erie Canalway's website called the Guide to Common Canal AND Structures and has written articles for several publications. Lori Solomon-Duell had a great meeting with volunteers who want to do more and learn how they can add to our efforts and has scheduled a Tourism Marketing Roundtable for next week with Canal Corporation and Canal New York.

Executive Director Sciumeca raised a red flag to the National Park Service regarding the stability of the Schoharie Aqueduct to which a meeting was held in Philadelphia with Regional staff and they will work to get additional funding to stabilize the structure.

### **Public Comment**

The floor was opened for members of the public to address the Commission. Mayor Joseph Saraceni, Baldwinsville, thanked the Commission for the grant to hold the Carp Fishing Tournament. Commissioner Daly updated the Commission regarding the new piece of legislation called the Reorganization of Government and Citizen Empowerment Act which the intent is to simplify and reduce the number of taxing entities in New York State. There is a great deal of concern regarding the impact this is going to have on the existence of villages and the historic building stock that people are coming to see in the village. The act will take effect in mid-March.

### **New Business**

Commissioner Aldrich noted that the tax credit legislation became effective January 1, 2010 as it is important to the economy. Kevin Millington reported that the Governor and Secretary of State announced \$23 million in waterfront grants. Commissioner Smeenk announced that Fairport will be having a hockey tournament on the canal the first weekend in February sponsored by LaBatt Blue. Commissioner Daly announced that there will be curling on the canal at the Port of Palmyra in mid-February sponsored by the Rochester Curling Society.

**Wrap-up and Adjourn**

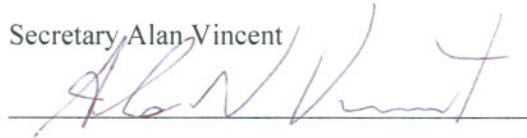
Commission Chair Callahan reminded the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2010 in the Glens Falls area. A motion was made by Commissioner Daly and seconded by Commissioner Smeenk to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Prepared by: Diane Jennings

Date: 02/08/2010

Submitted by: Secretary Alan Vincent

Signed:

  
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Date:

4/9/10



**Commission Meeting  
Mohegan Manor, Baldwinsville, NY  
January 20, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE**

**ECNHC Commission Members**

Joseph M. Callahan, Chair  
Russell S. Andrews, Vice Chair  
Alan N. Vincent, Secretary  
Peter Welsby, Treasurer  
Wint Aldrich  
Clinton Brown  
Victoria W. Daly  
Robert Elliott  
Mary Ivey  
Pieter W. Smeenk  
Peter Wiles, Jr.

**Proxies held for absent Commission members (as needed)**

Proxy held by Wint Aldrich for Alexander B. Grannis  
Proxy held by Robert Shibley for Stuart Stein

**Liaisons to the Commission**

Sharon Leighton, NYS Canal Corporation  
Ken Lynch, NYS DEC  
Kevin Millington, NYS DOS  
Chip Pratt, NYS DA&M  
Lynn Bass, NYS ESD

**Guests**

Bob Daly, Village of Palmyra  
Dennis Donahue, NYS Dept. of Labor  
Joe LaGuardia, Syracuse Lakefront Development Corp.  
David A. Lewis, Ph.D., SUNY Albany  
Carmen Lorentz, Camoin Associates  
Ellen McHale, New York Folklore Society  
Lisa Overholser, New York Folklore Society  
Joseph Saraceni, Mayor Baldwinsville  
Rachel Selsky, Camoin Associates

**ECNHC Staff**

Beth Sciumeca  
Hannah Blake  
Rosemary Button  
Lori Duell  
Diane Jennings  
Andy Kitzmann  
Jean Mackay