



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
Economic Affairs
November 28, 2016 Meeting
DFK:ap

**Economic Affairs Committee
November 10, 2016**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 1:03 p.m.

Economic Affairs Committee Members Present:

Dan Wilt, Chair, Barbara Rice, Bradley Austin, (ESD), Robert Stegemann, (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Sherman Craig, Chairman, Art Lussi, John Ernst, Sandi Allen, (DOS), Karen Feldman, William Thomas

Local Government Review Board:

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, James Townsend, Kathy Regan, Kate-Lyn Knight, Keith McKeever, Ed Snizek, Annemarie Peer

Economic Affairs Report:

On a motion made by Bob Stegemann and seconded by Brad Austin, the October draft minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Kelleher began with updates on initiatives in the Economic Affairs Unit. He said staff continues to work with several different committees on the redevelopment of the former J&L Steel property in St. Lawrence County. Staff also continues to manage the Adirondack Park Business Recruitment Workgroup.

Champlain Area Trails (CATS) Presentation (Chris Maron)

Chris Maron, Executive Director, presented the Agency and public with trail maps and a copy of the organization's annual report. Mr. Maron explained that CATS' mission is to develop hiking and skiing trails that link communities, connect people to nature, and promote economic vitality in the Champlain Valley.

Mr. Maron gave a review of the habitat and land uses of the Champlain Valley and highlighted that most of the land in the Champlain Valley is privately owned. He noted that the Champlain Valley has a lot of biological diversity.

Mr. Maron discussed how most of the organization's trails are developed on private land. The group has relied on local volunteers, as well as on partnerships with groups such as the American Hiking Society, to construct the trails.

Mr. Maron went over the importance of promoting the region and discussed the group's marketing efforts. Champlain Area Trails publishes a trail map and offers education for people of all ages while also offering guided hamlet-to-hamlet hikes which often feature parties at the end. He discussed how similar events could be done with bike trails, ski trails, and even horse trails in the future.

After a brief question and answer period, Mr. Maron was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Chairman Craig, Ms. Martino, Mr. Wilt, and Mr. Kelleher.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Mr. Wilt adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.