

**Minutes**  
**Economic Development and Strategic Planning Committee**  
**January 24, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM

Present: Fred Morrill, Chair, Sam Burns, Ray Fountain, Jason Clark, Karen St. Hillaire, Brad Mintner, Chris Coffin, Ernie LaBaff, Ron Frank, Wade Davis, Tim Richards, Tim Redman, Mark Bellardini

Fred and Sam discussed the mission and goals of the committee. Fred said that one goal is helping the many agencies that work on economic development to be aware of others' projects and to work together. Another would be to provide the County IDA will political help.

Ray Fountain explained the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan which his department has prepared. Fountain said he will distribute a copy of the Plan to the members of this committee.

The committee discussed the proposal from BION. Karen St. Hillaire reviewed the project. Ernie LaBaff said that the IDA will hear a presentation from the principals of BION on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM at the Best Western in Canton. Members of this committee decided to attend the meeting as observers.

The committee discussed air service in the County. Wade Davis said that the federal contract to subsidize airline service will be re-bid.

The committee discussed the four-lane highway project. Ernie LaBaff said that money is still being directed to study the project. He said that progress has slowed since DANC took over leadership. Karen St. Hillaire reported that an alternative project, a Capitol Corridor, is gaining attention. It would emphasize crossings at the T. I. Bridge and use of Route 81 to get from Ottawa to Washington, D. C.. LaBaff said that emphasizing that route would probably kill a limited access highway through St. Lawrence County.

The committee discussed a new position which has been created in the Economic Development Department. It is aimed at building better contacts with existing businesses in the County.

Fred Morrill discussed a new County fund dedicated to cleaning up polluted sites. The consensus of the committee was that the sites should be selected with attention to their potential for economic development. The J & L property in Star Lake is an example where clean up would help open development.

The committee discussed a proposal that has surfaced in the NYS Assembly to require a permit to have a muzzle loading rifle. Fred Morrill said such a requirement might interfere with out-of-state reenactors who come to events in NY State, such as Founders

Day at Ogdensburg. Many reenactors use muzzle loading rifles. Ernie LaBaff said calling for permits for muzzle loaders doesn't make sense to him, especially since there's no call to permit rifles or shot guns. Chris Coffin proposed a resolution asking the County Legislature to take a stand against state permits for muzzle loading rifles. Brad Mintner and Mark Bellardini seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with no opposition.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>. The regular schedule will be every second month on the fourth Thursday at 6 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.