



Draft

MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
June 13, 2013

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 11:00 a.m.

Economic Affairs Committee Members Present: Leilani Ulrich (Agency Chairwoman) Arthur Lussi (Economic Affairs Committee Chair), Frank Mezzano, Robert Stegemann (DEC), William Thomas. Patrick Hooker was absent.

Other Members or Designees Present: Richard Booth, Sherman Craig, Dierdre Scozzafava (DOS), Bill Valentino, Cecil Wray.

Agency Staff Present: Terry Martino (Executive Director), Jim Townsend (Counsel), Dan Kelleher (Special Assistant-Economic Affairs)

Others Present: Frederick Monroe (Executive Director, Local Government Review Board)

Chairman Lussi opened the meeting at 11:00 am.

Dan Kelleher provided the following update:

Essex Pallet & Pellet

Special Assistant for Economic Affairs provided an overview of economic data provided to the five towns impacted by the Finch Pruyn Land Purchase. Mr. Kelleher noted that data articulates a need for the communities to attract exporting industries in order to increase the median income of residents and attract new residents.

Member Valentino suggested that population growth data be compared to other rural areas across the State and country.

Mr. Kelleher introduced Colleen Lemza, owner of Essex Pallet and Pellet in Keeseville, Essex County.

Ms. Lemza explained that the business consisted of three components: the manufacturing of hardwood pallets which are exported to Europe and Asia, manufacturing of super premium bio-fuel pellets using scraps

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from the pallets, and most recently, creating gourmet grilling pellets.

She said the company employs about twenty full-time employees.

Ms. Lemza explained that the company uses scrap wood from mills and lumber yards to make pallets (approximately one thousand per day). The sawdust from the pallets is then used for bio-fuel pellet production (approximately two thousand tons per year). Finally, the company uses other scraps for grilling pellets. This allows the company to expand production into warmer months of the year when heating pellets are not in demand.

Ms. Lemza explained that the company works with Champlain Valley Specialties to utilize their apple product waste for flavoring in the grilling pellets. The company also uses brush created from the pruning or cutting of local fruit trees and sources from a variety of Adirondack farmers. This process produces a very high-end product because it uses real fruit. The company is currently working on marketing and branding the product nation-wide.

Ms. Lemza said that although the company is small, it contributes greatly to the area and implements a variety of sustainable manufacturing practices. The company takes the waste from Champlain Valley Specialties, uses sawdust from pallet construction, and works with people with disabilities from Mountain Lake Services for packaging. The company also uses a local company for design and printing. Ms. Lemza articulated that the company motto is Clean-Green-Local.

Bob Stegemann congratulated her on having a zero waste business while providing a use for low quality wood. Chairwoman Ulrich said she hopes more groups recognize their zero waste efforts.

Ms. Lemza was presented a certificate of appreciation.

The meeting closed at 12:00 pm.