

2016 Economic Services

The Economic Services Unit provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning to the Agency, State and local economic development organizations, and the region's business community. Staff assists project sponsors and economic developers in evaluating business locations and identifying other sources of help for business development. Staff also works with local governments and economic development entities in the development and implementation of sustainable economic growth strategies.

Project Permitting

During project review, Economic Services staff provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis as well as economic and fiscal impact analysis pursuant to the Agency's Section 809 mandate to take into account the potential benefits of a proposed project. Staff advised the Agency on the economic impacts on four projects that were approved in 2016 including a biomass facility at the State office complex in Ray Brook, Essex County, a visitor center in the Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County, and a variance for a restaurant deck and patio in Lake Placid, Essex County. Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to a range of large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process. The below table provides the number of approved permits, total number of pre-applications, and the number of variances Economic Services staff were involved with in 2016:

Project Type	Regulatory Programs Support				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Pre-Application Meetings	6	4	6	6	8
Permits	4	11	7	11	11
Variances	1	0	0	0	4

Community Outreach

Staff provided support to local development initiatives by attending 71 public outreach, local and regional workgroup, and community development meetings spread throughout the region. Among Park-wide initiatives, staff attended meetings regarding the Common Ground Alliance, the Adirondack Park Business Recruitment Workgroup, agriculture development, and broadband expansion. Staff also provided presentations to civic groups in North Creek, Warren County, Old Forge, Herkimer County and Crown Point, Essex County as well as to educational groups from Clarkson University, Stockton College, and Green Mountain College.

Regional Council Support

In 2016, the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) representing the Adirondack Park: the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils, received a combined \$236 million in grant and loan funding through Governor Cuomo's REDC competition to pursue key economic development projects. Both the Capital

Region and Mohawk Valley regions were identified as top performers and the North Country Regional Council was awarded over \$61 million. Some key projects in the Park that were awarded funding include an expansion of the Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company in Thendara, Herkimer County, an Adirondack Craft Beverage Campus and Incubator in Lake George, Warren County, streetscape improvements in North Creek, Warren County, an expansion of the Woods Inn in Inlet, Hamilton County, and the development of a new hotel in Tupper Lake, Franklin County. A total of 42 projects were funded in the Adirondack Park.

In 2016, Economic Services Unit staff assisted the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's Priority Project and Plan Implementation Committee in drafting the Council's 2016 Progress Report. Economic staff is also a member of State Agency Resource Teams for the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils.

State Land Planning Support

Economic Services staff supported the Planning Division in the development of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 2016/17 Classification Package for amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The project involves the classification and reclassification of 54,418 acres of State Lands in the Adirondack Park which include the Boreas Ponds Tract, 32 additional classification proposals, 13 reclassification proposals, and 56 classifications involving map corrections. Staff attended two public hearings in 2016 and is advising staff on the economic impacts of various classification scenarios.

Economic Affairs Committee

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to highlight economic initiatives in the Park. In 2016, the Committee received presentations from Chris Maron on Champlain Area Trails' (CATS) work to develop and maintain multiuse trails in the Champlain Valley, Carol Calabrese and Jody Olcott on a Park-wide effort to attract and grow businesses in the region and from Dan Kelleher on retail development and recruitment.

Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative

In 2016, the Agency began a Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance (HEPA) Initiative plan for the Town and Village of Lake George. Staff held two public outreach events in the community throughout the year and used an online survey to receive public input on the plan. The plan is expected to be complete in 2017.

Additionally in 2016, staff met with four municipalities about beginning the HEPA initiative. It is anticipated that some of these communities will participate in the full process in 2017. Through HEPA, the Agency seeks to build partnerships with local municipalities to help them achieve sustainable economic growth. The Agency works with communities to develop economic development plans for their commercial centers and then assists stakeholders in plan implementation.