

April 10, 2025 – Joint meeting of the Village of Cape Vincent, Town of Cape Vincent and CVLDC

At 6:05pm, CVLDC member Bill McDonough made the motion to open the meeting with Councilman Alan Wood seconding the motion and all voting yes. In attendance were, Mayor Golden, Trustee Stark, Trustee Youngs, Trustee Chavoustie, Supervisor Aubertine, Councilmembers Wiley, Jacobs, Wood and Miller, CVLDC members Mary Farrel, Amanda Mason, Bill McDonough, Dave Snow, Warren Smith, Lorrie Moss, Carol Thomas and Jim McQueeney via Zoom.

Mary Farrell gave the group an update on what the CVLDC has been working on since September. Recently the LDC has been working with the Heritage consulting group for the NYForward small projects and had nine applications. The projects that were awarded have been notified.

Mary Farrell then spoke about the recent selection process of the Event Promoter position. There were three applications and a committee of five reviewed and interviewed all applicants. Stacey Rogers was selected and has accepted. This position will be funded by the LDC and will work 20 hours per week. Mary Farrell stated that she has already started working on the community calendar. The promoter won't be promoting individual businesses and will work with the Chamber. Trustee Stark inquired where the information that the promoter puts out will be published. Mary believes the umbrella website will be used.

Next, Mary Farrell gave an update on Grant Support status. The LDC is still awaiting the announcement for the NYS Ag & Markets grant for French Town Market and the NYS EV Chargers grant. The NY Make Ready/National Grid EV Charger Infrastructure grant was received. The NYS DOS LWRP – Club St Phase 2 and the NYS DOS- Comprehensive Plan update grants were both denied. Trustee Stark inquired if there was any further information on the grants that were denied. Councilman Wiley stated that there were more applicants than normal and not enough funding to support all the applicants.

CVLDC member Dave Snow then updated the group on the “high priority” portion of the strategic plan as follows: Childcare, procedures for accepting gifts, the funding for the Economic Development Study has been shifted to the Tourism Promotion position, establishing the umbrella website, the annual event map and expanding bike routes in the region. The “medium priority” portion of the plan include pursuing venues for year-round events, short-term rental law proposals, high-speed data options, walking tours and engaging other agencies in expanding outdoor activities access. Items listed as “low priority” are a bike/walking path from EEPark to Downtown, community talent management board, mobile advertising, eco-tourism, standardizing Town/Village aesthetics and support of Horne's ferry.

At this time, Mayor Golden then updated the group on the status of the Horne's Ferry. Mayor Golden updated the information from Horne's attorneys and that the appraisals of the entire business, 2 landings and ferry, are being evaluated. The Horne family would like it all to be sold. Mayor Golden has reached out to the TI Bridge Authority to see if they had any interest. They declined. Mayor Golden continues to be in contact with officials on Wolfe Island and many people are working to try to keep the ferry service running. Many things have to fall into place for the service to run.

Carol Thomas then updated the group on the financial status of the CVLDC. With the 50% reduction in the Town and Village contributions this year, the CVLDC will be operating at a roughly \$50,000 loss. They

do have 2 CD's that are both over \$50,000 and they currently have \$191,000 cash on hand.

At this point, a discussion took place over how pays for grants and who decides. More work will have to be done to clearly define and have a standardization of the process. Carol continued and stated that it is her opinion that full funding from the Town and Village would be needed in the future.

At this time, Mayor Golden then updated the group on the current status of Anchor Marina. Metalcraft has vacated the premise and there are many new exciting things coming for the area as a new owner will be closing on the property very soon.

Trustee Stark then spoke about the LDC Community planner role. It is her opinion that a joint review is needed of the position to ensure that it continues to meet the evolving needs of both municipalities. She feels that it is important to determine whether the current position description is still aligned with community goals and feels that the RFP process would be beneficial. Mary Farrell stated that the current contract will end June 30, 2025. Carol Thomas then informed the group that the CVLDC had just decided earlier in their meeting to RFP for the planner position.

Mayor Golden then extended a thank you to the CVLDC members for their work.

At 7:23pm, Carol Thomas made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Trustee Stark seconding the motion and all voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Rupp, Clerk/Treasurer