

# Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Crowne Plaza Resort & Golf Club  
Lake Placid, New York

## *Agenda*

*Registration begins at 7:30 AM - Coffee and Tea provided  
All sessions at the Crowne Plaza Resort and Golf Club, Lake Placid, NY  
3 concurrent sessions (A, B, & C) plus GIS 1:1 Help Desk  
Exhibitors and refreshment breaks in the Sky Room*

### ***Welcome & Introductory Remarks*** ***8:30 AM***

#### **Local Government Day Conference Sessions**

##### **GIS Help Desk: all day 9 am – 4:45 pm**

Join APA staff John Barge and Matt Kendall with Warren County GIS specialist Sheri Norton for a one-to-one help and training session on GIS. Arc 9 and ArcView 3 assistance will be provided; come with questions or specific projects. Walk-ups welcome and a signup sheet will be available to request specific appointment times during the day.

##### **Great Room**

##### **8:45 - 10 AM**

*(Concurrent Sessions)*

##### **A. Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project – The Facts and Nothing but the Facts** **Olympic Room 1/2**

Moderator: Brian Towers. In the past year, the Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project conducted a community survey and collected data from towns and villages throughout the Park. The Adirondack North Country Association, in partnership with the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and the towns of Arietta and Chester, received a Quality Communities grant from the NYS Department of State to complete a planning inventory and analysis study on behalf of all municipalities located wholly or partially within the Park. Committee members Brad Dake and Jim Martin will present data and trends from the report. While the amount of information to be presented in this session will limit opportunity for questions, a follow-up session is intended to address this need.

##### **B. Comprehensive Planning**

##### **Olympic Room 4**

Moderator: Keith McKeever. New York's zoning enabling statutes all require that zoning laws be adopted in accordance with a Comprehensive Plan. Although the Comprehensive Plan is the backbone for the local zoning law, it can be much more. John Clarke, Development and Design Coordinator for the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, will provide examples of regional and community-scale planning, as well as site design alternatives. As the principal author of Greenway Connections, he will also offer models to help communities develop a vision for their future that enhances both economic development and ecological objectives. A Comprehensive Plan can achieve community consensus on the overall principles and specific design tools to guide town growth. This session will provide creative ideas for those engaged in developing a Comprehensive Plan or looking to start any planning process.

*Detailed agenda on back of page*

**C. Ethical Considerations for Decision Making by Planning and Zoning Boards****Olympic Room 3**

Moderator: Steve Erman. Join Mark Schachner, attorney with Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner, LLC for a training session on the Ethical Considerations for Decision Making by Planning and Zoning Boards. Mark has extensive experience and knowledge and represents many Adirondack Towns in their land use actions.

**10:30 - 11:45 AM****A. Broadband & Telecommunications – Access, Access, Access..****Olympic Room 4**

Moderator: Mark Sengenberger. The status of wireless communications in the Park and access to broadband have topped the list of conference interest topics every year. In the last year several new towers have been installed in the Park and several more are planned. The technology is changing, installations and permitting are becoming more routine, and companies are turning to smaller markets that still lack coverage as a way to expand their business. Hear Elizabethtown Town Supervisor Noel Merrihew discuss the process that the Town followed in order to get an important new cell tower installed and the effects of that improvement on the Elizabethtown area. The Development Authority of the North Country's Open Access Telecom Network will be discussed and Howard Lowe, President of CBN Connect, Inc. and a member of the Governor's Broadband Council, will discuss planning coordination and development efforts to extend broadband to wider areas of the Adirondack Park.

**B. Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project – Questions?****Olympic Room 1/2**

Moderator: Robert Elliott. The information collected in the APRAP community survey is extensive. In continuing the APRAP report findings from the earlier session, this presentation will provide a quick overview of the project and afterwards the session will be opened to questions from the audience. (See APRAP session from 8:45 AM .)

**C. Planning and Zoning Case Law****Olympic Room 3**

Riele Morgiewicz, an attorney from the Department of State and Christopher Eastman will discuss the latest developments in state and federal courts in the area of land use. They will discuss current judicial trends in decision making, as well as how judicial decisions in other parts of the state impact local planning boards, zoning boards of appeals, and governing bodies. New and relevant opinions issued by the Attorney General, Comptroller, and Committee on Open Government will also be discussed.

