



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 AGENCY MINUTES

May 17, 2012

THURSDAY, May 17, 2012

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman
Richard Booth, Member
Arthur Lussi, Member
Frank Mezzano, Member
William Thomas, Member
F. William Valentino, Jr., Member
Cecil Wray, Member
Jen McCormick, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development
Dierdre Scozzafava, Designee, NYS Department of State
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Terry Martino, Executive Director

AGENCY MEMBERS ABSENT

Sherman Craig, Member

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT

Fred Monroe, Executive Director

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Richard Weber, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs
James Connolly, Deputy Director, Planning
Daniel Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs
Colleen Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 3
Kathy Regan, Associate Natural Resources Planner
Tracy Darrah, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Suzanne McSherry, Environmental Program Specialist 1
John Burth, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist
Robyn Burgess, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Jen McAleese, Senior Attorney
Keith McKeever, Public Information Director
Shaun LaLonde, Soil and Water Engineering Specialist

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Paul VanCott, Associate Attorney
Mark Rooks, Associate Project Analyst, Biological Resources
Elaine Caldwell, Administrative Officer
Laurie Bullis, Secretary 1
Mary Reardon, Secretary 1
Mary Palmer, Keyboard Specialist 1
Amy Hall, Calculations Clerk

The webcast of this meeting is available at
http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2.

Chairwoman Ulrich called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. She noted the absence of Agency Member Sherman Craig and Associate Counsel Sarah Reynolds. She referred legal questions from the Board to Associate Attorney Paul Van Cott.

1. Approval of April 19, 2012 Draft Agency Minutes

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Wray, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Minutes of the April 19, 2012 meeting.

2. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Martino presented a report on staff activities over the past month and other items of note including:

- "Run from the Flies" race at John Dillon Park;
- Hamilton County bird watching and broadband development;
- Major broadband initiative by Development Authority of the North Country;
- Regional Economic Development Council - Agency involvement in project implementation and strategic goals;
- Governor's efficiency initiative questionnaire on Agency-specific work activity and follow-up list of Agency permits and statutory time clocks required for the processing of complete applications;
- Replacement of Agency's current IT structure with centralized Information Technology Services to improve government operations;
- APA/DEC coordination - stakeholder outreach and final report to Commissioner and Chairwoman planned for the fall;
- Agency Meeting Agenda - tree planting in memory of renowned Adirondack Park ecologist Ed Ketchledge; review of projects previously approved by Agency involving Stickney Pt. and sign variance in Warrensburg; Community Spotlight featuring Town of Ticonderoga; potential wetland banking agreement with DOT.

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Chairwoman Ulrich called attention to the growing theme of partnering between environmental and economic organizations. She referred to the May 16-17 Adirondack Research Consortium (ARC) conference and its theme "Entrepreneurship, Sustainability, and the Environment," as well as the opening statement of keynote speaker Rick Fedrizi, President and CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council, "The most important movement forward is collaboration."

3. Motion to for Executive Session

On motion by Mr. Wray, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Agency unanimously agreed to convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation involving the Adirondack Club and Resort project.

4. Motion to Adjourn into Committees

On motion of Mr. Wray, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the Agency unanimously adjourned into committees.

5. Earth Day/Arbor Day Tree Planting

Members of the Agency Board, staff and the general public gathered on Agency grounds for a tree planting commemorating Earth Day and Arbor Day and honoring Dr. Edwin Ketchledge.

6. Community Spotlight: Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County

On behalf of Supervisor Malaney, Mr. Woods extended an open invitation to the Board to visit Ticonderoga for a community forum and/or tour of the community.

