

2017 Economic Services Annual Report

The Economic Services Unit provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning to the Agency, State and local economic development organizations, and the region's business community. Staff assists project sponsors and economic developers in evaluating business locations and identifying other sources of assistance for business development. Staff also works with local governments and economic development entities in the development and implementation of sustainable economic growth strategies.

Project Permitting

During project review, Economic Services staff provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis as well as economic and fiscal impact analysis pursuant to the Agency's Section 809 mandate to take into account the potential benefits of a proposed project. Staff advised the Agency on the economic impacts on projects that were approved in 2017 including a ropes course in the Town of North Elba, Essex County, a motel in the Town of Elizabethtown, Essex County, and a "glamping" facility in Town of Ohio, Herkimer County. Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to a range of large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process such as a solar power generation facility in Essex County, a biotechnology facility in Franklin County, an outdoor attraction in Essex County, and a campground in St. Lawrence County.

Community Outreach

Staff provided support to local development initiatives by attending 69 public outreach, local and regional workgroup, and community development meetings spread throughout the Park. Among regional initiatives, staff attended meetings regarding the Common Ground Alliance, North Country Regional Economic Development Council, business recruitment, and broadband expansion. Staff also provided presentations to civic groups in the Town of Johnsbury, Warren County, Town of Chester, Warren County, Town of North Elba, Essex County, and Town of Lake George, Warren County as well as groups from Clarkson University, Paul Smith's College, and SUNY Plattsburgh.

Regional Council Support

In 2017, the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) representing the Adirondack Park, the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils, received a combined \$235.4 million in grant and loan funding through Governor Cuomo's REDC competition to pursue key economic development projects. Both the Capital Region and Mohawk Valley regions were identified as top performers and the North Country Regional Council was awarded nearly \$65 million. Some key projects in the Park that were awarded funding include an expansion of the redevelopment of the historic Moose Head Hotel in Old Forge, Herkimer County, a new microbrewery and hops farm in the Town of Chester, Warren County, wastewater treatment upgrades in Lake George, Warren County, a community-based trails and lodging system in Hamilton

County, and the redevelopment of a historic inn and restaurant in Saranac Lake, Franklin County. A total of 59 projects were funded in the Adirondack Park.

In 2017, Economic Services Unit staff assisted the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's Priority Project and Plan Implementation Committee in drafting the Council's 2017 Progress Report. Staff also served on the Council's Lodging Taskforce and Opportunity Agenda Workgroup. Economic staff is also a member of State Agency Resource Teams for the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils.

Economic Affairs Committee

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to highlight economic initiatives in the Park. In 2017, the Committee received presentations from Drew Cappabianca on his bicycle shop and restaurant in the community of Brant Lake, Town of Horicon as well as from Special Assistant, Economic Affairs Dan Kelleher on the Agency's Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance initiative and proposed Envision Adirondacks initiative.

Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative.

In 2017, the Agency finalized a Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance (HEPA) Initiative plan for the Town and Village of Lake George. Staff held two public outreach events in the community throughout the year and used an online survey to receive public input on the plan.

Additionally, in 2017, staff met with three municipalities about beginning the HEPA initiative. Through HEPA, the Agency seeks to build partnerships with local municipalities to help them achieve sustainable economic growth. The Agency works with communities to develop economic development plans for their commercial centers and then assists stakeholders in plan implementation.

State Land Planning Support

Economic Services staff supported the Planning Division in the development of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 2016/17 Classification Package for amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The project involves the classification and reclassification of more than 50,000 acres of State Lands in the Adirondack Park which include the Boreas Ponds Tract, 32 additional classification proposals, 11 reclassification proposals, and 56 classifications involving map corrections.