

*Public Hearing
Discussion on the Restore NY Communities Initiative Round 6
Application and Property Assessment List for the
Tioga Trails Rehabilitation Project
September 22, 2022*

The Public Hearing on the discussion of the Restore NY Communities Initiative Round 6 Application and Property Assessment List for the Tioga Trails Rehabilitation Project was called to order by the Chair at 10:10 A.M. Six Legislative members were present with Legislators Hollenbeck, Mullen, and Weston being absent.

There were 15 people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Economic Development Specialist Schnabl spoke. "We are not 100% sure whether this project will move forward, but since there is still a possibility, we are still going through the process of the public hearing in case we do submit the application. Right now, there is an issue with ownership of the building. The developer has to have full site control of the building, which is currently being determined whether they want to do that or if they can move forward in the allowed timeframe that we have to submit the grant."

Legislative Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "I know the building and I sincerely hope that the ownership gets settled because that building needs to be addressed. It is a threat to the safety of the community, and I know that our village code enforcement officers are here today, but something needs to be done with that building. Some improvements need to be done or it will be condemned, and it will be even worse, or someone will get hurt and there will be a huge suit."

Village of Owego Code Enforcement Officer Knapp spoke. "The ownership battle is currently in the District Attorney's hands right now."

Village of Owego Resident Karen Warfle spoke. "I do not know if this is appropriate at this time, but as a resident of the Village of Owego I agree that the building needs to be taken care of whoever the owners end up being. I am here as a representative of the Tioga County Transition to Life Opportunities Task Force. This group has nothing to do with the County itself, but we are a group of residents and people who work in the County who are concerned with advancing the opportunities for people with disabilities, including my son, for living their lives as independently and fully as they can. We took a tour of the building with the hopes that the idea the restaurant area could be used as a training

ground and work opportunity for people with disabilities, such as a café or something to that effect and possibly residential in the upper floors. The problem with that is parking. If people require staff to assist them in being able to live independently, they have those folks that would be coming to park in the area and then the people and their families. That is our hope and, again, I do not know if this is the place to bring that up. But, if not the Tioga Trails building, then maybe something else in the community where there is the ability to walk and get around easily since transportation is also an issue in the County, but just be considering opportunities with people with disabilities to have a place to work and do it in a supportive environment. Thank you."

There being no public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:14 A.M.