



**SHERMAN CRAIG**  
Chairman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Terry Martino, Executive Director

**FROM:** Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

**DATE:** October 4, 2017

**RE:** Economic Services Unit Activities for July, August and September 2017

Unit activities were as follows:

### **Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative – Town and Village of Lake George**

Staff is finalizing the Lake George Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative economic development plan. The Town and Village are expected to adopt the plan at their November meetings. In the fall of 2016 staff assisted Town and Village staff in hosting public outreach meetings and facilitated several meetings of the communities' local stakeholder workgroup. Staff also distributed an online survey to gain wider public feedback and conducted an additional public outreach meeting on June 27 in Lake George. The public outreach led to the components of the economic development plan.

### **Town of Johnsbury Economic Development Assistance**

Staff is assisting the Town of Johnsbury Local Development Corporation (LDC) with business recruitment planning. Staff attended meetings on August 23 and September 27 in the Town and met with local officials. In September, staff provided the LDC with a draft marketing plan that can be used to attract new businesses to the community.

### **Waterfront Revitalization Strategy – Town of Schroon Lake**

On August 3 staff met with Town of Schroon Lake officials, business owners, and residents to discuss the Town's Waterfront Revitalization Strategy. The group is working to develop a plan to improve the economic conditions of the community and to increase connectivity with the waterfront. Staff will assist the Town in the development of its strategy, which will be finalized in October, 2017.

### **Public Outreach**

On July 11 staff attended the annual meeting of the Common Ground Alliance in Old Forge, Herkimer County. Staff participated in a stakeholder session about entrepreneurship. The session's goal was to identify strategies to support new business formation in the region.

### **Tri-Lakes Business Recruitment Meeting (May 9) (August 23)**

Economic Services staff is working with officials from the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST), the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), National Grid, local economic development organizations, and private businesses to explore the feasibility of pursuing a business recruitment strategy focused on the nine-municipalities in the Tri-Lakes region of the Adirondacks. Targeted towns and villages would include: North Elba, Wilmington, Harrietstown, Keene, St. Armand, and Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake and Lake Placid. The group is examining a strategy to market the region as a great place to live and do business through stakeholder outreach and social media. The group met at the Agency's offices on July 12 and August 24.

### **J&L Site Redevelopment**

On July 25, August 8, and September 26 staff participated in conference calls to discuss plans for the remediation and reuse of the J&L Steel property in the Town of Clifton. A workgroup of local economic development and government officials is pursuing site remediation, including the removal of existing buildings, infrastructure development, and reuse of the site. The workgroup has hired the firm Skeo Solutions to draft a redevelopment plan for the property.

The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), in collaboration with St. Lawrence County, is currently writing and facilitating grants to remove existing buildings that are structurally deficient and pose dangers to public health.

### **Champlain-Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee**

On September 28, staff attended a video conference meeting of the Champlain Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee. The Trust is responsible for managing \$117 million in Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project mitigation funds over the next 35 years. Based upon revised CHPE permitting timelines, it is not expected that the funds will begin to be dispersed until June 2018.

### **EatADK Restaurant Week**

Staff is assisting a workgroup in the development of the second annual EatADK Restaurant Week. This year, the event will feature restaurants from five towns: Wilmington, Keene, North Elba, Harrietstown and St. Armand. The event will be held in late April, 2018 and is targeted toward local and regional consumers to introduce them to new restaurants through discounted prix fixe meals. The overall goal is to stimulate additional economic activity in a traditionally "slow" period for local restaurants.

**New York State Leadership Institute**

Staff is participating in the 2017 New York State Leadership Institute, a leadership development program administered by the Governor's Office of Employee Relations and Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. The NYS Leadership Institute is designed to increase the leadership effectiveness of participants by providing tools and strategies to successfully meet complex challenges in NYS government. Staff attended the third and fourth sessions of the program on July 18 and 19 and September 18 and 19 respectively.

**Regulatory Programs Support**

Economic Services staff is supporting the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including a subdivision in Essex County, a biotech project in Franklin County, a recreational facility in Essex County, a tourism accommodations project in St. Lawrence County, a tourism accommodations project in Warren County, and a marina project in Franklin County.

**North Country Regional Economic Development Council**

Staff has been assisting the NCREDC by serving on the Council's Priority Project and Plan Implementation Committee (P3IC), Tourism Accommodations Workgroup, and Opportunity Agenda Committee. Staff assisted the Council in drafting its 2017 strategic plan update which will be submitted to the Governor in October. Staff attended committee meetings throughout July and August.

**State Lands Support**

Economic Services staff is supporting the State Lands Unit in its development of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the classification of newly acquired State lands.