



KAREN FELDMAN
Acting Chair

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: November 1, 2018

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for September and October 2018

Town of Crown Point – Comprehensive Plan

Staff is assisting the Town of Crown Point and a local leadership committee on the development of the Town's first comprehensive plan. Staff has been conferring with local leaders on the necessary components of a comprehensive plan. Agency staff, with assistance from NYS Department of State Local Government Training staff, will continue to advise the Town committee on the completion of this document.

Town of Johnsbury - Economic Development Assistance

Staff is assisting the Town of Johnsbury Local Development Corporation (LDC) with business recruitment and economic development planning. Staff attended an LDC meeting on September 26. In September 2017, staff provided the LDC with a draft marketing plan that can be used to attract new businesses to the community. Staff also worked with the Town on community visioning through the Agency's Envision Adirondacks Initiative.

Town of Chester - Economic Planning Assistance

October 22, Economic Services staff attended two economic development subcommittee meetings, facilitated by the North Warren Chamber of Commerce. The Town is seeking projects related to community beautification, including façade improvements, as well as new business development. At the invitation of Town of Chester Supervisor, staff has been involved in economic development planning in the town since May 2017.

Opportunity Zones - Town of Johnsbury On October 24, staff attended the Upstate Capital Association's Impact Investing in Place conference in Hyde Park, NY. The conference discussed strategies in attracting investment to communities as well as provided an overview of the new Opportunity Zones program enabled in the 2017 Federal tax bill. The Town of Johnsbury in Warren County was identified as an opportunity zone through this regulation. Opportunity Zones are economically-distressed communities where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment of capital gains. Localities qualify as Opportunity

Zones if they have been nominated for that designation by the State and certified by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury.

Public Outreach

On September 21, staff attended the Adirondack North Country Association meeting in Saranac Lake, NY. At this year's meeting the results of an "in-depth analysis of the region's economy," performed by the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, was presented.

On October 4 staff spoke at the Southern Adirondack Zoning Conference in Lake George, Warren County. Staff spoke about the opportunity to present the Adirondack Park as a vibrant place to live, work and do business. About 50 local officials were in attendance.

On October 5 staff attended the grand opening of six new cuisine trails in the Adirondack region. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Department of Transportation and members of the Adirondack Cuisine Trail Association launched the newly designated Cuisine Trails to showcase 85 businesses from three counties to boost the state's growing agritourism industry and spotlight the region's unique farms, food and beverage businesses.

Staff has begun a targeted campaign of stakeholder outreach and will be meeting with leaders from chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations, and local government throughout November and December. On October 23 staff met with the Village of Saranac Lake Community Development Officer and the President of the Franklin County IDA. On October 24 staff met with the leadership of the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) Ignite Funding Portal

Staff is working with ANCA on the implementation of a small business funding portal, named Ignite, that can be used by local businesses to crowdsource funding for capital projects. Several of the portal's projects have been funded since the project's launch in February. ANCA will market the portal to local businesses and community members to encourage investment in local Adirondack and North Country businesses.

Champlain-Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee

On September 27, 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 the first quarter of 2020.

North Country Regional Economic Development Council

Staff attended the North Country Regional Economic Development Council meeting on September 20 in Potsdam, St. Lawrence County. Staff assisted the Council in drafting its 2018 strategic plan update which was submitted to the Governor in October.

Regulatory Programs Support

Economic Services staff supported the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including subdivisions in Oneida and Fulton Counties, a tourism project in Essex County, and a mining project in Washington County.