



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: April 7, 2021

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for January, February, and March 2021

Municipal Planning Assistance

Staff is assisting the Village of Tupper Lake in the development of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The community seeks to leverage its location on Tupper Lake, Lake Simon, and Raquette Pond to attract new visitors and businesses. The plan will focus on the downtown section of the Village within proximity to the waterfront, as well as the eastern gateway commercial district. Staff attended digital meetings of the Village of Tupper Lake Waterfront Revitalization Planning committee on January 13, February 23, and March 24.

Staff is working with the Town of Chester and Loon Lake Park District Association to help facilitate public participation for a strategic plan for the Loon Lake Park District. Staff participated in a scoping meeting on February 26. The plan will seek to address quality of life and public access issues in the district. It is anticipated that public participation will be solicited through a digital survey and meeting.

Agency staff is assisting the Town of North Elba and Village of Lake Placid in a review and update of the communities' joint zoning code. In May 2020, the Town and Village developed a 10-person committee to review the existing codes and recommend changes needed to sustainably accommodate affordable housing and continued commercial development. Staff participated in weekly meetings of the committee throughout January, February, and March.

Community Engagement

On January 6, staff attended a NY Forward Loan seminar hosted by the Essex County Industrial Development Agency. The seminar focused on loan programs administered by the State and available to businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On February 16, staff attended a presentation by the Northern Forest Center regarding a privately-funded strategy to attract new residents to the Adirondack Park. The plan identifies ways Adirondack communities can position themselves to attract the next generation of residents.

On March 25, staff attended the winter digital meeting of the Common Ground Alliance. The theme of this shortened meeting was attracting new residents to the Adirondacks. The meeting included the results of a recent, privately-funded plan for residential recruitment and a presentation on the Northern Forest Center's work in attracting residents to Millinocket, Maine.

Small Communities Big Opportunities: Own a North Country Business Conference

Staff worked with the North Country Center for Businesses in Transition on the development of an entrepreneur and resident recruitment conference held from February 24 to 27. Over 180 people registered and attended sessions of the conference. Staff moderated a panel on residential relocation and job opportunities. Other topics covered at this digital conference included business acquisition financing, telework opportunities, and hiring/recruiting employees to the North Country.

Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP) Regional Recovery Plan

Staff is serving on a regional advisory workgroup to develop a Regional Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan for Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties. The LCLGRP received a \$400,000 CARES Act grant through the federal Economic Development Administration to address economic distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. LCLGRP has retained consultants to manage public outreach and write the plan. Members of the advisory workgroup represent the five counties covered in the plan and include representatives from the North Country Regional Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton County, the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism, the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, the Washington County IDA, and the Economic Development Corporation of Warren County.

North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC)

Staff continues to coordinate the work of the NCREDC's Innovation Workgroup. The workgroup is currently working to connect entrepreneurs to financing and developing strategies to recruit teleworkers in innovation sectors to the region. Staff attended digital events in support of this effort including Red Bear Angels investor meetings on January 29, March 16, and March 26. These events enable staff to learn about and meet entrepreneurs and businesses that may benefit from a North Country location.

Staff is also participating on a workgroup to establish innovation hubs in the Adirondacks and North Country, with an initial focus on St. Lawrence County. In the first phase of the project, the Center on Rural Innovation will evaluate strategic innovation resources in St. Lawrence County and the region beyond to determine potential gaps that can be filled by new innovation hubs.

Champlain Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee

On March 16, staff attended a video conference meeting of the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) Trust Governance Committee. Following the full Governance

Committee meeting, a subcommittee meeting was held regarding the process for revising the Trust's priority remediation projects list. The CHPE project will likely undergo a financial close in 2021, unlocking the first tranche of over \$117 million in environmental remediation funds to be distributed over the next 35 years.

North Country Center for Businesses in Transition

Staff continues to work with the North Country Center for Businesses in Transition (CBIT) in their ongoing work to help business owners exit out of their businesses by connecting them to either potential buyers or the resources to transition to employee ownership. Research performed by ANCA indicates that between 10,000 and 15,000 businesses in the North Country have owners who hope to retire and sell their businesses in the next five years. Staff participated in workgroup meetings related to entrepreneur recruitment, infrastructure development, and marketing.

Regulatory Programs Support

Economic Services staff supported the Regulatory Programs Division on projects including residential projects in Fulton, Franklin and Essex counties; infrastructure projects in Essex, Fulton, Herkimer, and Warren counties; entertainment facilities in Essex and Franklin counties, and hospitality projects in Fulton, Clinton, and Saratoga counties.

Staff also worked proactively with the Regulatory Programs division to coordinate alternative energy projects with both National Grid and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.