ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Monday, May 11, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Matthew Stanley, Chairperson
Kenneth Hughes, Vice-Chairperson

Chairman Stanley called this Economic Development/Planning/Publicity Meeting to order at 10:25 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Timothy Follos, Kenneth Hughes, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Steve McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Cathleen Reusser, Matthew Stanley, Davina Thurston, Ike Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson, and Margaret Wood. Matt Brassard, Chris Clark, and Richard Preston were previously excused.

Department Heads present: Mike Mascarenas and Anna Reynolds.

Deputy present: Dina Garvey

Also Present: Mary Jane Lawrence - ROOST, Elizabeth Lee - Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Caitlyn Wargo - Adirondack Roots. Carol Calabrese & Jody Olcott - IDA, Dan Kelleher - ROOST, Aurora McCaffrey - Essex County Historian and Nicole Justice-Green - Essex County Land Bank had been previously excused.

STANLEY: Good morning, everyone. It is 10:25 and we're going to call the Economic Development/Planning/Publicity Committee to order. We're going to go a little bit out of order today since we're running late and Ms. Wargo has an appointment at 11:00, so we're going to start with Adirondack Roots.

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The first item was Adirondack Roots with Caitlyn Wargo reporting as follows:

WARGO: Hi everybody, great to see you, thank you for adjusting the schedule. So, a report is attached and I am happy to answer questions.

STANLEY: Any questions for Ms. Wargo?

WARGO: And in the event that there are none, the one thing that I want to bring to your attention is and I hesitate to say this out loud but it's pretty exciting. Our final closing for the four homes in Keene is scheduled for June 1, Supervisor Wilson is aware and you soon will be receiving, I thought we would have it by now in your email, an invitation to a ribbon cutting of the completion of the neighborhood. That's going to be June 4 at 5:00 PM. That accommodates the Little Peaks Preschool, so we're not, we share a drive with them, so that way the families aren't inconvenienced, but we're looking forward to celebrating that achievement for the Town of Keene and thanking all of those who made it possible. That week is a NeighborWorks week and we are

a NeighborWorks Charter organization and so they support us in our work. They support us with professional development in Shared Equity Housing. These homes, three of them are in and the last one will go into the Adirondack Community Trust for perpetual affordability and so I just wanted to share that with you all before I head out.

MASCARENAS: That's great

STANLEY: Thank you very much.

WILSON: Thank you to Adirondack Roots and thank you for all the work that you have put into that project.

WARGO: I appreciate it. One thing to note is there are two schoolteachers, a school resource person and then someone who works at a local restaurant who are able to live in that community now and that's a beautiful thing.

STANLEY: Thank you very much. Any other questions? Alright, you're excused, thank you very much.

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The first item on the agenda was the Industrial Development Committee with Carol Calabrese and Jody Olcott having been previously excused and no additional report was given.

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The next item on the agenda was Community Resources with Anna Reynolds reporting as follows:

REYNOLDS: Good morning, we have 4 referrals today. The first is the Town of Essex, their adoption of the Updated Comprehensive Plan. Congratulations Ken, I know it's been a couple of years, great efforts. Jessica from my office has been involved with the administrative process. The comments that I have are positive. The Plan outlines initiatives and programs for partnerships with Essex County and that can be the comment letter submitted.

STANLEY: Can I have a motion? Mr. Wilson, second Mr. Tyler.

ACTION OF THE ESSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
ON REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM THE TOWN OF ESSEX

The following motion was made by Supervisor Wilson.

Whereas, the Essex County Planning Board has considered the following GML 239

referrals at its regular meeting on May 11, 2026.

REFERRAL	PROPOSED ACTION
Town of Essex	**Adoption of Comprehensive Plan**

And whereas, none of the referred, proposed actions directly impacts a county road or county property.

Be It Adopted by the Essex County Planning Board that no recommendation or comment on said referral shall be or hereby is made, and the respective referring bodies may take such final action as they deem appropriate.

This motion was seconded by Supervisor Tyler and passed on a vote of 8 in favor, 1 excused and none opposed.

STANLEY: Any discussion?

FOLLOS: I assume that Plan is available on your Town website?

