



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

MINUTES

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the **Columbia Economic Development Corporation** membership held at Kozel's Restaurant, Ghent, NY, on March 31, 2015.

Attendance: Attached

The Corporation's President, David Crawford, called the meeting to order at 8:34am. He welcomed the attendees to the meeting and acknowledged the elected officials. Mr. Crawford gave an overview of the resignations and elections to the CEDC, IDA and CRC boards. He stated 2014 was a big year for CEDC. Mr. Crawford then turned the meeting over to Mr. Flood.

Mr. Flood thanked the attendees and Board for attending. He noted the progress the County had made since 2009. He briefly outlined several of the projects that had taken place , including BAC Sales, Camphill Ghent and smaller projects including JEM , Crossroads Restaurant and the Country Squire B&B.

Mr. Flood Gave brief overviews of Eurial (Hudson Valley Creamery) in Livingston, Flanders in Greenport and Catamount in Copake. He noted CEDC's continuing efforts on behalf of Ginsberg's, the loans to businesses, both large and small and as varied as repair services and agriculture. He noted technical assistance had been provided to 30 small business owners; a study had been implemented to determine how to proceed with the implementation of a dairy goat industry. Additionally, CEDC was working with 10 local economic development committees to help coordinate strategies.

Mr. Flood informed the attendees they would be hearing from John Gilstrap, Vice President of Empire State Development (ESD). He stated that CEDC and ESD had a long standing relationship with ESD and thanked current Acting ESD Capital Regional Director, Arnie Will for his assistance.

Mr. Flood outlined his goals for the current year, which included: Collaboration with the City of Hudson on projects; improvement of broadband; continuing to meet and work with the local economic development committees; support and financing for small business owners and agricultural industry and working with the Workforce Investment Board.

Mr. Flood thanked the CEDC Board for their time and efforts. He thanked John Brusie of Ginsberg's for his persistence and patience over the past year. He thanked the breakfast attendees and introduced Holly Tanner, the Columbia County Clerk.

Ms. Tanner explained that Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Patrick Grattan, had been unable to attend the meeting. She noted he had asked her to attend in his stead and expressed his thanks to the attendees and the CEDC board for their efforts.

Mr. Flood introduced John Gilstrap, Executive Vice President for Business Attraction and Expansion for Empire State Development. Mr. Gilstrap briefly outlined his duties as ESD, and detailed Governor Cuomo's successes over his past term. He quoted statistics for StartUp NY and the Excelsior programs. Mr. Gilstrap outlined the local businesses and organizations who had been the recipients of NYS funding. He noted the local beer and winemaking industry and stated increased access to broadband was critical to Columbia County. He noted the Governor had earmarked \$500 million for broadband statewide.

Mr. Gilstrap informed the attendees about the Upstate Revitalization Fund, which will bridge the gap between upstate and downstate. He noted it was based on the model of the Buffalo billion. He stated the \$1.5 billion would be split between 3 regions via a competitive application process. Mr. Gilstrap noted round 5 of the Consolidated Funding Application process would be announced in a few weeks. He noted projects should be transformative, include distressed areas, innovative, global and impact a growing regional sector. He stated a creative element should also be incorporated and noted there needed to be community support for the proposed projects.

Mr. Flood introduced Bill VanSlyke from Columbia Memorial Hospital. Mr. Van Slyke informed the attendees that the hospital had invested \$60 million in infrastructure over the past 10 years. He noted the hospital currently ran 8 ancillary locations in Columbia County and 1 in Red Hook, the hospital and offices totaled 400,000 patient encounters last year and currently employed 1500 full time staff.

Mr. Van Slyke noted that quality of care has dramatically increased due to a federal registry, cost of care at CMH is consistently the lowest cost in the area and medical errors have improved over the past 3 - 4 years to 1000 days since the last incident that did or could have caused a safety issue. He noted that they had recently begun a new campaign that would be running on television in mid-April.

Mr. Van Slyke stated Albany Medical Center Hospital was finalizing their due diligence. The agreement would be submitted to the NYS Department of Health and then formally announced. He stated the relationship was not a merger or acquisition and administration and the Boards would remain separate. He noted the arrangement was a partnership of resources. He noted that recently AMCH began utilizing CMH's list of on-call anesthesiologist's and paying CMH for the services they used. He stated CMH's future included a sustainable health community, more localized access and specialized services and more cost control.

Mr. Van Slyke noted the hospital had decided to sell Kaaterskill Nursing Home after realizing it was a drain on hospital resources and they were unable to adequately the facility. He noted that nursing homes require a large company to run and supply them, due to the low profit margin. He stated the future looked bright for CMH.

Mr. Flood introduced John Ng, Principal of Hudson Seafood. Mr. Flood stated he had taken over the former Local Ocean site is in the midst of siting a seafood company. Mr. Flood thanked Supervisor Porreca for his assistance in attracting the company to Greenport. Mr. Ng stated his main business was a metal recycling company. He noted that while he was investigating the area and the site, Mr. Porreca worked extremely hard get the company what they needed.

Mr. Ng stated Hudson Seafood would become a 1000 metric ton fish farm. He stated he has to date invested \$11 million on the cleanup of the facility and the site. He noted the nursery had been completed and harvest was anticipated within approximately 2 months. He noted the first fish to be raised would be steelhead trout. He noted that the fish waste was a viable product and was used in hydroponic agriculture. He stated he was hopeful the business would succeed.

