



## Adirondack Park Agency

**SHERMAN CRAIG**  
Chairman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

*NOTE: The attachments referred to herein are on file at the Agency and are on the Agency's website. Copies are also available for inspection on request.*

**Draft Minutes, Full Agency, 11/3/17**  
TDM:sas 9:00 AM

**OCTOBER 12, 2017**

### **ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY MEETING**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

#### **AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT**

Sherman Craig, Chairman  
Chad Dawson, Member  
John Ernst, Member  
Karen Feldman, Member  
Arthur Lussi, Member  
Barbara Rice, Member  
William Thomas, Member  
Dan Wilt, Member  
Brad Austin, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development  
Lynne Mahoney, Designee, NYS Department of State  
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Terry Martino, Executive Director  
Sarah Reynolds, Associate Counsel

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT**

Fred Monroe, Executive Director

#### **AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**

Keith McKeever, Public Information Officer  
Amy Hall, Calculations Clerk 2  
Mary Palmer, Office Assistant 2  
Kathy Regan, Deputy Director Planning  
Annemarie Peer, Office Assistant 1  
John Burth, Environmental Program Specialist 2  
Sarah Staab, Environmental Program Specialist 1  
Devan Korn, Environmental Program Specialist 1  
Laurie Bullis, Secretary 1  
Rick Weber, Deputy Director Regulatory Programs  
Sue Streiff, Secretary to the Executive Director

Video and MP3 audio recordings of the proceedings, including public comment, are available in their entirety via webcast at [http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=2](http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2)

Chairman Craig called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**1. Public Comment**

None

**2. Approval of August 10 and September 14, 2017 Agency Minutes**

On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Wilt, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2017. On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2017. Ms. Rice abstained as she was not present for the September meeting. Copies of the official minutes as adopted by the Agency are on file at the Agency.

**3. Recusals**

Mr. Lussi recused himself from discussion and action involving a variance for his family's camp in the Town of North Elba, P2017-150, Camp Majano, LLC.

**4. Motion for Executive Session**

None

**5. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Martino commented on the temporary closure of the Rt. 73 parking areas for Cascade and Porter Mountains. Hikers were directed to the Mount Van Hoevenberg parking area to avoid congestion along the Cascade Lakes area on Rt. 73 during the weekend of Columbus Day Holiday.

Ms. Martino presented a slide show of the Board field trip to a Lyme Timber harvest site in September.

Ms. Martino provided an update on the State Complex biomass project.

She informed the Board that Economic staff are working to develop Envision Adirondacks, a project to provide visual simulations of proposed economic development

to towns in the Park. She said staff is working with SUNY EFS and others to develop an intern program to assist with this work.

Ms. Martino said staff and Board members are having discussions with stakeholders about Conservation Design. She said in addition to these discussions, a staff team has been working to redesign the Agency's Major Subdivision Application. She said staff will provide a presentation to the Board in the future.

Mr. Craig complimented staff on the many projects which they are working to revise and simplify such as the variance process and renewable energy among others. He said the work of the sub-committees of staff and Board members will make the processes clearer to all.

Ms. Martino reported that Bob Kreider had been reassigned to the DEC headquarters in Ray Brook and would possibly be assigned to some "ticket" ITS issues at the APA.

She announced the appointment of Sarah Staab to the position of Environmental Program Specialist 1 trainee in the Enforcement Division.

Ms. Feldman commented on the work of the sub-committees and the benefits it will provide to the Board, staff, and public. She thanked staff for their efforts.

#### **6. Approval of 2018 Agency Meeting Schedule**

On motion of Mr. Wilt, seconded by Dr. Dawson, the Agency unanimously approved the 2018 Agency Meeting Schedule.

#### **7. Motion to Adjourn into Committees**

On motion of Mr. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Agency unanimously adjourned into committees at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Full Agency**

Mr. Craig reconvened the Full Agency meeting at 1:30 p.m. for a Community Spotlight with Supervisor Joe Pete Wilson, Town of Keene. Mr. Wilson discussed a report: Hiker Traffic and the Town of Keene: Balancing Access, Safety, & the Needs of Residents Along the Rt. 73 Corridor.

Supervisor Wilson stated that having an influx of visitors is a problem he is happy to have but also created some trouble areas which need to be addressed. He said the closure of Owl's Head trail was an eye opener for him and he worked with the landowners to negotiate solutions to limit visitor access to the area. He said the

placement of signage in the area was somewhat successful but created other issues with parking on Rt. 73.

He listed human waste on trails, problems with port-a-potties, garbage, parking, driveway blockage, and trail erosion as some of the safety issues which needed to be addressed. He said he met with stakeholders at the Common Ground Alliance in July to discuss overusage, where a list of urgent problems was established for discussion: human safety, natural resource degradation, user experience, and inadequate infrastructure, funding and staffing. He said this is a problem requiring the cooperation of many agencies. He thanked DEC for closing off the trailhead to Cascade and Porter mountains over the holiday weekend and said the effort worked very well.

Mr. Wilson reported he had received an email from a visitor who asked why there was a 55 mph highway running near a parking lot on Rt. 73. The visitor expressed concern about the safety of hikers crossing the highway to reach the trailheads.

Mr. Wilson had suggestions for improving the overuse issues such as expanding the Marcy field shuttle operation, permanently using the Mount Van Hoevenberg parking area for access to trailheads, and creating a network of parking lots with shuttle service, bathrooms, and vendor services. He said these staging areas could help educate hikers, keep waste out, and possibly limit access.

