The 13th Annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference

Crowne Plaza Resort, Lake Placid, New York

March 23 & 24, 2010

Presented by the: Adirondack Park Agency, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, NYS Department of State, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Empire State Development Corporation.

Special Features

Tuesday Afternoon, March 23, 2010

Perspectives on the Park, its communities and its future: *Join prominent members of the Adirondack community as they share their individual perspectives on the Park. Guests: Tom Both, Adirondack Community Housing Trust and former Supervisor Town of Keene; Dick Booth, APA Commissioner; Mike Carr, The Nature Conservancy; Joe Martens, The Open Space Institute/ORDA; Ross Whaley, Adirondack Landowners Association and former APA chairman.*

Tuesday Evening Social *at the Crowne Plaza Resort Great Room*

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Keynote Presentation by:

Theodore P. Zoli, P.E.,

Vice President of HNTB Corporation
Designer for the new Champlain Bridge
Awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2009

Mr. Zoli was born in Glens Falls and raised in Queensbury. The first few months of his life were spent in a trailer near Schroon Lake where his father worked on the Northway construction. He went to Camp Dudley in Westport and grew-up boating on Lake Champlain and Lake George. He has a long affiliation with the Adirondack Park and continues to return to enjoy the area and now, to work on the new Lake Champlain Bridge.

Detailed agenda follows

Agenda - Tuesday Afternoon, March 23

Open to all who are interested

No registration fees for the Tuesday session, however please register on the attached form.

1 to 5 PM, Crowne Plaza Resort, Room: Grandview

Park Stewardship – Park Future

I. A forum on State Forest Preserve Lands, Private Lands and Conservation Easement Lands in the Park. APA and DEC staff describe their role and responsibilities in the administration of lands within the Park: Rick Weber, Assistant Director of Planning, APA; and Rob Davies Director of Lands and Forests, DEC. A question and answer period will follow.

II. A panel discussion offering perspectives on the Park, its communities and its future. Join prominent members of the Adirondack community as they share their individual perspectives on the Park. Guests: Tom Both, Adirondack Community Housing Trust and former Supervisor Town of Keene; Dick Booth, APA Commissioner; Mike Carr, The Nature Conservancy; Joe Martens, The Open Space Institute/ORDA; Ross Whaley, Adirondack Landowners Association and former APA chairman.

Social & Reception - Crowne Plaza Resort Great Room, 5 PM to ….

Join Adirondack Park Agency Chairman Curt Stiles and Executive Director Terry Martino, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Executive Director Fred Monroe, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages President Brian Towers and local government officials, colleagues and staff from State agencies for an informal get-together.

Agenda – Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Registration begins at 7:45 AM - Coffee and Tea provided
All sessions at the Crowne Plaza Resort, Lake Placid, NY
Three concurrent sessions (A, B, & C) plus GIS Help Desk

Welcome & Introductory Remarks
8:30 AM

Local Government Day Conference Sessions

GIS Help Desk: all day 9 am – 4:45 pm
Join APA staff for a one-to-one help and training session on GIS. Arc 9 and ArcView 3 assistance will be provided for general questions and for specific projects. Bring along projects or data for tips or a list of questions you have. Please call ahead with your needs so staff can prepare and schedule a time with you. Walk-ups welcome, but call if you would like to request a specific appointment time. Call Robyn: (518) 891-4050 to schedule.

8:45 - 10 AM
(Concurrent Sessions)

A. Broadband
Broadband access for individuals and communities tops the list of conference interest topics every year. Broadband means ready computer access to the Internet; it's information travelling at light speed, rather than the slow "tin can and a string" caricature of dial-up. It can be provided in a number of ways, either through direct lines (known as T-1), through telephone high speed fiber optic connections, or via cable television providers. Satellite and cellular based options are also available. It is the heart of any business model and a necessity for modern communications. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided federal stimulus funds for several projects in the North Country. DANC and ION (subsidiary of Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc.) received funding and funding for CBN is pending. Representatives from those companies will describe their plans to "cable" much of the North County.

B. Community Planning and Organizing
It's one thing to hire a consultant; it's quite another to build a community support team and keep them motivated to achieve long-term planning goals. Building community support, organizing volunteers, developing programs, seeking funding sources… several communities have achieved great successes. Elizabeth Cooper, Community Development Coordinator for the Town of Fine and Jim La Valley with ARISE, a community organizing group formed to bring back downhill skiing to Big Tupper in Tupper Lake, will present their methods and accomplishments in building support for community projects.

C. SEQRA for Decision Making by Planning and Zoning Boards
Join Mark Schachner, attorney with Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner, LLC for a training session on the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for decision making by Planning and Zoning Boards. Mark has provided his extensive experience and knowledge of SEQRA to many Adirondack Towns in their land use actions and decision-making.

10:30 - 11:45 AM

A. Perspectives on the Adirondack Park Economy
In follow-up to the recently released report and data base from the "Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project," there is growing focus on a range of issues affecting the region's economy and property tax base. This panel discussion will provide a number of perspectives on the Park's economy and the challenges and opportunities for regional economic improvement. Garry Douglas - Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce; Kate Fish - Adirondack North Country Association; and others.

