



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: January 4, 2018

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for October, November and December 2017

Unit activities were as follows:

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

Staff is finalizing the Lake George Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative economic development plan. On December 7, staff assisted the town in a final public hearing on the draft plan; staff has updated the plan based upon this final feedback and this completed document will go before the Town Board at its January meeting. The Village of Lake George is expected to vote on adopting the plan in January as well.

Town of Johnsbury Economic Development Assistance

Staff is assisting the Town of Johnsbury Local Development Corporation (LDC) with business recruitment and economic development planning. Staff attended meetings on October 18 and November 22 in the Town. In September, staff provided the LDC with a draft marketing plan that can be used to attract new businesses to the community.

Waterfront Revitalization Strategy – Town of Schroon Lake

On November 16 staff met with a workgroup of Town of Schroon Lake officials, business owners, and residents to discuss the Town's Waterfront Revitalization Strategy. The group is working to develop a plan to improve the economic conditions of the community and to increase connectivity with the waterfront. Staff will assist the Town in the development of its strategy, which will be finalized in February 2018.

Public Outreach

On October 3, staff attended the Southern Adirondack Planning and Zoning Forum in Lake George, Warren County. Over 100 local government officials attended to learn about topics including permitting for renewable energy, zoning for vibrant main streets, and economic development planning.

On October 5, staff presented to Paul Smith's College students on small business in the Park. Staff highlighted the vibrant diversity of businesses located within the region from microbreweries to medical technology startups to digital production firms.

On October 26, staff attended a Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST) Marketing Meeting in Saranac Lake, Essex County. The meeting covered ROOST's efforts to promote the Saranac Lake region and highlighted the organization's successes in 2016. Recently collected data on visitation to Franklin County was presented during the meeting.

On November 2, staff presented to New York Empire State College Continuing Education program students on a history of the Adirondack Park and the Agency. Staff also discussed current economic and environmental challenges facing the region and highlighted ongoing regional efforts to solve these issues.

On November 9, staff attended the Economics of Aging Community Forum at Paul Smith's College in Franklin County. The forum highlighted the valuable contributions of the state's and country's aging populations and discussed strategies to augment these benefits. The keynote speaker was NYS Office of the Aging Director Greg Olsen who discussed the need for smart growth, or "age-friendly", communities with diverse housing options and walkable main streets.

On November 20, staff attended a public outreach meeting of the Lake Placid Global Sports Committee discussing the potential of Lake Placid to host the 2023 World University Games. The Committee highlighted that significant funding would need to come forward before Lake Placid commits to hosting the events but noted that there would be significant economic impacts to the region if it did so.

On November 27, staff provided a presentation to Clarkson University's Adirondack Semester program. Staff presented on the history of the Adirondacks and the Agency, Agency processes and regulations, and economic development in the Park.

On November 29, staff attended an open house and ribbon cutting to celebrate the Town of Chester's new biomass boiler which was funded by a NYSERDA grant as well as funding from the USDA. The open house also included a ceremony honoring the Peckham Family Foundation for their funding of the town's new Cunningham Community Forest. The new community forest will provide new recreation opportunities to local residents as well as provide the town a source of biomass resources that can be harvested every 15 – 20 years.

On December 4, staff attended the annual Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV) meeting in Lake George, Warren County. Topics discussed during the meeting included zombie property redevelopment, broadband deployment, conservation design legislation, and AATV's legislative priorities for 2018.

Local Government Outreach

On November 22, staff met with Village of Corinth Mayor Dennis Morreale to discuss the Agency's planning and economic services that are available to local communities. Staff learned about the Village's efforts to redevelop the abandoned International Paper plant along the Hudson River as well as its efforts to redevelop a critical component of its Main Street. The Mayor highlighted that the community is one of the poorest in the Park with a median family income of less than \$42,500.

Franklin County Economic Development Council

On December 14, staff attended a meeting of the Franklin County Economic Development Council (FCEDC) in Paul Smiths, Franklin County. Staff is assisting the Council in prioritizing action items from the County's 2015 economic development plan for implementation in 2018. Members of the Council include representatives from Paul Smith's College, the North Country Chamber of Commerce, the Franklin County IDA, the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism, the Franklin County Legislature, Adirondack Health, Franklin County Economic Development, and local businesses.

Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) Ignite Funding Portal

Staff is assisting ANCA in the development of a small business funding portal, named Ignite, that can be used by local businesses to crowdsource funding for capital projects. ANCA will market the portal to local businesses and community members to encourage investment in local Adirondack and North Country Businesses.

J&L Site Redevelopment

On October 31 staff participated in a conference call to discuss plans for the remediation and reuse of the J&L Steel property in the Town of Clifton. A workgroup of local economic development and government officials is pursuing site remediation, including the removal of existing buildings, infrastructure development, and reuse of the site.

The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), in collaboration with St. Lawrence County, is currently writing and facilitating grants to remove existing buildings that are structurally deficient and pose dangers to public health. The project recently received a \$340k award for building removal through the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council initiative. In December, the Agency provided St. Lawrence County with a letter of support for a Restore NY grant as well. It is anticipated that the funding for the Restore NY program will be announced in summer 2018.

Champlain-Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee

On December 7, 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 2019.

EatADK Restaurant Week

Staff is assisting a workgroup in the development of the second annual EatADK Restaurant Week. This year, the event will feature restaurants from five towns: Wilmington, Keene, North Elba, Harrietstown and St. Armand. The event will be held in late April, 2018 and is targeted toward local and regional consumers to introduce them to new restaurants through discounted prix fixe meals. The overall goal is to stimulate additional economic activity in a traditionally “slow” period for local restaurants.

New York State Leadership Institute

In December 2017, staff completed the inaugural New York State Leadership Institute, a leadership development program administered by the Governor’s Office of Employee Relations and Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. The NYS Leadership Institute is designed to increase the leadership effectiveness of participants by providing tools and strategies to successfully meet complex challenges in NYS government. Staff attended the final sessions of the program on November 14, November 15, and December 12.

Regulatory Programs Support

Economic Services staff is supporting the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including a subdivision in Essex County, a biotech project in Franklin County, a recreational facility in Essex County, a tourism accommodations project in St. Lawrence County, and two tourism accommodations projects in 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.