

North Country Regional Economic Development Council
ORDA, Lake Placid
Thursday, July 9, 2015

Present: Tony Collins, Garry Douglas, Cali Brooks, Jim Calnon, John Donoghue, Cathy Dove, John Ettling, Bill Farber, Kate Fish, Joe Giroux, Paul Grasso, Bridget Hart, Hugh Hill, Billy Jones, Joe Lightfoot, Betty Little, Cheryl Mayforth, Carl McLaughlin, Anne Merrill, Addie Russell, Dan Stec, Zvi Szafran, Michael Tabolt, Mark Tryniski, Donna Wadsworth

Also Present: Reg Carter for Bill Murray, Amy Greenstein, Leslie Whatley

Absent: Ken Blankenbush, Janet Duprey, Sam Dyer, Bill Ferebee, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Jeff Graham, Joseph Griffo, Bob Lenney, Jim McKenna, Bill Murray, Marie Regan, Patty Ritchie, David Tomberlin, Dan Wilt, Lisa Weber, Jim Wright

Public Session

Tony Collins opened the public session at 1:12pm.

Tony Collins provided an overview of the closed session. We heard from the three leadership groups helping to develop the URI submission. The groups have strategies and projects ready to go.

We heard from Leslie Whatley on the Start Up NY program and she noted that of the companies that are participating, there is a diversity of startups, existing companies, and international companies.

We heard from Amy Greenstein on Business Mentor NY where business owners can access advice from NY experts anywhere in the state.

We were given an update on the North Country Direct Homeownership Assistance Program by Keith Zimmerman.

We heard from Carl McLaughlin that Fort Drum will only lose 28 jobs in the sequester cuts.

Three motions were passed: (1) Supporting the finalization and enactment of a multi-year MTA capital plan; (2) giving thanks to the soldiers that have been part of the North Country community and expressing ongoing commitments to support Fort Drum; and (3) thanking Betty Little and Janet Duprey and urging Governor Cuomo to sign the bed tax bill for Franklin County.

The meeting then opened to public comment.

Melissa McManus provided an update on Tupper Lake highlighting the Wild Center's Wild Walk and Greg Norman's investment in the Adirondack Club and Resort Project. She highlighted several initiatives underway in Tupper Lake and asked for support from the Council.

Tony Collins closed the meeting at 1:34pm.