

Economic Development Strategic Planning Committee

April 22, 2009

Draft Minutes

Members in Attendance: Chair S. Burns; W. Davis; T. Richards; M. Bellardini; R. Fountain; J. Clark; R. Frank.

Meeting started at 6:05 P.M.

Co-Chair Burns informed the committee that due to additional assignments, Co-Chair Fred Morrill would no longer be able to devote the time necessary to continue on this committee. Legislator Morrill announced his intentions at the last Operations Committee meeting he chaired. After a brief discussion, member M. Bellardini made a motion seconded by J. Clark that a letter be sent to the BOL Chair G. Paquin thanking Fred Morrill for serving on this committee and his contributions to economic development in St. Lawrence County.

A presentation was given by members of the Canton Cycling Club, Brian Gardam, Toby Irvan and Will Joyce. Club members provided a handout and a PowerPoint presentation regarding Tourism thru Cycling. Some of the highlights of their presentation included:

- 1. Bike racks on Commuter buses in St. Lawrence County.*
- 2. Provide a link with county website to show bike routes.*
- 3. Bicycle Master Plan- Prof. Glen Harris at St. Lawrence University working with student interns.*
- 4. County-wide support for county-wide uniformity on bike trails.*
- 5. A ten foot wide trail costs approximately \$300 per foot.*
- 6. Discussion on the NYS Route 3 designation as a bike trail from Sackets Harbor to Plattsburgh.*

Agenda Item #2- Update and Discussion on 4-Lane Highway:

J. Clark gave a short update on the status of the Northern Corridor Transportation Group's drive to collect supporting resolutions from municipalities and groups around the 3 county area. To date, he has received 54 resolutions. The Governance Board of that group has a meeting scheduled with J. Wright, Exec. Director of DANC.

Agenda Item #3- Update and Discussion on Tribal Compact Funds:

R. Fountain explained to the group that \$226,000 additional money was found by the State to be due to St. Lawrence County. R. Frank led a discussion on the former J&L site and possible development if funds could be obtained to be loaned and if DEC would change their regulations regarding using nonpolluting sections of the site for development and not cleaning up the entire site before any development can occur. The committee felt that they should continue to offer suggestions to the full BOL regarding the best use of Compact Funds.

Agenda Item #4- Update & Discussion on Empire Zones:

Chair Burns distributed a resolution that he has prepared for the following Monday's Finance Committee. All members felt that efforts should continue to persuade the State of New York to keep the existing Zone Program and grant zone benefits to Curran's because of the timeliness of their application, 2 years ago.

Agenda Item #5- NYPA Power Allocation:

Chair Burns started the discussion on the lack of information on the amount of power generated and who receives that allocation from the Massena project. R. Fountain stated that as a rule of thumb, the PANY uses the scale of each MW of power to the creation of 15-20 jobs. M. Bellardini reminded the group of the handout that R. Fountain gave us a few months ago regarding the 10 most important factors regarding why a firm locates somewhere and the fact that proximity to 4 lane highways ranked first and why it is so important to push for the construction of the 4-lane highway through St. Lawrence County.

Agenda Item #6- Open Discussion:

Chair Burns provided a handout on the original purpose of this committee. A short discussion on the Economic Development section of the County's Public Policy Guide was held. In addition, R. Fountain explained the status of the County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan and that it was close to coming back to this committee. Another short discussion ensued about the desire to continue to approach the steel mill company to consider St. Lawrence County as a possible site for future development.

Next meeting date is May 27th and Chair Burns will invite representatives from Senator Aubertine's office to discuss the Upstate Development Fund.

Chair Burns adjourned the meeting at 8:35 P.M.