HUGHES: Yes, sir.

STANLEY: Any other discussion? Being none all those in favor signify by saying aye? Any opposed? Motion carries.

REYNOLDS: On the second is the Town of Ticonderoga's battery energy storage system (BESS), it's a moratorium. So, this moratorium will allow the Town to provide enough time to update their local zoning code and land use code. So, my comment is that this will, this is a positive endeavor so that they can update their code adequately.

STANLEY: Would you like to do the other Ti one at the same time?

REYNOLDS: Sure, Iannuzzi, it's a residential, single family home. The property itself is divided between two different counties. It's an addition to their home. There are no countywide impacts for that project.

STANLEY: Can I have a motion for the resolution for Ticonderoga? Ms. Reusser, second by Mr. Tyler.

ACTION OF THE ESSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
ON REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM THE TOWN OF TICONDEROGA

The following motion was made by Supervisor Reusser.

Whereas, the Essex County Planning Board has considered the following GML 239 referrals at its regular meeting on May 11, 2026.

REFERRAL	PROPOSED ACTION

Town of Ticonderoga BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) Moratorium

Town of Ticonderoga
Iannuzzi, 102 Tioga Beach Ln Site Plan Review

And whereas, none of the referred, proposed actions directly impacts a county road or county property.

Be It Adopted by the Essex County Planning Board that no recommendation or comment on said referral shall be or hereby is made, and the respective referring bodies may take such final action as they deem appropriate.

This motion was seconded by Supervisor Tyler and passed on a vote of 8 in favor, 1 excused and none opposed.

STANLEY: Any discussion?

TYLER: I assume that the Ti Board approved this?

O'BRYAN: We did

HUGHES: What is the timeline of the moratorium? Is it a 6-month, is it a year?

REYNOLDS: It's 6 months.

O'BRYAN: It's 6 months to start and we can, after 6 months we can raise it to a year. We can then raise it to 18 months and that's the maximum of time for us to do the investigation work.

HUGHES: Good luck with that research.

O'BRYAN: Thanks, I will tell you, this is coming on Willsboro's coming into it, we're into it. We were with the APA last week, some of us and we saw the discussion there of the feelings that are involved. There's a lot of this that's going on with this in the County, so be prepared for it, stay on top and I know that Mr. Menser is already looking at stuff in his town.

REUSSER: Wednesday night at the Adirondack Planning Forum, I don't recall the woman's name, but Chairman McNally just mentioned someone from NYSERDA coming to make a presentation. That is the bulk of her presentation.

O'BRYAN: If you would like a copy of that I have it in my research manual, right here. I have a copy of NYSERDA's brochure that she'll be talking about.

FOLLOS: If a town wanted to adopt one of these moratoriums, from start to the time it's actually place, what is the estimated timeframe? Is that 3 months probably?

THURSTON: It's a local law, so you introduce by resolution at a Board meeting and then 30-days later you hold a public hearing and then you can adopt it at a special board meeting or the next

monthly regular board meeting, just make sure that you have a full 30-days between the date you introduce it via resolution, 30-days later is the minimum amount for the public hearing and you have to make sure that public hearing notice is, I think it's between 10-5 days is the paper prior to. So, it's all in your town law manual, how to adopt it. So, it's actually quite fast.

STANLEY: Any other discussion about this resolution?

O'BRYAN: We will have our hearing, Thursday evening 6:00 is our normal Board meeting, right behind that we will have our regular board meeting and then in that board meeting we will vote whether they accept it or deny it.

STANLEY: Great, any other discussion on this topic?

MENSER: Crown Point is doing the same thing. We did a resolution at our last month's meeting, we set the date for the 14th of May at 5:30 for a public hearing, right after that at 6:00 we'll hold our regular town board meeting and pass the law.

STANLEY: Great, any other discussion?

HUGHES: It should be noted that it is not officially a law until the Secretary of State sends you back your letter letting you know that it's been recorded at their level.

FOLLOS: Thank you

STANLEY: Perfect, any other discussion? Being none, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Anybody opposed? Motion carries.

