**North Country Alliance Local Development Corporation**

**Education and Outreach Committee**

**January 24, 2022**

**Minutes**

The North Country Alliance Local Development Corporation held a meeting of the Education and Outreach Committee on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 1:00 PM via Zoom.

**Present:** Jeremy Evans, Chair**,** Michelle Capone, Leigh Rodriguez, Dave Zembiec, Matt Siver, Rob Aiken, Aviva Gold, Garry Douglas, Carol Calabrese, Marijean Remington, Donna Wadsworth, Ben Dixon, Patrick Kelly, Joe Russo

The meeting began at 1:02 PM.

M. Capone gave a brief history of the Education and Outreach Committee. J. Evans asked participants if the current format for the agenda worked. It was agreed that the format worked, as we incorporate overarching issues with specific budget items.

J. Evans asked if we should meet with elected representatives in Albany to educate them regarding our issues, or to meet with them in their district. It was agreed that it is likely most beneficial to meet with our elected officials in their district. J. Evans will follow up with the committee for assignments.

The group proceeded to review the agenda from the fall of 2021.

The group agreed that the the need for quality, high-speed broadband in rural communities in the North Country is still a high priority. We discussed the unintended impacts that fees and rate limits have on service providers and the deployment of broadband in rural areas.

It was agreed to remove the bullet on Funding the Budget Gap.

The group discussed the need for affordable childcare and supports budget initiatives that promote just that, affordable childcare. The group also agreed to support affordable, working class housing.

P. Kelly agreed to re-write the bullet on Prison Closures.

B. Dixon stated that we needed to add a section on Tourism and that the NCA was against the reduction in funding for marketing tourism. It was agreed we should support the reopening of the Beekmantown welcome center.

G. Douglas reiterated the need for Cross-Border Trade/Travel and the normalization of business activities after 2 years of COVID.

All agreed that we should thank the Governor for her support of ORDA. We also support all economic development programs that support rural communities like RESTORE NY, Forward NY, and the Regional Councils.

The group agreed to add a bullet regarding Renewable Energy. We feel that there needs to be a transition to the use of renewable energies and that they be affordable to all without increasing fines/fees.

M. Capone will revise the draft agenda and mail to the committee by the end of the week. Once accepted by the committee it will go to the Governance Committee for approval. She will also email the list of elected officials to the committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.