B. Hamlets of the Adirondacks 3: The Process for Smart Hamlet Expansion

Roger Trancik, Urban Design Consultant, and Bill Johnston, former Essex County Planning Director, will describe the design elements being incorporated into Phase 3 of the "Hamlets of Adirondacks" project. This study is very timely because many communities in the Adirondack Park have expressed a need for additional areas for residential and commercial growth, particularly in regard to affordable housing. "Hamlets 3" examines three case studies using examples from Adirondack hamlets and villages to inform the design of growth areas by building on existing community centers. This has two important benefits: one, it enables the community to integrate land suitable for development into the fabric of the existing hamlet, thus availing itself of the benefits of "smart," "green" growth; and, two, it complements the protection of forests, farmlands and other forms of open space through the avoidance of visually unappealing and resource inefficient sprawl and strip development. The study is a DEC-funded Adirondack Community Smart Growth Project sponsored by the Adirondack Community Housing Trust.

C. Challenging Issues: ask the Department of State Local Government Staff

The Department of State Local Government staff are always willing to provide assistance with challenging issues. That is why they want to hear from you about a land use issue that has challenged your town. Take a moment to write down a problem of this type that caused your planning or zoning board some anxiety. Send it with your registration or separately to APA Local Planning Services at APA-LGSP@gw.dec.state.ny.us by March 10th, and we'll get it to DOS for them to contemplate. Important: please do not present situations that involve an active lawsuit or that are currently under consideration by town officials, and of course, do change the names of individuals as necessary to protect the identity of person associated with the issue.

Lunch and Keynote Presentation: Noon to 1:30 pm

Keynote Speaker:

Theodore P. Zoli, P.E.,

Vice President of HNTB Corporation
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1:45 to 3 PM

A. Questions and Answers with APA staff

Back by popular demand, APA staff will answer questions on project jurisdiction, the project review process, and the analysis of resources in the review of projects. In the registration packet you'll receive the morning of the conference will be a sheet of paper on which to write your questions. Submit the questions before lunch and staff will do their best to provide the answers.

B. Smart Growth Projects Featuring Tourism & a Community Cultural Center

Adirondack Community Smart Growth Projects encouraged many communities to showcase their best features. Jim McKenna, President of ROOST will describe the "Destination Planning for Essex County" project that is focused on the Towns of Ticonderoga, Moriah, Schroon Lake, North Elba and Wilmington. In Indian Lake, the community rallied to reopen the town theater as a multi-use cultural center. The center offers central Hamilton County a year-round stage for film and live performances, and meeting space for government and civil organizations. These projects offer benefits to residents and tourist alike.

C. Making a Good Record: Minutes, Findings, and Decision Documents

Presenters from the Department of State will discuss why board members should strive to make land use records that are of value to enforcement personnel, applicants, municipal attorneys, and current and future boards. They will also discuss, in detail the three components of the record: minutes; findings; and the decision document. Code Enforcement Officers will receive 1 hour of In-Service Credit. Attorneys will receive 1 hour of Continuing Legal Education in the area of Professional Practice.

3:30 – 4:45 PM

A. Community Housing

This will be a three-part discussion focused on successful development of community housing in the Adirondacks. First, Emily Kilburn of the Adirondack Community Housing Trust will provide an update on the progress of this Parkwide initiative. Next, there will be a discussion of the types of analyses that are necessary to attract both developers and project financing for community housing projects. A number of housing market studies in Adirondack communities will be detailed including one currently being conducted in Saranac Lake. Third, Agency staff will describe an "accessory apartment" provision the Town of Westport recently received Agency approval for in its local land use program. The provision allows a separate living space within an existing single family dwelling to be occupied by family members or caregivers in a manner that protects and preserves the neighborhood character and property values.

B. APA, DEC and Citizen Input in the Process of Land Use Planning

Changing the official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map requires an APA Map Amendment. Creating a management and use plan for an area of State Land requires an approved Unit Management Plan (UMP). If these terms are new to you or you just want to learn more about the planning process, this is the session to attend. Both planning process include public hearings or other opportunities for citizen input. APA and DEC staff will describe the elements required by APA Statute and State Land Master Plan that need to be considered in the process to implement map amendments and UMPs. Fred Monroe, Town of Chester Supervisor and Local Government Review Board Executive Director, on how citizens can organize to ensure their concerns are addressed when decisions are made that affect lands in their towns.

C. Watershed Planning and DOS Grants

Watershed planning enables communities to make informed decisions in efforts to protect and restore water quality. The Department of State, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Conservation, has prepared a guidebook (with video) to help meet the growing demand for assistance in local watershed planning. The guidebook promotes joint efforts to develop watershed management plans as an effective means to reduce nonpoint source pollution and protect and enhance water resources. It outlines a flexible, step-wise approach to encourage local governments and groups to form networks and strengthen partnerships with agencies and educational institutions. It also highlights local and regional successes in a series of case studies. A concluding discussion regarding Department of State grants currently available should provide ideas for funding opportunities for this and other types of community planning projects.

Additional Registration Forms & Updated Information are available on the website: www.apa.state.ny.us

Register by March 10th for early registration discount

We look forward to seeing you at the Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference!
Tuesday Afternoon & Wednesday,
March 23 & 24, 2010