

# Shaping the Way Forward


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ANNUAL REPORT 2019



# SEEK

Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corp



"Without economic  
development and progress,  
we're at risk of  
losing key entities...Without  
growth, we're all at risk,"

**Thomas O. Putnam**

Founder & Executive Chairman,  
Fenimore Asset Management  
Co-Manager of FAM Funds  
SEEC Chairperson & Founding Member  
November 2019

# Schoharie County's Economic Development Strategy

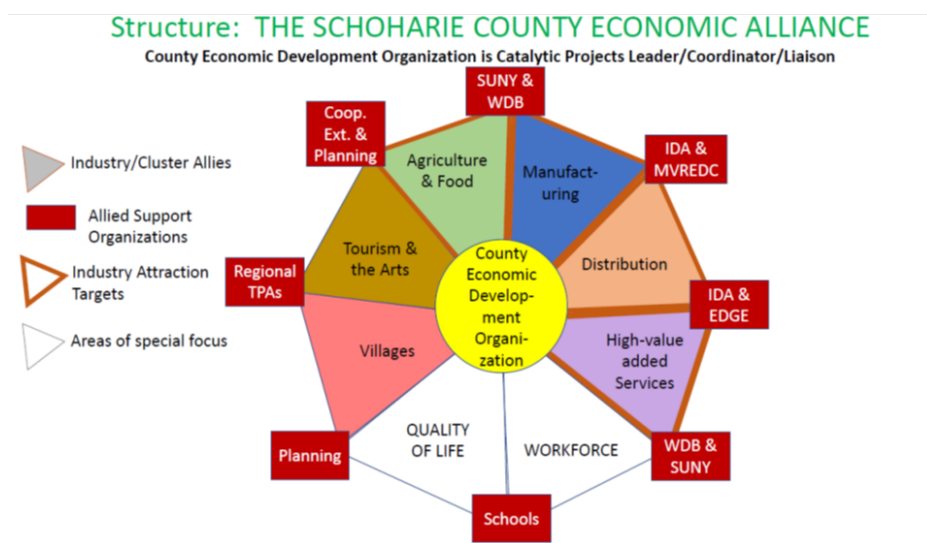
*Shaping the Way Forward by Peter Fairweather, 2018*

**Schoharie County must support the ability of businesses to add value to their enterprises.**

Four dimensions to support enterprises adding value:

1. **Appropriate policies & regulations** intended to create conducive business environment. Ensuring that regulations carry out their purpose without being an excessive burden on business.
2. **Hard Connectivity** that physically links businesses to sites with essential services.
3. **Soft connectivity** linking organizations & people together to foster economic productivity.
4. **Institutional capacity** measured by shared leadership and vision.

## Schoharie County Economic Alliance defined by Peter Fairweather



## SEEC Entrusted as County Economic Development Organization

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Established by the private sector, Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation, commonly known as "SEEC," was organized as a not-for-profit to strengthen Schoharie County by fostering economic growth. SEEC serves as a liaison to local municipalities and institutional leaders with the common goal of highlighting distinctive points of light within the community, cultivating entrepreneurial endeavors and enhancing the ability of local businesses to add value to their enterprises. SEEC is guided by social, environmental and financial principles that will accelerate growth and help provide sustainability through a collaborative and thriving business community.

## Founding Members

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### THOMAS O. PUTNAM

Founder & Executive Chairman,  
Fenimore Asset Management  
Co-Manager of FAM Funds  
SEEC Chairperson

### ERIC H. STEIN, FACHE

President of Cobleskill Regional Hospital  
SEEC Treasurer

### PETER J. JOHNSON

Former Historian for David Rockefeller  
SEEC Secretary

### JAMES R. BECKER

President of MIDTEL  
President of INOC Datacenters

### STEPHEN A. HARRIS

President & CEO of Sterling Insurance

## Inaugural SEEC Advisory Council Members

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RICHARD BALL

CINDY BARBER

JIM BARBER

FONDA CHRONIS

PAUL M. CONROY

JASON R. EVANS

RONALD FILMER

BARTON S. FINNEGAN

LEO MCALLISTER

ANNE R. MORTON

CARL J. MUMMENTHEY

KEVIN NEARY

MARION A. TERENCE

BENJAMIN OEVERING

DOUG PLUMMER

STEVEN WILSON

MARIANNE YOUNKHEER

# SEEC PR & COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES

## ESTABLISHED IN 2019

1. Position SEEC as the “go-to” economic development organization (EDO) of Schoharie County, emphasize private leadership

2. Cultivate a county-wide economic development alliance - municipalities, agencies, businesses & community investors

3. Begin to establish Schoharie County as integral to three regions: Capital District, Mohawk Valley & Appalachian Regions

