

North Country Regional Economic Development Council
Friday, June 6, 2014 at 11:00am
High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid

Public Session

Present: Garry Douglas, Tony Collins, Cali Brooks, Jim Calnon, Randy Douglas, John Ettling, Bill Farber, Kate Fish, Paul Grasso, Bridget-Ann Hart, Hugh Hill, Billy Jones, Betty Little, Cheryl Mayforth, Jim McKenna, Anne Merrill, Addie Russell, Michael Tabolt, Mark Tryniski, Donna Wadsworth, Dan Wilt

Also Present: Karen St. Hilaire for Jon Putney

Absent: Carl McLaughlin, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Jim Wright, Jeffery Graham, John Donoghue, Ken Blankenbush, Bill Murray, Marie Regan, Patty Ritchie, David Tomberlin, Janet Duprey, Lisa Weber

Garry Douglas began the public meeting at 1:25pm.

Garry Douglas provided the public with a synopsis of the closed meeting.

Garry Douglas called for public comments.

Randy Douglas provided an update on the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program. In the North Country, there is a joint committee from the Towns of Jay and Keene. The committee is seeking ways to establish preparedness for future natural disasters as well as develop infrastructure that mitigates the impacts from them.

Melissa McManus provided a brief update on the Waterfront revitalization projects in Franklin and Clinton Counties. They have secured over \$1.5 million that is funding projects such as the Clinton County Waterfront Trail, the Saranac River Trail Greenway, and the City of Plattsburgh's beach redevelopment. Technical assistance has also been provided to Rouses Point's visitor's center, the Town of Peru's Little Ausable River trail, and other projects as well.

Sue Hafter, Town of Malone, discussed Malone's goals of a mid-village park on the river in the Town's downtown. The park would be on the site of a dilapidated building that is to be removed.

Gregory Martin and John Cooper, Village and Town of Champlain. Their combined wastewater and water project is still behind schedule but moving forward. Matthew Cooper, Bernier Carr & Associates, said we have commitments from companies to locate here if we get water.

Naj Wikoff, Lake Placid Ski Jumps: I am asking for your help at National Sports Academy. Forty-five people work there and it is a training center for Olympic Athletes. Coaches and athletes are leaving due to decrepit training facilities. The ski jumps need reinvestment. The jumps need to be year-round, an additional intermediate level jump, and fixed in-runs.

Roger Friedman, Town of Schroon: The Town of Schroon is seeking funding for a comprehensive plan. Economic improvement in our town positively impacts the neighboring towns.

Robert Hest: Two structures in the heart of the Village of Malone are ripe for redevelopment: Flanagan Hotel and another old building. We have a project to restore both buildings. Tenants will include North Country Community College, SUNY Potsdam may have some space in the building, and the hotel will be restored into a 55 room, full-service hotel.

Bill Grinnell, Supervisor, Town of Ticonderoga: Ticonderoga needs a 12-inch water main serving 33 homes. The main has suffered many breaks because of acidic soils. When people in this area don't have water, they are without fire protection.

Garrett Dague, Essex County Planning: We are planning to submit a CFA for the Towns of Crown Point and Ticonderoga, Schroon Lake, Wilmington, and Newcomb. Town non-profits are also involved. Some projects include a waterfront pier landscaping project in Port Henry, a recreation trail in Ticonderoga, Schroon would like a LWRP, a waterfront access facility in Newcomb, and a hamlet expansion plan for the town of Wilmington.

Amy Catania, Historic Saranac Lake: We are submitting an application to fund a staffer to help visitors to Saranac Lake learn about Saranac Lake history. This will build upon the new hotel in Downtown Saranac Lake.

Paul Maroun, Mayor, Village of Tupper Lake: The Village is moving ahead with its biomass heating project. We need help getting our pipes in the ground. We have two companies looking to move into Tupper Lake if the project moves forward. Also, the Adirondack Club and Resort Project is moving along and will be ruled on in several days. The project needs sewer, fiber optic, and water to the project.

It was noted that the Common Ground Alliance meeting will take place on July 16th in Long Lake.

The next NCREDC meeting will be on August 1st, 2014 at SUNY Canton.

Garry Douglas concluded the meeting at 2:42pm.