

# Committee moves forward with CEDC bylaw changes

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By Katie Kocijanski

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GREENPORT — Updated bylaws are one of the first steps toward an improved organization structure at the Columbia Economic Development Corporation.

Interim Executive Director F. Michael Tucker and members of the governance committee continued to make changes to the corporation's bylaws at its Wednesday meeting.

Attorney Andy Howard had recommended the committee consider several key areas of the bylaws to change or update. Among the proposed changes included a discussion on the composition of corporation membership and the term length for each board officer.

“We need to make it clear in our policies that each board member is expected to serve on a committee once they are appointed,” said committee member Tony Jones.

Members include Jones, David Fingar, Hudson Supervisor Sarah Sterling, D-1st Ward, and Scott Wood. The board has 14 members and each member will receive a copy of the proposed updated bylaws at the Aug. 25 meeting.

Tucker suggested keeping the membership model of the corporation and to raise additional funds for the corporation somehow, which could come from a variety of sources including more grant money being obtained and raising membership fees.

Another issue raised was the number, election and term limits of each member on the board of directors. Members need to decide if they want to elect a new slate of officers each year. For the remainder of 2015, new officers will be elected at the next meeting.

“It would be a good idea to elect the new officers at your first January meeting,” Tucker said. “Once the bylaws are updated and agreed on by both the board and the county, a membership meeting would take place in October.”

Changes to the Loan Committee section were also recommended. Howard suggested limiting the loan authorization power of the committee up to a specified dollar amount. The changes will allow the Board of Directors to modify the committee's overall authority in the future.

Current members of the committee are Kim Keil, Mike Benson, Greg Fingar, Bob Sherwood, Colin Stair and Rick Bianchi. A chairman for the committee will be elected when it meets at 8 a.m. Aug. 25 before the regularly scheduled board meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Ex-officio members were discussed by Governance Committee members. All ex-officio members are nonvoting and each one is there to offer their expertise on various subject matters.

Columbia-Greene Community College President James Campion said he would like it to be noted that he is a nonvoting member of the board.

Additional ex-officio members include the chairperson of the Columbia County Industrial Development Agency and the chairman of the county's Board of Supervisors.

While board Chairman Supervisor Patrick Grattan, R-Kinderhook, and Supervisor Ron Knott, R-Stuyvesant, both resigned their positions while Hudson Supervisor Sarah Sterling, D-1st Ward and John Porreca, R-Greenport remain on the board.

"It is up to the board to say how they would like to phrase what an ex officio member does on the board," Tucker said.

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**CORRECTION: CEDC Loan Committee members are Rick Bianchi, Greg Fingar, Kim Keil, Bob Sherwood, and Colin Stair.**