4. Celebrate “Points of Light” in our communities, change the narrative

## SEEC Financial Statement, 2019

REVENUES & SUPPORT (DONATIONS, IN-KIND & INVESTMENT)	\$715,715
EXPENSES (PROGRAM & MANAGEMENT)	\$49,419
NET ASSETS, YEAR-END 2019	\$666,296



SEEC PROSPERITY FORUM:  
LODGING POSSIBILITIES, JANUARY 2020

## SEEC Priority Initiatives to Launch 2020

- Lead SEEC Prosperity Forums
- Initiate Business Retention & Expansion
- Foster Strategic Alliances
- Launch Capital Campaign

# A Year In Review

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## 2018

### NOVEMBER

- Shaping the Way Forward, Schoharie County Economic Development Strategy presented by Peter Fairweather, commissioned by Schoharie County Board of Supervisors

## 2019

### JANUARY

- Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation SEEC established as first private sector organization to lead county-wide economic development, NYS Certificate of Incorporation as Not-For Profit Organization 501c3

### APRIL

- First SEEC Board Meeting with SEEC Advisory Council

### JUNE

- SEEC advertises Executive Director position to lead Schoharie County economic development

### SEPTEMBER

- SEEC Board hires and introduces first Executive Director to Advisory Council

### OCTOBER

- SEEC invited to County-led Route 7 Corridor Development Discussion

### DECEMBER

- SEEC announces Prosperity Forum Series to mobilize investment co-hosted by strategic alliances

# 2020

## JANUARY

- SEEC Prosperity Forum: Lodging Possibilities attended by 70 tourism stakeholders county-wide
- SEEC inks MOU with Village of Schoharie for grantsmanship of The Parrott House project

## FEBRUARY

- SEEC organizes:
  - Downtown Development Prosperity Forum
  - Business Retention & Expansion Initiative
  - SEEC Placemaking: Curb Appeal Program
- SEEC is Prequalified as New York State and Federal Grant Administrator
- SEEC coordinates with Town of Schoharie to apply for an economic development grant supporting American Recycling Management
- SEEC Executive Director appointed to Southern Tier 8 Board of Directors

## MARCH

- SEEC **postpones** all programming in response to Coronavirus COVID-19 World Pandemic, an international economic shut-down due to public health crisis
- New SEEC COVID priorities:
  - Connect with the business community to broker relief programs
  - Become a Resource Hub for information
  - Consider unconventional funding
- SEEC convenes the Schoharie County Economic Alliance, commencing 20+ weekly meetings

## 2020 (CONTINUED)

### MARCH

- SEEC conducts Survey #1 COVID-19: Schoharie County Business Impact, 250 responses
- SEEC & County co-host Route 7 Corridor Stakeholder Priority Site Selections

### APRIL

- SEEC leads response to Survey #1 with launch of the COVID-19 Business Resource Hub sifting through daily briefings and brokering federal relief programs, [www.seecny-19.org](http://www.seecny-19.org)
- SEEC conducts Survey #2 COVID-19: Economic Injury & Broadband, 177 responses
- SEEC invited to participate in the Mohawk Valley Regional Recovery Strategies Focus Group
- SEEC represents Economic Alliance at COVID Task Force & County Board of Supervisors Meeting to share business impacts

### MAY

- SEEC leads responses to Survey #2 by launching the SEEC Resiliency Fund
- SEEC conducts Survey #3 COVID-19: Business Relief & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), 114 responses
- SEEC facilitates Economic Alliance and the newly formed SchoCo Forward Business Reopening & Recovery Business Task Force
- SEEC & County Planning organize Route 7 Corridor Suitability Analysis for 60+ industrial/commercial sites



## 2020 (CONTINUED)

### JUNE

- SEEC awards its first Resiliency Fund grant & secures additional local Resiliency Fund investment
- In response to Survey #3, SEEC coordinates PPE distribution with SALT & promotes COVID relief programs
- SchoCo Promise is introduced & facilitated by the Economic Alliance

### JULY

- SEEC Resiliency Fund awards more than \$20,000 to support local businesses
- SEEC coordinates with Town of Summit to apply for a small business assistance grant supporting Sauvage Beverages LLC relocation & expansion
- SEEC & Destination Marketing Corporation represent Economic Alliance & SchoCoForward Business Reopening & Recovery Task Force at County Board of Supervisors Meeting presenting economic impact metrics & recovery efforts

### AUGUST- DECEMBER

- SEEC reestablishes priorities as Schoharie County recovers from COVID crisis
  - Foster
  - Re-imagine
  - Coordinate
  - Collaborate



# SEEC

Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corp

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