



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: September 5, 2019

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for June, July and August 2019

Village of Northville Waterfront Revitalization Strategy

On July 15 and August 26, staff participated in the Village of Northville Waterfront Revitalization planning meetings. The Village received a grant from New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) in 2019 to devise a revitalization strategy. Staff has been invited to assist the community as it develops its plan. The Village of Northville and Town of Northampton participated in the Agency's Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance program in 2014. Through this project, both the Town and Village developed and adopted a plan for economic development in the communities. The Village is now seeking to use the NYS DOS Waterfront Revitalization Program to refine the plan for its waterfront and to open a new funding stream for Village projects.

Town of Johnsbury - Economic Development Assistance

Staff is assisting the Town of Johnsbury Local Development Corporation (LDC) with business recruitment, hospitality asset development, and economic development planning. Staff attended LDC meetings on June 19 and July 31. Staff continues to work with the local government to attract new hotel investment as part of the Federal Opportunity Zone Program and will work with the LDC throughout 2019 to develop and implement a strategic plan for the organization.

Innovation Promotion

Staff is collaborating with the Upstate Capital Association of New York and Point Positive, Inc. to bring an angel investing and access-to-capital symposium to Lake Placid. The symposium will introduce potential investors to opportunities in the North Country and promote the region as a great place to do business. The event is scheduled for September 12 at the Hotel Saranac in downtown Saranac Lake, Franklin County.

On June 21, staff attended a collaborative Point Positive, Inc. and Clarkson University Hot Spot event in Tupper Lake. The event worked to connect aspiring entrepreneurs with advisement from local economic development leaders and potential investors. Staff served as a mentor for several technology-related entrepreneurs.

On July 16, staff attended a meeting of the Adirondack Angels investing group. The event was held at Lake Placid High School and consisted of a “pitch” by the school’s robotics team. Staff served as a “jurist” for the pitch.

Stakeholder Outreach

On June 19, Staff met with Beth Gilles, Executive Director of the Lake George Lake Champlain Regional Planning Board (LGLCRPB) in Lake George, Warren County. The discussions centered on collaboration to improve the economic environment of local communities. The LGLCRPB provides technical economic development and planning assistance to communities in Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, and Washington Counties.

On July 2, staff met with Town of St. Armand Supervisor Davina Winemiller to discuss regional economic development success stories, programs offered by the Agency, and regional trends. Supervisor Winemiller is interested in Hamlet expansion to facilitate the redevelopment of the Town’s wastewater treatment facility, an expansion of the Town’s cemetery, and the reestablishment of a general store in the community. Staff will seek to help the Town to achieve its goals.

On July 23, staff attended a meeting with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) to discuss housing issues in the Adirondack region. Other attendees included the Housing Assistance Program of Essex County, the Adirondack Foundation, and the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism. The group is working to identify strategies for equitable growth in the region.

On July 24, staff attended the Common Ground Alliance forum in Lake Placid. Staff participated on the Cellular and Broadband Infrastructure workgroup. The group identified the need for incentives to encourage private infrastructure deployment in underserved communities.

On August 12, staff met with Professor Emmanuel Carter of SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) to discuss potential research projects in the Park. Dr. Carter is exploring topics related to sustainable commerce park design and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve programs.

North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC)

Staff is serving as a member of the NCREDC’s Writing and Innovation Workgroups. Over the past five years, staff has assisted the NCREDC by serving on several committees including the Tourism Committee and the Priority Project Planning and Implementation Committee. This year, after a realignment of NCREDC committees, staff has been asked to serve on two of the Council’s five workgroups. Throughout June, July, and August staff has been attending bi-weekly conference calls with the Council’s Co-Chairs and has been coordinating the work of the Innovation Workgroup.

Staff attended an NCREDC meeting on June 26 and attended Writing Workgroup meetings in Canton on August 6 and 13.

North Country Lodging Task Force

Staff is serving as a member of the North Country Lodging Task Force. The Task Force is seeking to attract new, diverse hospitality development to underserved markets in the Region. The Task Force is developing pitch decks to present to identified hospitality developers. Staff participated in a meeting of the Task Force on June 11 in Tupper Lake.

2019 Adirondack Park Smart Growth Grants

Staff is assisting the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on the review of the 2019 Adirondack Park Smart Growth Grant applications. Staff from DEC, NYS Department of State, and the Agency are reviewing over 30 applications for about \$1 million in available funding. Awards are anticipated to be announced in Fall, 2019.

Champlain-Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee

On July 25, 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 fourth quarter of 2021.

J&L Site Redevelopment

On July 30 staff participated in conference calls to discuss plans for the remediation and reuse of the J&L Steel property in the Town of Clifton. Additionally, on August 27 staff attended a meeting in Star Lake to discuss signage and public awareness of the efforts to remediate and revitalize the J&L site.

Regulatory Programs Support

Economic Services staff supported the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including a hospitality project in Saratoga County, a food processing facility in Clinton County, broadband projects throughout the Park, energy projects in Essex County, and a hospitality project in Warren County.