

**Economic Development Committee Meeting
Held In Room #318
Putnam County Office Building
Members: Chairman Birmingham & Legislators DiCarlo & Tamagna**

Monday

July 30, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Birmingham. Legislator Oliverio led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Tamagna and DiCarlo were absent, as they were on vacation. Chairwoman Conklin appointed Legislator Oliverio to stand in for the absent Committee Members.

Item #3) Approval/Minutes from June 25, 2012
The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4) Putnam County Visitors Bureau, Inc./Updates
a) **2012 Tour De Putnam**
b) **Tourism Initiatives**

Director of Tourism, Libby Pataki gave the Committee an update on the 2012 Tour De Putnam and Tourism Initiatives.

Ms. Pataki opened her presentation showing a template of the sign that will be used on the Golf course, which was designed by a company called "**Bikepath Country.**" The sign company was asked to give her this example to show the type of material that they would use if the County were to take on the Bikeway signage. It is stated that the material used for these signs are guarantee to last for ten years. Any questions pertaining to these signs can be addressed this evening, as the company is here in the audience to answer any questions. The Bike path is one of the initiatives that she is seriously looking at.

Ms. Pataki stated that the name "Tour De Putnam" is going to be renamed. The new name is going to be "**Putnam Cycling Classic.**" Upon investigation on the old name of "Tour De Putnam", it was found that it was a very tired site with no energy and was not getting any better. Cycling is becoming fantastically popular as well as being extremely healthy. It is believed that due to the fact that there is no Hotel in Putnam County, is why cycling has become so popular with the "Day Trippers".

Ms. Pataki has met with Mr. John Huestis, of "**Smart Cycling**" who schedules cycling races all over the world, and has participated in races internationally.

Ms. Pataki and Mr. Huestis have been driving around the County to create new routes. The new routes as well as the distances of the routes will be changed. There will be a 30 mile as well as a 60 mile route. Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker has worked with Ms. Pataki on these new routes, and will be completely shortly. The new routes will be submitted upon completion.

Ms. Pataki stated that she will be conducting a Fund Raiser Dinner at her home on August 20th, to include all the people who would like to be advertising sponsors for this race. That evening will be just for the presentation of the program, and ask the advertising sponsors to join in and be part of the advertising campaign. This is only one night and will extend too many other evenings that they will plan to do. The EDC will need to be involved, as these events will be very expensive and it would not be fair to expect the Visitors Bureau to stage these events.

Chairman Birmingham stated he will be reaching out to the President of the EDC, Kevin Bailey for assistance.

Ms. Pataki went on to state that another initiative that is being looked into is a partnership with Metro North. County Executive Odell and Ms. Pataki went to meet with Metro North and they were told that Metro North is actively redoing all their schedules. They have done studies on ridership, and the train schedules will be overhauled and upgraded drastically, to include twice as many trains at certain times, and reverse peak scheduling. Mrs. Pataki is also looking into some get away packages for seniors, as well as packages for our Veterans, when they travel.

Ms. Pataki also stated that Scenic Hudson is in the middle of a major PR campaign as well as working very actively with the State DOT to get the Hudson River Hike/Bike Trail going and that affects the western part of the County. This is tying in very nicely with our Tour de Putnam, and as a matter of fact part of our tour will include the Hike/Bike Trail.

Ms. Pataki stated that until we get a Hotel in the community, we need to focus on day trippers, and need to do all we can to get people up here not only in the summer, but all year long. We need to promote Restaurants, Hiking, Biking, and our Waterways etc. The Putnam County Libraries have also expressed an interest in promoting tourism.

Item #5) Approval/Designation/Putnam County Visitors Bureau Inc. /Tourist Promotion Agency

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to prefile the necessary Resolution. Seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Item #6) Approval/Putnam County Tourist Promotion Agency "I Love New York" Matching Funds Program

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to prefile the necessary Resolution. Seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Item #7) Other Business

Duly Noted

Item #8) Adjournment

Being no further business to discuss, Chairman Birmingham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:
Claire E. Muller
Administrative Assistant