



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: January 5, 2017

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for November and December, 2016.

Unit activities were as follows:

Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative – Town and Village of Lake George

Staff is assisting the Town and Village of Lake George in the drafting of a joint economic development plan as part of the Agency's HEPA Initiative. On September 20, staff assisted Town and Village staff in hosting a public outreach meeting. Staff also facilitated a meeting of the communities' local stakeholder workgroup on November 30. Staff is currently working with Town and Village staff to draft the economic plan.

Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative – Town of Webb

Staff is collaborating with Town of Webb officials and an outside consulting firm to develop economic development strategies to be included in the community's updated comprehensive plan. On December 20, economic and planning staff also met with town officials to explore the potential for map amendments in the community.

Adirondack Business Recruitment Workgroup

Staff continues to coordinate the efforts of the Adirondack Business Recruitment Workgroup, an agglomeration of economic development agencies representing the twelve counties in the Adirondack Park. On October 21, a meeting of the workgroup was held at the Agency's offices in Ray Brook. The group will schedule two "partner outreach" meetings to build connections between economic development partners including realtors, bankers, accountants, and attorneys. Additionally, the group is working with the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism to develop an identity and marketing plan to help attract new businesses to the Adirondack Park. The group is pursuing grant funding through National Grid as well as funding from private donors.

Champlain-Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee

On December 9, staff attended a video conference meeting of the Champlain Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee. The Trust is responsible for managing \$117 million in Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project mitigation funds over

the next 35 years. Based upon revised CHPE permitting timelines, it is not expected that the funds will begin to be dispersed until January 2018.

Public Outreach and Community Support

On November 16, staff attended a meeting of an informal business group in the Town of Johnsbury, Warren County. The group is seeking advice on economic development initiatives that it could pursue to improve the vibrancy of the community. Staff discussed various assistance opportunities with the group including the Agency's Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative. Staff met with Warren County Planning Department staff in a follow-up meeting to discuss the Agency's HEPA initiative as well as the County's First Wilderness Heritage Trail program.

Staff is assisting a workgroup to develop a restaurant week event in the Olympic Region communities of Keene, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Wilmington. The event will be used to spur economic activity in the "off season" with the event scheduled for April 27 through May 4, 2017. It is anticipated that the event will be enlarged to include other Adirondack communities in subsequent years.

On December 5, staff attended the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages Membership Meeting in Lake George, Warren County. Topics of discussion included the classification of the former Finch Pruyn lands, planning board composition, and terrestrial invasive species. During the meeting's "Privilege of the Floor/Community Highlights" staff highlighted the ongoing work of the Adirondack Business Recruitment Workgroup.

J&L Site Redevelopment

Staff participated in conference calls to discuss plans for the remediation and reuse of the J&L Steel property in the Town of Clifton on November 15 and 22 and on December 13. A workgroup of local economic development and government officials is pursuing strategies to finalize site remediation, including the removal of existing buildings, infrastructure development, and finding new uses for the site. On September 28, the Agency provided the workgroup with a letter of non-jurisdiction for the removal of buildings on the property. The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) is currently writing and facilitating grants to remove existing buildings that are structurally deficient and pose dangers to public health. The Agency also provided a letter of support for a US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Cleanup grant to St. Lawrence County on December 14.

Regulatory Programs Support

Economic Services staff is supporting the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including a subdivision in Essex County, three industrial projects in Essex County, an energy project in Essex County, a visitor attraction in Hamilton County, two recreational facilities in Essex County, a tourism accommodations project in St. Lawrence County, and a marina project in Franklin County.

Planning Division Support

Staff assisted the Planning Division in the development of the 2017 Local Government Day conference in Lake Placid, Essex County.

State Lands Support

Economic Services staff is supporting the State Lands Unit in its development of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the classification of newly acquired State lands. Staff also participated in public hearings for the proposed classifications on November 9 and November 21.