

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held Via Audio Webinar**  
**Pursuant To Temporary Emergency Orders**

**Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Montgomery & Jonke**

**Tuesday June 8, 2021**  
**(Immediately Following the Personnel Meeting at 6PM)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 P.M. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Montgomery, Legislator Jonke, and Chairman Gouldman were present.

**Item #3 - Discussion/Restoration of Historic William Kemble House/Mr. David Watson**

Legislator Addonizio introduced Mr. Watson and Mrs. Watson and thanked Mr. Watson for accepting her invitation to speak at the meeting.

Mr. Watson expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to talk about his restoration of the William Kemble House, a national historical monument. He stated that they bought the house from Scenic Hudson to share the house with the community as a designated tourist home. He plans to rent the rooms part-time, with a historic and local Hudson Valley experience. He discussed the historical significance of the home. He explained that it was a foundry established in 1818 associated with West Point and was a leading foundry at the time. He also discussed its importance in America after the War of 1812 and during the Civil War. He stated that when he bought the house in 2017, he found it covered in asbestos with no water, heat, electricity, or plumbing, and with an infestation of termites. He discussed the ownership of the house: First owned by the Kemble family in 1826, then the Campbell family in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, then Scenic Hudson in 2006, and finally the Watson Family in 2017. He stated that his wife and him are restoring artifacts such as locks that were found in the home. He stated this is in addition to a general restoration of the home. He stated that the house is a grand house on a small scale, with several elegant rooms such as a grand spinning room, responsible for hosting many historical people such as Abraham Lincoln. He reiterated that he is excited about restoring this house to share it with the community.

Chairman Gouldman stated that Mr. Watson and Mrs. Watson's work on the house is a labor of love and expressed his thanks.

Legislator Jonke expressed his thanks and stated that he looked forward to visiting.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her thanks to Mr. And Mrs. Watson, specifically for working diligently with the Village of Cold Spring's Planning Board and Historic Review Board. She stated she is proud that they are protecting and preserving a historically significant building in Cold Spring and her district. She stated that the final design of the home highlights the historic

volume of the building, while mitigating any environmental concerns. She expressed her desire to meet them in person and visit the building.

Legislator Addonizio expressed her thanks for the presentation and requested to schedule a time for the Legislators to tour.

Chairman Gouldman agreed and stated he is looking forward to seeing the house.

#### **Item #4 - Discussion/Update/Putnam County Climate Smart Initiative**

Chairman Gouldman stated that the request for a Climate Smart update by Climate Smart Coordinator Lauri Taylor was submitted by Legislator Montgomery, but she was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Gouldman stated that the update would have to be postponed until the next meeting in July.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she made the request for an update from the Climate Smart Coordinator in hopes for an update on Consolidated Funding Applications. She emphasized the importance of understanding the process to become a Climate Smart Task Force. She stated that \$11 million are available for Climate Smart programs, and had hoped that for the third year of asking they would finally be able to kickstart their climate smart program. She stated that she would love to be part of the Task Force meetings, but she has not been allowed to be part of them. She stated that she still has done work in her district in regards to Climate Smart initiatives, and believes that she could be a great resource for the County's Climate Smart Task Force. She claimed that the County Executive's statement that the Climate Smart initiative is on track to be certified does not make sense because the minutes have not been shared or made public. She pointed out that the minutes must be submitted to the State and the Climate Smart Task Force must be made of community members and stakeholders, but it is not. She expressed her belief that Climate Smart Coordinator Taylor is brilliant at her job, and means no disrespect, however, she stated that she has too many jobs, and her opinion that a Climate Smart Coordinator dedicated to just Climate Smart should be appointed and given a stipend, which could be reimbursed through the grant process. She stated that the County could be receiving half of the money back for projects that have already been implemented, but will not be able to receive the grants this year because the minutes for the past two years have not been made public.

Chairman Gouldman stated that they will request for Climate Smart Coordinator Taylor to give an update in July.

#### **Item #5 - FYI/Unemployment Report – Duly Noted**

#### **Item #6 - Other Business – FYI – Small Business Recovery Grant Program**

Legislator Jonke made a motion to accept the other business. Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

Legislator Jonke stated that the County Executive requested to add information regarding the Small Business Recovery Grant Program. He stated President of Putnam County EDC (Economic Development Corporation), Kathleen Abels, will be adding information to the EDC website to help small businesses seek relief. He added that there will be a webinar on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M., with representatives of the Empire State Development Council.

Chairman Gouldman stated that the State has added \$800 million for the COVID small business recovery. He explained how to receive more information on this by contacting EDC President Abels at [Kathleen.Abels@putnamcountyny.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Abels@putnamcountyny.gov) or 845-808-1021.

### **Item #7 - Adjournment**

There being no other business, at 6:51 P.M., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by PILOT Intern Max Semegran.