REYNOLDS: Last but not least, the Town of Newcomb. It's site plan review, it's on Route 28N. It's an existing commercial property and they're adding a taproom and cider house to their property. It's the Cloud Spinner Lodge, there are no intermunicipal or countywide impacts to that project.

STANLEY: Can I have a motion? Ms. Reusser. A second? Mr. Hughes

ACTION OF THE ESSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
ON REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM THE TOWN NEWCOMB

The following motion was made by Supervisor Reusser.

Whereas, the Essex County Planning Board has considered the following GML 239 referrals at its regular meeting on May 11, 2026.

REFERRAL	**PROPOSED ACTION**
Town of Newcomb - 5302 State Route 28N	**Site Plan Review**

And whereas, none of the referred, proposed actions directly impacts a county road

or county property.

Be It Adopted by the Essex County Planning Board that no recommendation or comment on said referral shall be or hereby is made, and the respective referring bodies may take such final action as they deem appropriate.

This motion was seconded by Supervisor Hughes and passed on a vote of 8 in favor, 1 excused and none opposed.

STANLEY: Any discussion? Being none, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Anybody opposed? Motion carries

REYNOLDS: That is all unless there are other questions?

STANLEY: Any questions for Ms. Reynolds? Alright, you are excused.

MASCARENAS: Thank you Anna.

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The next item on the agenda was the Essex County Historian, with Aurora McCaffrey having been previously excused and no additional report given.

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The next item on the agenda was Cornell Cooperative Extension, with Elizabeth Lee reporting as follows:

LEE: Good morning, I did submit a report if anyone has any questions?

STANLEY: Does anyone have any questions for Ms. Lee?

LEE: Hearing none, I will just point out a couple of things on the report. There's a lot of nice details in there, a lot of great things happening at Extension. One of which is that we have moved into our new building, which is thrilling, it's amazing. We have still a lot of unpacking to do but we are getting a lot done and see a lot of promise for expanding what we do.
And some of the things that you should note about our work is that the Ag District has been, the Open Enrollment Period that was changed, is open right now and closes on May 30 for any of you that have farmers in our town that want to be included into the Ag District.
Another program that is wrapping up very soon is our Youth Welding Program. The 4H Welding Program has been really, really great and I just want to thank DPW for letting us host that at the DPW facilities and we were told by the instructor, who is a volunteer, a 4H volunteer that the students who have been in that program could earn $20/hour for the kind of welds that they know how to do know. So, we will be urging them on and we're hoping that next year we will be able to

offer multiple levels. So, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 down the road.
Another great highlight for the past couple of weeks has been, we had almost 20 seniors show up for a Bird Banning Program. The Senior Wellness Program hosted a walk at the Crown Point State Historic Site to the bird banning site. These are really important transitions for seniors who have been things indoors to try and now get them to take advantage of the amazing outdoor things across the County and we will continue to do that and you will hear a little bit more about it later, I think, from Krissy, but we are also really thankful for a new contract to expand to do more food and nutrition, integrating it into our Senior Movement Classes. It gives seniors who are home a lot of hope and excitement about the summer and just a real seasonal boost for the seniors that we are serving now in our Senior Wellness Programs, and it helps us expand. And I will say that we have had comments from seniors that they love to grow their food, even if they only grow a garden in a bucket.
Okay, last thing, we have scheduled an Open House on June 25 from 2:00-5:00 PM and you are all invited and I will make sure that you all get specific invitations and because we are doing business while we are unpacking, it's a little hard for us to take drop-byes, but we will be having a nice open house to welcome everyone and if you need to or want to make, give me a call beforehand, because you can't make that and we are happy to show you around and it is looking better and better everyday other there. So, again thank you so much to DPW and to the many people who have worked on the building and keep making it look nice. And it was totally great on Thursday, the Job Fair that was held there. It was a huge success from our observation and participation.

STANLEY: Awesome, any questions?

MENSER: The people going through the welding training, are they getting any kind of AWS Certifications?

LEE: They are children, so they aren't yet. So, that's why we want to scale up and have more advanced classes. The older they get and the sooner that they are able to go through the Department of Labor requirements, we're going to try and help them do that.