Mr. Flood turned the meeting over to Mr. Crawford who began the business portion of the meeting. Mr. Crawford called for a motion to approve the minutes from March 25, 2014. Mr. Greg Fingar made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Paul Barrett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Flood stated he would be giving the Financial Report. Mr. Flood noted CEDC has \$3.4 million in total assets, with \$700,000 in total liabilities. He noted the company was in a good position for 2015. Mr. Crawford called for a motion to approve the financial report. Mr. Michael Vertetis made the motion to approve the report as given. Mr. Scott Wood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Crawford noted the next item for a vote was the election of the proposed Slate of Trustees (see attached) for the CEDC Board. Mr. Crawford called for a vote. Mr. David Fingar made the motion to approve the slate as presented. Mr. David Colby seconded the motion. The motion passed with 30 corporate members in favor and one vote opposed, submitted via proxy.

Mr. Crawford thanked the attendees and asked them to contact Mr. Flood if CEDC could assist their businesses.

Mr. Crawford announced there would be a regular CEDC meeting immediately following the members breakfast. He asked all the Board Members to stay for the meeting. Mr. Crawford adjourned the meeting at 9:28am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drahushuk

Attendance Record

Columbia Economic Development Corporation
Annual Meeting
March 31, 2015
8:00 A.M.
Kozel's Restaurant, West Ghent, New York

	Name	Organization
1.	Ken Flood	Col. Cty Planning and Tourism
2.	Ed Stiffler	CEDC
3.	David Colby	Col. Cty Chamber of Commerce
4.	Erin McNary	CEDC
5.	Carol Wilber	CEDC
6.	Lisa Draushuk	CEDC
7.	John Brusie	Ginsberg's Foods
8.	Ted Guterman	Guterman, Shallo, Alford
9.	Alan Austin	The Bank of Greene County
10.	Skip Speed	Mayor, Village of Philmont
11.	Doug Cropper	Trustee, Village of Philmont
12.	Matt Vanderbeck	Pattison, Koskey Howe & Bucci
13.	Martha Lane	CEDC
14.	Ryan Scott	ProPrinters
15.	Mike Vertetis	KOSCO
16.	Greg Fingar	Fingar Insurance
17.	Mark Vinciguerra	Columbia Greene Media
18.	Amy Conte	The Bank of Greene County
19.	PJ Keeler	Columbia Cty Treasurer
20.	CW Krauss	
21.	Peter Fingar	Fingar Insurance
22.	Rick Scalera	Supervisor, City of Hudson
23.	Ana Qua	Empire State Development
24.	John Gilstrap	Empire State Development
25.	Bill Better	William J. Better Attorney-at-Law
26.	Adam Miller	Columbia County Tourism
27.	Richard Almstead	Almstead Nursery
28.	Ellen Thurston	Supervisor, City of Hudson
29.	Mark Fingar	Fingar Insurance
30.	Andrew Howard	Freeman Howard
31.	Bruce Bohnsack	G-Tel
32.	Brian Stickles	The Bank of Greene County
33.	Peter Paden	Columbia Land Conservancy
34.	John Porreca	Supervisor, Town of Greenport

35.	John Mokszycki	Town of Greenport
36.	Don McCormick	The Bank of Greene County
37.	Mike Tucker	Center For Economic Growth
38.	Pierre Guerin	Hudson Valley Creamery
39.	Bob Galluscio	Shallo, Galluscio, Bianchi & Fucito
40.	David Crawford	Crawford & Associates
41.	Matt Cabrial	Guterman, Shallo & Alford
42.	Branda Maholtz	HDC
43.	Ian Nitschke	
44.	Neil Howard	Superintendent, Taconic Hills Central School
45.	Scott Wood	Metz Wood Harder, Ins.
46.	Maureen Boutin	Columbia Green Workforce NY
47.	A. Joseph Scott	Hodgson Russ
48.	Patrice Perry	Columbia County Planning
49.	Peter Hogan	Karp, Ackerman & Skabowski
50.	Gary Schiro	Hudson Opera House
51.	Ken Blass	Blass Communications
52.	Kim Keil	Valley Oil
53.	Peter Fingar II	Fingar Insurance
54.	Paul Barrett	The Country Squire
55.	Rick Bianchi	Shallo, Galluscio, Bianchi & Fucito
56.	Ben Syden	Laberge
57.	Holly Tanner	Columbia County Clerk
58.	Sheena Salvino	HDC
59.	Tambra Dillon	Hudson Opera House
60.	Mark Taylor	Concra Appraisals
61.	Joan Snyder	Frog Hollow Consultants
62.	David Fingar	Mid-Hudson Cablevision
63.	Joel Craig	Supervisor , Town of Germantown
64.	Sarah Sterling	Supervisor, City of Hudson
65.	Tessa Edick	Farm On!
66.	Duncan Calhoun	The Barlow House
67.	Ann Mueller	Congressman Gibson's office
68.	Parry Teasdale	The Columbia Paper
69.	Siobhan Barton	Columbia Greene Media
70.	Ron Knott	Supervisor, Town of Stuyvesant
71.	Cori Beck	NYS Dept of Labor
72.	Keith Knaga	Town of Ghent BAR
73.	Bill Van Slyke	Columbia Memorial Hospital
74.	Jim Gibbons	Columbia Greene Media
75.	Mark Johnson	
76.	Tom Crowell	Columbia Land Conservancy
77.	Kippy Weigelt	Supervisor, Town of Claverack
78.	Debbie Trowbridge	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill
79.	Ed Gower	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill

