



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
Economic Affairs
June 7, 2018 Meeting
DFK:ap

**Economic Affairs Committee
June 7, 2018**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 3:30 p.m.

Economic Affairs Committee Members Present:

Art Lussi, Chair, Dr. Chad Dawson, Bradley Austin, (ESD), Robert Stegemann, (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Karen Feldman, Acting Chair, John Ernst, Lynn Mahoney, (DOS), Karen Feldman, William Thomas

Local Government Review Board:

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Sarah Reynolds, Dan Kelleher, Kate-Lyn Knight, Keith McKeever, Robyn Burgess, Kevin Prickett, Amy Hall, Annemarie Peer

Economic Affairs Report:

Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs gave a brief update of Unit activities. He highlighted that he has been working with the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) to market electronic vehicle charging station programs to local towns. Mr. Kelleher also notified the Board that electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla has opted to develop a "supercharger" electric charging station in Lake Placid in 2019.

Ward Lumber Presentation (Jay Ward)

Jay Ward, President of Ward Lumber, provided an overview of his wood products business. The company was established in 1890 and has been owned by the Ward family since its founding. Mr. Ward noted that Ward Lumber is one of the largest private employers in Essex County and employs over 100 people, 45% of whom have 10 or more years of service with the firm.

Mr. Ward discussed the firm's history including mergers and acquisitions, ownership changes, and corporate restructures. Mr. Ward also highlighted technology that the firm has installed to save money and reduce its environmental impact, including a dry-kiln used to heat the firm's mill. The kiln reduced the mill's #2 heating fuel use by 225,000 gallons.

Mr. Ward explored several opportunities to enhance the business climate of the Park including workforce development, affordable housing expansion, and enhanced demographic diversity.

After a brief answer and question period, Mr. Ward, along with his daughter Molly, were presented with a certificate of appreciation by Acting Chair Feldman, Ms. Martino, Mr. Lussi, and Mr. Kelleher.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Mr. Lussi adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.