Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Eric Butler; Committee Members Michele Madigan, Ian Murray, Mo

Wright, Cynthia Young. Absent: Ed Kinowski

Supervisor Matt Veitch; Chairman of the Board Philip Barrett; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Audra Hedden, Stephanie Hodgson, Renee Law, Mariah Ruscio, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Ann Flower Stitt, Petra Holden, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Jeff Williams, Kimberly Lambert, Nisha Merchant, Planning & Economic Development; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Pete Bardunias, Chamber of Southern Saratoga County; Nicolina Foti, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Darryl Leggieri, MacKenzie Zarzycki, Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau.

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Ms. Madigan, the minutes of the September 4, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Leggieri and Ms. Zarzycki provided a Discover Saratoga Annual Update via a Powerpoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Young, seconded by Mr. Murray, to designate the Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau as the County's Tourism Promotion Agency and authorizing the Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau to apply for an "I Love New York" Grant for 2025. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mrs. Young, seconded by Ms. Madigan, the committee approved the reimbursement requests from the Towns of Greenfield and Edinburg. Unanimous. Mr. Kemper gave a brief overview of the Towns' projects.

A motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mrs. Young, to authorize the transfer of funds from the Economic Development Grant Reserve Fund and amending the 2024 County Budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Transfer amount for 2023 grant is \$753.63, 2024 projects will be paid from the 2024 budget.

Mr. Bardunias provided an update on Saratoga County Agriculture Conversations, Challenges and Opportunities as distributed with the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Murray , the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Connolly, Clerk of the Board

Tourism Update

October 2024



THE IMPACT OF TOURISM ON:



Tourism Supports
10,786 JOBS WITH
\$387 MILLION
in labor income

Without Tourism, Residents would have to pay

\$961 MORE

Tourism Remains NYS's

3 RD LARGEST
INDUSTRY

TRAVELER SPENDING

Visitors spent \$2.7 bill Violet in the Capital-Saratoga region in 2023 across a diverse range of sectors.

Capital-Saratoga Region Counties:

Albany, Fulton, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Washington

Saratoga County represents 33% of the region's tourism sales with \$875 MILLION in direct tourism spending (up 8.6% over 2022).



\$273 MILLION



\$61 MILLION



FOOD/BEVERAGE \$318 MILLION



RETAIL/SERVICE \$138 MILLION



TRANSPORTATION \$28 MILLION



\$58
MILLION

TAXES GENERATED BY TOURISM

\$46M

in Local taxes

\$48M

in State taxes



SOURCES: STR. INC, Tourism Economics, and Discover Saratoga

Tourism Phase 1 Media Campaign

June – September 2024

- 1. Always on Program Top-of-Mind Awareness
 - a. Paid search on Bing and Google + Meta retargeting all site users
- 2. Enter To Win Awareness/Lead-Gen
 - a. Meta prospecting, Google display, Nextdoor, influencers
 - b. Contest ended September 4
- 3. Summer Travel Direct B2C Marketing
 - a. Meta + YouTube prospecting
 - b. AAA Programmatic Email (8/8)
 - c. TravelGuidesFree.com Lead-Gen Program
 - d. Dream Destinations Travel Show + Ad (April)



Tourism P1 Media – Always on Program





Tourism P1 Media – Enter To Win

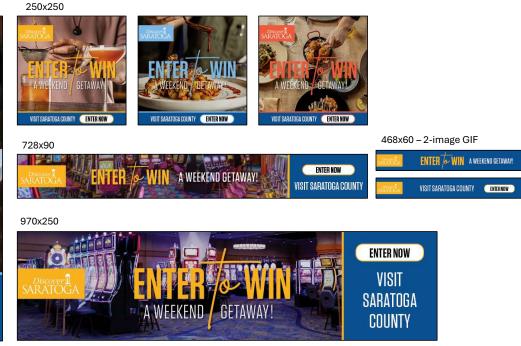


ENTER NOW

336x280

VISIT SARATOGA COUNTY







Tourism P1 Media – Summer Travel













Results Summary

- +15,480 email sign ups since January 1
- +58,811 reached audiences on TikTok since January 1
- +2,528 Instagram followers since January 1
- +1,736 Facebook followers since January 1
- +110% traffic to website vs. same time last year
- +104% increase in total number of new website users
- +21,000 total views to the Sweepstakes and Summer landing pages (receiving the largest volumes of traffic on the website)
- +9,183 ETW entries / 4.7 million ETW campaign impressions
- +77,000 video views for summer campaign / More than 1 million impressions delivered



Social Media Impact

Facebook

• Reach: 1.5 million

• Content Interactions: 22.9K

• Link Clicks: 39K

• Followers: 13K

Instagram

• Reach: 161.8K

• Content Interactions: 14.1K

• Link Clicks: 2.5K

• Followers: 13.3K

TikTok

• Video Views: 72,252

• Reached Audience: 58,811

• Profile Views: 720

• Likes: 2,008

• Shares: 118

• Comments: 97



Saratoga County Travel Brochure



















Tourism Phase 2 Media Campaign

Current Media Programs

- 1. Always on Program Top-of-Mind Awareness
 - a. Paid search on Bing and Google + Meta retargeting all site users
- 2. Culinary Tourism Lead-Gen
 - a. Meta prospecting, Tripadvisor, Expedia, Yieldmo
 - b. CTA: Get the itinerary! Get the offer.
- 3. Adventure Tourism Lead-Gen
 - a. Meta prospecting, Tripadvisor, Expedia, Yieldmo
 - b. CTA: Get the itinerary! Get the offer.
- 4. Winter Travel Tourism Lead-Gen
 - a. Meta prospecting, Tripadvisor, Expedia, Yieldmo
 - b. CTA: Get the itinerary! Get the offer.

- 4. Influencers activating on cuisine and travel themes
- 5. Direct B2C Destination Marketing
 - a. NYSTIA AARP October Travel Issue
 - b. USA Today Go Escape Fall/Winter Edition
 - c. AAA Programmatic Email (11/6)
 - d. TravelGuidesFree.com Lead-Gen Program
 - e. Dream Destinations Travel Show + Ad (October)



Tourism P2 Media – Cuisine Sample Ad Set















SPRING INTO

SARATOGA

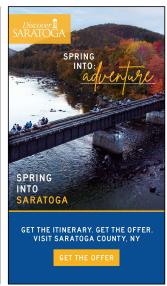
Tourism P2 Media – Adventure Sample Ad Sets















Tourism P2 Media – Fall / Winter Sample Ad Set





Tourism P2 Media – Culinary Itineraries









Tourism P2 Media – Adventure Itineraries









Destination Saratoga – 2025 Visitor Guide