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**Lunch: Noon to 1:30 pm**

***Report on DEC Commissioner's Adirondack Steering Committee (AATV);  
and  
Guest Speaker -- To Be Announced***

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**1:45 to 3 PM****A. New 2008 APA Regulations****Olympic Room 1/2**

Moderator: David Winchell. On December 31, 2008 five APA regulatory revisions took effect. The regulations provide definitions for the terms "Floor Space" and "Hunting and Fishing Cabin." They also affect APA subdivision jurisdiction "involving wetlands" and for "subdivisions along rights of way" and "expansion of non-conforming shoreline structures." APA staff Brian Grisi and Rita Quinn will explain the new regulations; associated procedures, forms and transition guidance, and provide examples to illustrate the new rules.

**B. Municipal Programs to Conserve Energy Usage and Reduce Operating Costs****Olympic Room 4**

Moderator: Larry Phillips. Rhett Lamb, Planning Director in Keene, New Hampshire and Mike DeWein Technical Director for the Alliance to Save Energy will present opportunities and programs for communities to reduce their energy use. Rhett presented a program at The Wild Center last summer that was inspirational in illustrating the ways a small community can effectively alter its energy use to reduce its carbon footprint and benefit its bottom line by reducing the need for fuels and energy. Mike cites the tremendous potential to save energy, money and create jobs in communities around improving energy efficiency in our buildings. In working with the Energy Smart Park Initiative and allied businesses, he is promoting the development of Community Energy Efficiency Management and Managers who will provide a service and help empower communities to take advantage of energy efficiency. It is a timely message from two experts with experience and knowledge.

**C. Site Plan Review and Special Use Permits****Olympic Room 3**

Presenters: Riele Morgiewicz and Christopher Eastman, NYS DOS. This course is an overview of the statutory authority to review site plans and special use permits. It addresses the scope and content of a proper "site plan," as well as the status of special use permits as a zoning tool. Several design issues will also be addressed.

**3:30 - 4:45 PM****A. Regional Tourism / Bringing it to Your Community****Olympic Room 1/2**

Moderator: Ron Ofner. The Adirondack Museum and The Wild Center are key regional attractions which bring thousands of people to the center of the Adirondack Park each year. While not all communities can have attractions at the scale of an Adirondack Museum or a Wild Center, we can all benefit from the facility and program planning examples set by these two institutions. We can also benefit from learning about special seasonal events like the Adirondack Canoe Classic, the "90 Miler" which has drawn huge numbers of participants and spectators en-route between Old Forge and Saranac Lake annually for the past 25 years. This session will look at the opportunities for expanding regional tourism and the related economic benefits which can accrue to involved communities.

**B. Community Planning in Park****Olympic Room 4**

Moderator: James Connolly. Join local government officials, consultants and APA staff in a program and discussion of the many elements involved in community planning. APA staff will present information on amendments to the APA Land Use and Development Plan Map and approved local land use programs. Rob Camoin, of Camoin and Associates will discuss economic considerations in town planning. Also Roger Trancik, Urban Design Consultant and Bill Johnston, former Essex County Planning Director, will describe current efforts to produce a Phase 3 of the Hamlets of Adirondacks Project, Phases 1 and 2 of which were produced in the 1980's. Roger Trancik was responsible for producing the Phase 1 and 2 publications that resulted from efforts initiated by Bill Johnston and Jim Hotaling to raise awareness of the need for hamlet revitalization. The Phase 3 project will focus on issues associated with hamlet expansion. A Town Plan can have many parts and serve many purposes. This session is designed to provide discussions on what can be achieved through town planning in the Park.

**C. Enforcement of Zoning and Other Local Laws****Olympic Room 3**

Presenters: Riele Morgiewicz and Christopher Eastman, NYS DOS. Municipalities make all sorts of laws, regulations, and rules, including junk car laws, site plan review, subdivision regulations, and zoning. This session will discuss the role of the enforcement officer in enforcing these regulations, from receiving complaints to sentencing or fining of violators. The session will address the relationship of the enforcement official to the zoning board of appeals. Enforcement actions will also be addressed, including responding to complaints, inspections of private property, and interaction with violators. The effect of a zoning appeal on the enforcement action, as well as judicial enforcement of violations will also be discussed.

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***We wish you had a great and productive day. Please complete the evaluation forms for sessions you attend and offer suggestions to help us plan next year's event.***

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