



**ESSEX COUNTY IN THE PARK
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

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Moriah industrial park plans for the future

by: Fred Herbst

PORT HENRY – Plans are being made for the expansion of the Moriah industrial park, although actual construction may be a long way off.

Jody Olcott of the Essex County Industrial Development Agency told the Moriah town board May 11 an engineer has been hired to plan for growth at the 36-acre park on Plank Road in Mineville.

While no construction is planned at this time, Olcott told trustees having a plan in place will be an asset as the IDA attempts to attract new business to the community.

“It’s difficult to sell an empty, green field to someone; it’s hard for them to visualize how it’ll look with buildings in place,” Olcott said. “This will give people an idea of what the park will look like if they move here.”

Olcott said similar planning has been completed at the Chesterfield Commerce Park in Keeseville.

The Moriah industrial park is owned and operated by the IDA. It was created in 1991 when a Canadian manufacturer was looking to move to Moriah. That deal failed to materialize.

In 1995 a \$1.2 million federal grant allowed the IDA to erect a building at the industrial park in a further attempt to attract business.

That building sat vacant until 1997 when Vermont-based Pre-Tech Plastics moved into a portion of the facility. It now employs 30 people. In 2001 General Composites of Westport expanded into the remainder of the building.

“We’re now 100 percent occupied,” Olcott said. “Any further expansion will require building.”

The IDA is seeking light manufacturing and assembly businesses for Moriah, Olcott said.

The planning process for further growth at the Moriah industrial park will include securing all necessary permits from state agencies, such as the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation.

Should a business commit to moving to Moriah, she said, construction on a new building could begin in 30 days.

“There will be no actual construction unless a commitment letter is received,” Olcott stressed.

Moriah Supervisor Tom Scozzafava mentioned the industrial park as a possible site for a proposed new health center in the community.

Olcott assured the board the industrial park plans will allow for a possible health center at the site.