

St. Lawrence County Planning Office
STAFF WORK REPORT
January 2022



ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORT

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. On the 26th, Matilda participated in a virtual meeting by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Market's Farmland Protection Work Group and heard presentations from various stakeholders concerning the siting of large scale solar arrays on productive farmland.

County Planning Board (CPB). The CPB met via Zoom on January 13th. Several projects were returned for local action (RFLA). Three full reviews were presented, discussed, and approved or denied with non-binding recommendations and conditions: Town of Pierrepont, wind local law (approved), Town of DePeyster, solar local law (approved), and the Town of Louisville, use variance (denied). Furthermore, at the beginning of the meeting there was a moment of silence for the passing for long-time CPB member Mark Gazin. CPB agendas and minutes can be accessed here: <https://www.stlawco.org/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/CountyPlanningBoard>.

Environmental Management Council (EMC). The EMC met on January 19th; the speaker was Dr. Brad Baldwin, Professor of Biology at St. Lawrence University, who spoke about his work on aquatic issues on Black Lake. He then led a discussion about proposed research projects on Black Lake, and ideas for community development in the region.

Staff are continuing to work with the Black Lake Association with regard to milfoil management at Black Lake. A website for this project is here: <https://stlawco.org/node/2777>

EAB Task Force. The Emerald Ash Borer Task Force met on January 21st. Those present reported on their upcoming plans to deal with EABs in 2022.

Fair Housing Task Force (FHTF). The Fair Housing Task Force did not meet in January. Their next meeting will be held on Thursday February 24 at 9 AM.

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Countywide Broadband Assessment. Staff continues to work with a BOL committee to develop an implementation plan for the recently completed [broadband study](#). In January, staff coordinated and participated in two Committee meetings; participated in two broadband webinars; had one working session with DANC; and conducted ISP outreach.

Jones & Laughlin (J&L) Site. There was not a scheduled DEC technical conference call in January; DEC has proposed to move from monthly to less frequent calls.

COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The Planning Office administers four open grants: the 23rd round of the Direct Homeownership Assistance Program; the third round of its Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program (CHRP 3); the recently-funded SLC-CARES award to conduct housing rehabilitation for populations vulnerable to COVID-1; and the even more-recently awarded fourth round of the Countywide Housing Rehabilitation program (CHRP 4).

Lead Hazard Abatement Program. This \$1 million award from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing lead-based paint stabilization, or abatement assistance, to low- and moderate-income households throughout the county. By the end of January, the Planning Office reports that 12 units have been completed, and 6 units are in process.

Canton Housing Task Force. On the 7th, Matilda participated in a virtual meeting coordinated by the Town and the Village of Canton to continue discussions about the limited availability of affordable housing, and limited availability of turn-key market rate housing, and to create a housing strategy.

Recreation. Staff are actively following a handful of organizations and attending webinars that address developing recreational assets in rural communities.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Board of Elections (BOE). Staff is assisting the BOE with a project to update election district boundaries to comply with the new legislative districts.

County Enterprise GIS.

- <https://gis.stlawco.org/portal/home/index.html>
- GIS Web App: Proposed Solar sites in the County:
<https://gis.stlawco.org/portal/apps/View/index.html?appid=6f3d7fb0923448ed90c3385eb0f8a872>
- GIS Web Map: 2021 Septic Repair Program Waterbodies with 250' Buffer:
<https://gis.stlawco.org/portal/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=d8a8b0c7e637400a9c269323b7670a19>

COVID-19 Mapping. Since March 31, 2020, Dakota and Matilda have prepared daily maps for the County's Public Health Department to track positive, active, and regional cases of COVID-19. Lisa Ciccicarelli from the Real Property Office joined the rotation at the end of December, and all three were assisted by Jace Briggs with the streamlining of daily mapping procedures. Many thanks to Lisa and Jace for their assistance with this responsibility.

Emergency Management Services. Staff continue to provide GIS assistance to this department as their GIS workflows evolve. In partnership with SLC Real Property, Staff is assisting with the publication of an address dataset that will be frequently updated and easily accessible for County GIS users.

SLC IDA. Staff is assisting with a project to move and process GIS data from a consultant to the IDA.

GRANTS

Grants Notice Distribution. The Grants Notice is distributed to County Department Heads, Legislators, Superintendents of Schools, local municipal officials and approximately 350 additional individuals representing organizations throughout the North Country.

Hazard Mitigation Plan, 5-Year Update. Staff are assisting Emergency Services with the required five-year update of the SLC Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. In January, staff participated in a project team call and reviewed the draft document prior to submission to NYS DHSES.

Septic Repair Program. The County has been awarded \$340,000 to repair or replace deficient septic tanks along specified waterbodies in the County. The program is currently taking in prospective participants.

PLANNING MATTERS

Large Scale Solar. Staff is monitoring two projects in the County: [Rich Road Solar and Storage](#) and [North Side Energy Center](#).

Town of Hammond. Staff assisted with municipal board training resources and an update to their land use regulations.

Town of Pierrepont. Staff is preparing a review of their draft battery energy storage systems local law. Also, Staff shared the latest resources for cannabis regulations.

Town of Rossie. Staff is preparing a contract to assist with adopting zoning for the first time.

Town of Stockholm. Staff assisted their new code enforcement officer with CPB review processes and with a project in the ag district.

Website. Lisa and Dakota, with staff input, continue to work on updating/editing the Planning Office page on the County's new website.

- Updates continue to be made for events, meetings and content on some pages.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

County Transit System. During the week of the 24th, Matilda filed and submitted the 4th quarter 2021 STOA report to the DOT. With help from Jamie Donnelly and Lisa Bartalo, Matilda also prepared a variety payments for public transit operations. On the 25th, Matilda participated in a virtual meeting with a prospective vendor to outfit Public Transit buses with mobile wifi, GPS systems, security cameras and automatic voice announcement systems. On the 28th, Matilda participated in a phone conversation with the DOT to finalize a two-year contract for First Mile Last Mile, and a one-year contract extension for COVID19 vaccination trips. Both contracts were forwarded to the County Board Office for the Chair's signature. During the week of the 25th and 31st, Matilda uploaded payment requests to reimburse the County for 2020 Mobility Management expenses, and a payment request to offset the local match for Lot G buses delivered in 2020. On the 31st, Matilda met with Regional Mobility Manager Frank Doldo to discuss current transit operations and the anticipated release of a Notice of Funding Availability by the Department of Transportation.