



PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
January 11, 2018

The Public Awareness and Communications Committee convened at 1:00 pm.

Committee Members Present:

William Thomas, Committee Chair, Daniel Wilt, Bradley Austin (DED) and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

Other Members or Designees Present:

Sherman Craig, Chairman, Chad Dawson, John Ernst, Karen Feldman, Arthur Lussi, Barbara Rice and Robert Stegemann (DEC)

Local Government Review Board Present:

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Sarah Reynolds, Keith McKeever, Mary Palmer

Public Awareness and Communication Report

Mr. McKeever said staff are working on divisional reports for the 2017 Annual Report and anticipate presenting it to the Board. He also said he has met with International groups as well as college students through the Outreach Program as well as staying engaged in social media.

Mr. McKeever introduced Jeff Allot, formerly of General Composites. Based on his experience and expertise, Mr. Allot will outline the fundamental requirements needed to help small business concepts scale into successful companies.

Incubator Space to Nurture Adirondack-oriented Entrepreneurs

Mr. Allott gave a presentation on "Collaborative Incubator Spaces Inside the Park." He noted the critical need to develop affordable facility space to support the growing number of Adirondack start-up businesses trending across the Park. He highlighted his ongoing project in the Town of Westport where six start-up businesses presently reside.

He said the facility is 8,000 square feet in size and includes manufacturing and office space. He discussed the tremendous collaboration that takes place between the businesses.

Mr. Thomas asked how broadband was. He noted that local governments have the issue of broadband not being very good and possible grants being available to help them with that. Mr. Allott said the broadband is getting better.

Mr. Austin said that Phase I and Phase II work is still continuing and Phase III of the Broadband Grants will be announced shortly.

Mr. Thomas asked how the idea of creating the group business facilities would be initiated. Mr. Allott noted that it is hard to find space for these facilities.

Ms. Rice suggested working with local governments and Industrial Development Agencies (IDA). Mr. Allott said he had reached out to IDAs but their programs had not been appropriate for the type of assistance he has needed.

Ms. Rice noted that Franklin County IDA owns buildings that nothing is being done with, partially because there has not been a vision for them. Looking at things like seed money and loans to promote young entrepreneurship would be a good collaboration. Mr. Allott said to have this seed money, and or space, available would be the most powerful thing they could do.

Ms. Feldman asked with this partnership business how do the profits get allocated. Mr. Allott said it is a balanced trade. It is not a case where one person is taking all the resources.

Mr. Thomas complimented Mr. Allott on all his work and his presentation.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment:

Mr. Thomas, Committee Chair, adjourned the Committee at 2:05 pm.