



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

Seward Summit Helps Rewrite Otsego County Economic Development Leadership Plan

JAMES L. SEWARD December 5, 2013

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ONEONTA, 12/05/13 – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today announced conceptual agreement on a blueprint for Otsego County’s economic development leadership with the county IDA set to oversee the renewed effort.

“After hosting last month’s economic development summit, I have been meeting with key elected officials and business leaders to capitalize on what we learned and take the next step,” said Senator Seward. **“Now, a definite course is established and we are prepared to embark on a new path toward future economic growth and prosperity in Otsego County.”**

The conceptual agreement was forged during a morning meeting, December 5, with leading representatives from the Otsego County Development Corporation (OCDC), the County of Otsego Industrial Development Agency (COIDA), the Otsego County Board of Representatives, the Town of Oneonta, and the City of Oneonta.

“One of the chief takeaways from the summit was the need for a central point of contact that will serve as a vehicle to link outside economic entrepreneurs with internal Otsego County resources.

The IDA, with some new personnel, will take that lead role and I am confident we will excel,” added Seward.

The initial IDA hires will include a consultant to lead the start-up effort and a full-time administrator to handle day-to-day economic development functions. Additionally, funding from multiple sources, and a detailed strategic plan that will encompass long-term staffing

needs will be forthcoming.

“Along with the identified public agencies, I fully expect that other essential allies such as the Otsego and Cooperstown chambers of commerce, Citizens’ Voices, the Greater Oneonta Economic Development Council (GOEDC), the Oneonta Community Alliance, and other groups will be integral to our ultimate success.

“Otsego County’s stakeholders are committed to working collectively for the greater good. There is bona fide energy, excitement, and expectations coming together and I feel we are on the cusp of a true breakthrough that will pay long-term dividends,” Seward concluded.