

Village of Prospect Dissolution Meeting
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2014, 6:30 pm
Village of Prospect Hall

Attendees: Kent Gardner, CGR Consultant, Mary Zacek, Trustee Village of Prospect, Lenore Lampert, Village resident, Theresa Mann, Village resident, Kevin Pinkos, Business Owner & Village resident, Fran Righi, Mayor, Joyce Williams, Trustee Village of Prospect, John Bartow, Executive Director Tug Hill Commission, Katie Malinowski, Tug Hill Commission, Phil Sacco, Oneida County Legislator. Steve Godfrey, absent (Town of Trenton)

After brief introduction by John Bartow, Kent Gardner followed the agenda as follows:

Overview of the goals and objectives of the dissolution study;

Prospect is in a unique situation with difficult decisions to be made, there are layers of complexity. Kent explained he has worked with Sean McGuire, DOS in the past and is experienced with specifications that must be followed as required by NYS statutory framework. A dissolution study, plan, and alternatives to dissolution will be discussed and offered. The intent is to work with all facts, the committee makes the final decision, a final draft of outcomes will be given to the Village board, and dissolution will be the Board's decision.

Scope of the project; role of the study committee; protocol;

- A website will be created, linked from Prospect's site. The process will be open and transparent. There will be communication out to the community and to the Town of Trenton Supervisor, Joseph Smith. The Town's inclusion will be critical to all discussions. The website will be created, administered and updated by CGR's project team to convey information to the community and key stakeholders, as well as to solicit public feedback on the process.
- Discussion meetings with village contractors, such as Water Supervisor, Alan Jone, Clerk/Treasurer, Marcia Ellis, Village Board Members and Mayor and others as identified will be planned.
- Other interviews will include users/managers of Village properties, including but not limited to the Library Association, Memorial Ball Field (Northern League), museum,
- Village assets to include in the analysis: the managed forest land owned by Prospect and all water properties including the cell tower lease agreement, ball field, library
- Plowing, streets, sidewalks and sand removal are done with Trenton Town Highway Supervisor, Art Hughes.
- Many town officials will need to be interviewed, including Codes, Ken Cutler and Zoning, Leo Boulerice which are contracted with Town of Trenton

New York State requires that the process of discussion on all key areas be followed without a pre determination of a decision to dissolve the Village, all alternatives

including the liability of current compensation claims will be considered and discussed. All minutes and communication will include Mayor Fran Righi and Town Supervisor, Joe Smith.

Identify data and information resources; with the goal to identify and complete;

- A dissolution plan must be done
- There will be a fiscal breakdown, net cost of staying a Village
- What can be sold to get out of the current liability that the Village has
- What can change as to not have the taxpayers carry an increased burden
- Lose control of water, cost of water current and future

Issues identified about the Village of Prospect;

- Low taxes, water, safe, small
- Keep property values reasonable and consistent with comparable villages. It was noted by Kent that the Village of Seneca Falls taxes were reduced as a result of dissolution, albeit with unique circumstances related to the Seneca Meadows landfill in the Town of Seneca Falls
- Parks and all park property, quality of life
- Identity, local Post Office
- Will State take control of water with high costs and regulation
- Generations of family residents
- Will Oneida County be in the decision process (NYCOM will be consulted)

Project Timetable; next steps; contact key stakeholders;

- 3.5 months to completion; final study outcomes given to the Village Board
- Schedule for communication meetings (Committee, Consultant)
- Website available to public by the first week of August (Consultant)
- Court decision from Fire Dept (Village Mayor, Clerk)
- Five year profit and loss from Village (Village Clerk)
- Stakeholders identified and contacted for scheduled meetings (Committee, Consultant)
- Possible survey of village residents with the Tug Hill Commission's assistance

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Martin
NOCCOG Associate
Tug Hill Commission

Communication copy of minutes via email to the following:

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