Mr. Ernst said he sympathized with Mr. Wilson as the Elk Lake area was also overrun this past summer. He said logging trucks traveling on Rt. 73 were a real danger. He said the influx of visitor rescues has stressed the NYS Forest Rangers. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Wilson for highlighting the issue.

Mr. Craig asked if Mr. Wilson was hearing from people that the solution was to reduce visitors. Mr. Wilson said he does hear ideas to limit use by establishing permits and fees. Mr. Craig asked if other forms of portable toilets have been considered. Mr. Wilson replied he would need to research that.

Mr. Wilt asked if Mr. Wilson had economic impact numbers for the Town of Keene. Mr. Wilson said he would be working with Mr. McKenna of ROOST to establish those impacts.

Mr. Stegemann thanked the supervisor for his presentation. He said solutions would be established by a coordinated approach involving many agencies. He said DEC is working to divert use to other areas.

Dr. Dawson said this is not a new problem and will take the power of the State to invest in regulation of the issue.

Mr. Wilson said the State needs to refine marketing and promote education to the different kinds of outdoor recreation that can be enjoyed in the Adirondacks.

Supervisor Wilson was presented a certificate of appreciation.

The Board commenced with the Park Policy and Planning Committee at 2:20 p.m.

### **Full Agency**

Mr. Craig reconvened the Full Agency meeting at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Lussi was absent and excused.

#### **1) Committee Reports**

##### **a) Regulatory Programs Committee**

On motion by Mr. Wilt, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously approved the DelVecchio and Cale, P2017-32 variance request involving the replacement of an existing rubble and rock retaining wall structure with a larger rock structure to protect the shoreline and prevent on-going and future erosion of the shoreline in the Town of Essex, Essex County.

On motion by Mr. Wilt, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Agency unanimously approved the DePalma, P2006-133AR2 second renewal of permitting for construction of one new single-family dwelling involving greater than four lots created post 1973 in the Town of Johnsbury: Warren County.

On motion by Mr. Wilt, seconded by Dr. Dawson, the Agency unanimously approved the Lyme Timber Company, P2017-133 timber harvest involving a shelterwood overstory removal treatment on 264 acres of Lyme's 26,000-acre Big Moose Tract in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County.

On motion by Mr. Wilt, seconded by Mr. Dawson, the Agency approved Delegation of Authority to the Deputy Director for the issuance of an order approving the Camp Majano, LLC, P2017-150 variance request for the addition of one 12' x 12" deck to the front/lake side of a pre-existing shoreline structure resulting in an increase in non-compliance with the shoreline restrictions in the Town of North Elba, Essex County with Mr. Craig, Mr. Ernst, Ms. Feldman, Ms. Rice, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wilt, Mr. Austin, Ms. Mahoney, and Mr. Stegemann voting for; Dr. Dawson voting against. Mr. Lussi was recused.

##### **b) Park Policy and Planning Committee**

On motion by Mr. Ernst, seconded by Dr. Dawson, the Agency unanimously accepted the Town of Essex Map Amendment FSEIS.

## **2) Interim Reports**

### a) State Land Committee

On motion by Mr. Stegemann, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Committee unanimously adopted the Draft minutes of its August meeting.

The Administration, Economic Affairs, Enforcement, Legal Affairs, Local Government Services, Park Ecology, and Public Awareness and Communication committees did not meet this month.

## **3) Old Business**

None

## **4) New Business**

None

## **5) Public Comment**

Willie Janeway, Executive Director, Adirondack Council, reported on the legal action taken by the Council and other national organizations against the EPA for its policy concerning the coal industry regulation and acid rain. His complete comments can be viewed on the website address above.

Bill Ingersoll, Adirondack Wilderness Advocates, said his group was present to remind the Board that 84% of public comment favored a Wilderness classification for the Boreas Ponds area. His complete comments can be viewed on the website address above.

## **6) Member Comment**

Ms. Mahoney expressed her appreciation for Supervisor Wilson's presentation and asked for more Community Spotlight presentations in the future.

Mr. Wilt thanked Mr. Wilson for the presentation.

Ms. Rice said Mr. Wilson's presentation was excellent and informative.

Mr. Ernst appreciated the Community Spotlight presentation. He said he was participating in the conservation design and variance committees and was impressed with staff work and the progress being made.

Mr. Stegemann commented on the trial efforts of closing the parking areas on Rt. 73. He said solutions would continue by forming partnerships among agencies.

Ms. Feldman said she also participated on some of the sub-committees and was pleased with the progress. She said she would be participating in an upcoming Carrying Capacity of Water meeting. She appreciated the legal action by the Council to protect clean air and water.

Dr. Dawson said visitors are coming to the Adirondacks due to the turmoil in the country and world. He said people need wild places to seek clarity and that all need to keep working to protect resources for generations to come.

Mr. Thomas expressed his appreciation for the Community Spotlight and said he felt it was important to hear from town supervisors.

Ms. Martino said the comments on the Community Spotlight were timely and informative.

Mr. Craig said climate change issues are central to the Agency's work. He said recent environmental events are examples of the importance of this work and everyone should try to reduce his or her carbon footprint.

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Attachments:  
P2017-32  
P2006-133AR2  
P2017-133  
P2017-150

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Sherman Craig, Chairman