STANLEY: Any further questions?

HUGHES: Mike, can you update us, now that we have a vacant building?

MASCARENAS: So, really, we don't have a lot to update on the facility that Cornell has vacated. We do have one more option that we want to look into locally in terms of filling that space. As you know we have offered that building to the Board of Elections. It simply is not large enough for them to utilize and be a one stop shop. So, we have one more option that we really have to look at in terms of square footage, will it meet our needs and if not, the recommendation would likely be that we sell the facility. I personally don't feel like the facility should be used for storage. We do have a storage need, there is no doubt about that, we're paying rent. The building is frankly too nice to be used, in my opinion, for record storage long term. I would rather we return it to the tax rolls with the condition that building is in rather than use it for storage. So, we've got one more

issue to vet and you'll be hearing from us really soon on what that recommendation is.

STANLEY: And I am sure that Mr. Dougan will be bringing this up at some point during the Buildings and Facilities meeting?

MASCARENAS: Yes, sir.

STANLEY: Perfect. Any other questions?

O'BRYAN: I was just going to say that it's good hearing that you're working in the trades with the children, because I know that our BOCES now has a very good welding school that they're operating so that's great. So, thank you.

LEE: Thank you for that and I will say that one of the directions that I am going for our 4H Program is to partner more and more with local businesses and local trades people and through our mentoring program and you'll be hearing more about that. It was one of our funding streams that was frozen last year so we're getting back in gear right now and you'll be seeing it in our press releases and also in some of our programming announcements to do more.

STANLEY: Great, any other questions? Alright, you're excused.

LEE: Thank you

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The next item was the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism with Mary Jane Lawrence reporting as follows:

LAWRENCE: Apparently, when everybody sees that table, they think ROOST is doing a presentation. I heard it out there, are you doing a presentation? No, we're not, now we know how people feel about the presentations (laughter).
We have our report, I just wanted to give a couple of highlights that we're working on regionally. The Adirondack Market, we have officially started reaching out to small retail businesses throughout the region to inform them about the opportunity to join the Adirondack Market to help increase sales and promote their businesses. We continue to emphasis that this is not to replace foot traffic. This is to supplement their current business. This is for anybody in the Region that has a brick and mortar, or not, but the criteria is they need to fulfill their orders, their online orders within our Region. So, that helps protect the small businesses not to be flooded by some of the larger, like for example maybe Walmart. So, it's 4 easy steps. One is to fill out a qualification form. Once that is quickly approved, you set up an onboarding call, they fill out after the onboarding call they fill out another form, just their products and descriptions, etc., and then they are taught how to add their products to the site. So, we have had two meetings; one was a walk around in Ticonderoga for small businesses. We did a virtual meeting with the Wadhams/Westport Alliance, and we have several others set up. In addition, we're going to a virtual orientation. So, it's a real

push to get the word out for sellers. We'll be at some farmers' markets. We did create these little pamphlets that are promotional pieces and how to participate and why to participate. I did bring some in case anybody would like to share them with their small businesses. But we really want to have that conversation and not be like, here, call us if you're interested. So, that's happening.
We just finished our workforce survey. We had over 100 responses from businesses throughout Essex County and it's designed to identify workforce tends and impacts on our Regional Businesses. So, we need to figure out what's going on with our workforce, obviously what we hear today. We know that there's a shortage of dentists and vets and obviously attorneys and other professionals and then what about the frontline workers. Where are we and then we need to create a real plan to address this. Obviously, we know housing and there's many layers to this, but what we hear today we are working on. Obviously, we need the fast train.
To switch gears completely, the 250th, of course here we are and we're doing a tremendous amount of promotion for that. We created a special edition of the insider. We also have these cards which I brought these today, as well that have the QR code. So, anybody that's interested in hearing all the different events that's going on in the 250th you can scan this QR Code and it brings you to the Adirondack USA landing page which shows you all the events in the Region. So, that's really exciting. In addition to that, of course we have press releases, social media campaigns, paid advertising, etc.
A couple of things on the websites; the Saranac Lake Regional website is almost completed. The next steps will be to have the Committee review it, give us their feedback and then we'll be launching that in the next couple of weeks. The next up will be the Lake Champlain Region website rebuild and right now we're working on putting together a stakeholder committee, which is local businesses and community members that what to participate in the process.
Last but not least is the Porscha Parade will be here in Essex County and the Region. They will be from June 12th to the 21st and you're going to see a lot of Porscha cars. There is over 1,400 cars, there's over 2,700 attendees and they're doing things all over the Region. They're doing timed loops, they're doing designation visits to Star Trek, AuSable Brewing, Paradox Brewing. We're going to be sending out a press release and then also, following that some traffic impacts and some designations. So, first and foremost, just all be aware that there are going to be a lot of cars of that make in our region, starting the 12th to the 21st and as a side note, it's the largest Porsche Parade in the last 7 years, so people are interested in coming to our region.

