



**RESOLUTION**  
**Saluting John Stuart Banta**  
**Counsel - Deputy Director, Planning - Village Attorney**

**WHEREAS**, John Stuart Banta has served the Adirondack Park Agency and the Adirondack Park in a long and distinguished career in the public sector beginning as Deputy Director, Planning in 1979, and as Counsel since 2002. Mr. Banta's career prior to coming to the Agency was remarkable. Following his graduation from Hiram College and Harvard Law School, Mr. Banta practiced as an attorney in Chicago, Illinois, and co-authored the seminal book, The Taking Issue. He also worked at The Conservation Foundation dealing with coastal zone management law and policy. He worked with the federal Clean Water Act and testified before Congress on Section 404 wetland issues, lending at that time an important voice to the emerging wetland protection issues at the national level; and

**WHEREAS**, in his positions as Deputy Director, Planning and Counsel, Mr. Banta always brought the highest intellectual rigor to a wide range of social, economic, environmental and legal issues within the Agency. In his position as Counsel and head of the Legal Division, Mr. Banta embodied and upheld exemplary professional ethics and behavior. His advice to the Agency and to staff was always grounded in the law and within the Agency's mission to protect the Park's public and private lands; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Banta provided a steadfast loyalty to the Agency and has been a strong staff advocate and a staunch supporter of the Agency's mission while being a repository of institutional knowledge. Agency staff have benefited by Mr. Banta's insights regarding the genesis and interpretation of the Agency statutes, as well as the implementing rules and regulations. Mr. Banta is "Lincolnesque" in his combination of breadth of interests and expertise with a unique blend of idealism and pragmatism. Over his thirty-three year tenure with the Agency, Mr. Banta has exhibited the highest levels of professionalism in his analysis of the facts and synthesis of Agency positions. He demonstrated tremendous appreciation for the Park's resources, people, and communities. His tenure with the Agency is marked by the utmost respect from all those with whom he came in contact, having him recognized by all for his stellar attributes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that it is recognized by all that Mr. Banta has had the legacy of the Adirondack Park as his core inspiration and his guiding light throughout his long career at the Agency, and all of his work has been directed toward leaving the Park and the State in a better condition for future generations. The Adirondack Park Agency pauses in its deliberations to congratulate Mr. Banta on his retirement and wish him success in his future endeavors. The Agency also expresses its sincere appreciation to Mr. Banta for all he has done for the greater good of the Adirondack Park Agency, the Adirondack Park and the State of New York. His presence on the staff of the Adirondack Park Agency will be deeply missed.

Resolved and unanimously adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.

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Leilani Crafts Ulrich  
Chairwoman

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Terry Martino  
Executive Director