



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
Economic Affairs
May 12, 2017 Meeting
DFK:ap

**Economic Affairs Committee
May 12, 2017**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 10:10 a.m.

Economic Affairs Committee Members Present:

Dan Wilt, Chair, Dr. Chad Dawson, Bradley Austin, (ESD), Karyn Richards (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Sherman Craig, Chairman, Art Lussi, John Ernst, Lynn Mahoney (DOS), Karen Feldman, William Thomas

Local Government Review Board:

Gerald Delaney

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, James Townsend, Kevin Prickett, Kate-Lyn Knight, Matt McNamara, Keith McKeever, Kathy Regan, Rick Weber

Economic Affairs Report:

Mr. Kelleher began with an update on activities in the Economic Affairs Unit. He said the Agency is involved in different communities including the Towns of Webb, Crown Point, Chester, Lake George, and Schroon Lake on various economic planning initiatives.

Mr. Kelleher also highlighted an initiative to reach out to local stakeholder groups to ask them to serve as advocates for the Adirondacks and assist in attracting new economic activity to the region.

The Hub, Brant Lake (Drew Cappabianca)

Drew Cappabianca is the owner of The Hub, a café, bike shop, and bar that opened in Brant Lake in 2014. Mr. Cappabianca indicated that he opened the business because he wanted to be able to sell the experience of riding a bicycle (mountain and road) and because he wanted to spend more time in the Adirondacks. Mr. Cappabianca chose Brant Lake because of its location near US Interstate 87, the region's unrealized

potential, and the acceptance and support of the local community. He also said Brant Lake has many unique cycling route options including flat rides and big climbs.

Mr. Cappabianca also reported that the Hub has become a seasonal focal point of the community. The Hub offers live music, fair pricing, and an approachable menu that attracts a diversity of clientele to the restaurant. He believes the reason they have been successful is because they have a combination of different things to offer. He also said that his business does at least one charity bicycle ride a month.

Mr. Cappabianca reported that in the future they are looking to construct the Brant Bike Park. The park would consist of up to eight miles of mountain bike trails and would be free and open to the public. Mr. Cappabianca is also seeking to develop visitor accommodations in a nearby building.

Mr. Cappabianca highlighted the support from Town board members, as well as the community members. Mr. Cappabianca introduced Town of Horicon Town Supervisor Matt Simpson who remarked that the Hub has served as an important gathering place for the community.

Chairman Craig noted that the Board and Agency appreciate the entrepreneurship displayed by Mr. Cappabianca.

After a brief question and answer period, Mr. Cappabianca was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Chairman Craig, Ms. Martino, Mr. Wilt, and Mr. Kelleher.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Mr. Wilt adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.