

## Economic Development/Planning

Legislative Chambers, Montgomery County Office Bldg, 64 Broadway, Fonda, NY

6:00 PM

2/14/2017

Chairman Robert A. Purtell presided over the meeting commencing at 6:00 pm.

Committee members present:

Robert A. Purtell, Chairman, Legislator, District 9  
Robert Headwell, Jr., Legislator, District 4  
Daniel P. Wilson, Legislator, District 5  
Michael J. Pepe, Legislator, District 7  
John M. Duchessi, Legislator, District 6

Other members present:

Martin P. Kelly, Legislator, District 1  
Brian D. Sweet, Legislator, District 2  
Roy S. Dimond, Legislator, District 3  
Joseph M. Isabel, Legislator, District 8

Chairman Robert A. Purtell has called a meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 in the Legislative Chambers, County Office Building, 64 Broadway, Fonda, New York. Items on the agenda, at this time, are as follows:

1. (DISCUSSION)

A. Privilege of Committee Chair, Committee Members & Legislators to discuss items of interest, etc., regarding departments governed by this Committee

2. PRESENTATION - Norm Bollen

3. OTHER

Committee Chair Robert Purtell introduced Norm Bollen, an organizer of the Mohawk Country initiative who delivered a presentation to the legislature about the initiative, which would seek to promote, preserve and protect historic sites throughout the county. The campaign could also potentially stretch into Fulton County to market historical assets in both counties.

Mr. Bollen stated that Montgomery County is blessed that we have a multitude of historic sites, but we haven't always taken very good care of them.

Bollen said he looking to get official recognition from the legislature, which would provide a good marketing tool and add importance to the initiative. He said this is something that makes sense for this county. He suggested forming a committee to work in partnership with the chamber on taking ideas of Mohawk Country and incorporating it with ongoing tourism efforts in the county.

Legislature Chairman Roy Dimond said he believed the county could assist the organization with grant applications to secure funding, such as possibly through the state's consolidated funding application (CFA) process.

Mr. Bollen would like to see a plan put together and talk about a CFA for all the sites.

County Executive Matthew Ossenfort said he believed the county could work together with the organization to build upon the proposal in the future.

District 6 Legislator John Duchessi asked Bollen why tourism for Revolutionary War attractions is not as great as Civil War attractions. Bollen said he didn't have a solid reason but the Civil War had a bigger role in American history in terms of the amount of combatants, casualties and states affected.

The Mohawk Country initiative would be separate from the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce's tourism program for the county, but Bollen said he has worked with the chamber on existing efforts. While the initiative originally started to promote the Fort Plain Museum, it has grown to include historical sites across Montgomery and Fulton counties.

[Mohawk Country Marketing Presentation](#)

Legislators Sweet and Headwell made a motion and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the Committee meeting.

Legislator Purtell adjourned the Economic Development/Planning Committee meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Reese  
Clerk of the Montgomery County  
Legislature