MASCARENAS: That's very cool.

STANLEY: Awesome.

LAWRENCE: Any questions?

STANLEY: Questions for MJ?

MENSER: Not so much as a question as more of a statement. Last week in the Community Sun, we had an article about the Music in the Park in Crown Point through July and August and it was mentioned in there that that is being funded by ROOST as a way of letting people in the area know that these are one of the good things that come out the occupancy tax.

STANLEY: Any other?

FOLLOS: I want to express our appreciation to Adam DeSantis for his help with the Pro-Housing Certification. It happened much more quickly than I would have thought.

LAWRENCE: I will certainly pass that along and you're very welcome.

THURSTON: So, when you said timed loop with Porsches, all I can think about is, are they speeding around. Can you explain that a little bit?

LAWRENCE: No, I really can't (laughter). But, apparently, it's not necessarily a timed loop as to make the loop would maybe be a better way to say it.

THURSTON: Okay, thank you.

STANLEY: Any other questions? I would like to take this moment to thank ROOST. There is an opening of a Visitors' Center in AuSable Forks on May 21st at 5:30. That is being funded by our business association, the Town of Jay, and ROOST. It's going to be open 20-hours a week to welcome guests into Essex County from the north. So, I am really excited for that to be happening. So, of course you guys are all invited and I would like to see you there, if you're available.
So, if there is nothing else, you are excused.

LAWERENCE: You're welcome and thank you all very much, have a great week.

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The next item was the Essex County Land Bank with Nicole Justice-Green previously excused and no report was given.

STANLEY: And Ms. Green from the Essex County Land Bank has been excused for today. So, are there any other questions or comments to come before the Economic Development Committee?

FOLLOS: Thanks, I am just asking if anyone has dealt with this before, some of the more experienced Supervisors. We have a lot of events in Wilmington and these events, the organizations behind them have become very dependent on our Town's Parks Department, which has led to other things being put off for years and years, routine maintenance, things have not been dealt with the way they should have been. So, my question is, has anyone dealt with this type of situation and if so, how have you navigated it? Our Parks Department is 3 people in the summertime and 2 people the rest of the year. So, just a general question, thanks.

WOOD: The Town of Schroon has 2 people for their Parks Department, we have an amazing Chamber of Commence that keeps adding more events so we're to the point of saying, stop

already. We make sure that we have a meeting long in advance, they need to tell us what they need. We need them to tell us where their volunteers are going to be coming from, and we need to be able to budget a reasonable amount of overtime and things like that. We also created a couple of years ago a very small amount of money for events. It's up to $5,000 how, but it's a problem and we are making sure that the organizations realize that it's a problem and they have to contribute and work it into their costs.

FOLLOS: Thank you

THURSTON: So, one of the things that we do in our town, obviously I do a lot of things, too, but you can also possibly hire some summer help and us our occupancy tax funds to pay for that and have them specifically do these events and also they can be mowing and helps at the cemetery and things like that and then the Youth Bureau does do some reimbursement, too. So, you can pay some of these younger kids, you know say high school kids, boys and girls that want a summer job. That can be very, very useful.

STANLEY: And ACAP has a summer work program, as well.

THURSTON: Exactly

STANLEY: Any other questions or comments, being none it is 10:50 and we are adjourned.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, IT WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Garvey, Deputy
Clerk of the Board