James Major, Chairman of the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (Ti-Alliance) and Deputy Supervisor for the Town of Ticonderoga, and Ti-Alliance President and CEO Justin Woods were the featured Community Spotlight speakers. They presented an overview of the Ti-Alliance, a not-for-profit local development corporation that serves as the town's primary economic development organization. The overview included a review of the Alliance's mission, its strategy, and its role in community planning. In his review of the community and economic profile for Ticonderoga, Mr. Woods cited demographics related to population, household and per capita income, employment projections, and educational attainment. Messrs. Major and Wood also discussed key projects and initiatives including redevelopment of downtown anchor buildings, business development, physical and social

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infrastructure, and a cultural arts initiative which includes a diverse selection of groups, organizations and individuals in the area. With regard to land use and regulation, they noted the community's need for a cooperative partnership and technical assistance from the APA. (A copy of their presentation is attached to the official minutes.)

In the Board discussion that followed, Mr. Woods was asked how the town bridged the gap economically between the downtown district and the big box retail district. He responded that the objective is to distinguish the downtown from the commercial/big box retail district by promoting events and services that attract people to the downtown. He also suggested that better signage would be helpful. Mr. Woods noted that significant sprawl exists throughout the Park, and expressed the need for increased engagement and technical assistance between APA and communities in the Park to address such issues. He added that developing a working and technical relationship with the Agency would also help communities to see the Agency as more than simply a regulator.

It was noted that Ticonderoga and Hague have some common elements in terms of shared services. Mr. Woods agreed, and said they were in the beginning stages of discussions with Hague about opportunities for partnering.

Ms. Martino noted the Agency's economic specialist has been providing assistance to Ticonderoga in its downtown development initiative.

Mr. Woods was asked if the Town had a comprehensive plan in place, and also why an LDC format was chosen over an IDA format. He responded that the Town adopted a comprehensive plan in 2006 and the time for an update was approaching. He explained his vigorous support for the adoption of an LDC model, which would institutionalize transparency, accountability and public reporting, and thus give the organization more credibility. He also described it as an ideal situation that provided the capacity to act locally and partner with IDA as necessary.

In response to a question about trends in school population, Mr. Woods responded that based on the population pyramid in the demographics, the school population appears to be in a decline.

Mr. Monroe referred to a recent APRAP update by Brad Dake which shows an overall decline in school populations Parkwide.

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Mr. Woods was asked about Amtrak service and promoting the historical significance of Ticonderoga in terms of tourism. Mr. Woods referred to a special promotion by Amtrak for travel to Ticonderoga. He also noted the town is looking at public transit options to transport visitors via Amtrak to various destinations in Ticonderoga as well as a new branding initiative for Fort Ticonderoga, "America's Fort."

Mr. Stegemann commended the spirit and energy of Ticonderoga and agreed that partnering with the Agency for technical assistance could change the dynamics with towns.

Chairwoman Ulrich presented Messrs. Major and Woods with a Certificate of Appreciation for the opportunity to learn about the town's goals, successes and challenges, and commended Supervisor Malaney's leadership and support of initiatives that benefit the Town of Ticonderoga.

7. Committee Reports

a. Regulatory Programs Committee

Mr. Mezzano noted a status report by staff on a project for which an Agency permit was previously issued involving the 21-lot Stickney Pt. subdivision in the Town of Franklin, Franklin County. Staff follow-up revealed that overall the project has met Agency expectations, and has exceeded them in some respects.

b. Regulatory Programs/Park Ecology Committee

Messrs. Mezzano and Valentino commended the presentation by Ed Frantz of DOT and Agency staff on the concept of a wetland mitigation banking agreement between NYS DOT, APA and US Army Corps of Engineers for DOT activities in the Park. Mr. Mezzano said Board members appeared to be supportive of the concept and looked forward to more information.

c. Public Awareness and Communications Committee

Mr. Valentino reported on the Committee's discussion of foundation topics as well as information topics for future Agency meetings. The list of topics will be further refined as per the Committee discussion.

d. Park Ecology Committee

Mr. Valentino commended an update provided by APIPP staff on APIPP/Adirondack PRISM and the latest developments affecting invasive species management in the Park.

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Mr. Booth suggested there could be potential implications in terms of invasive species affecting small wetland areas that do not meet the Agency's definition of a jurisdictional wetland due to their small size and no free interchange of water.

e. Legal Affairs Committee

Mr. Wray noted staff review of jurisdictional stats as well as a brief update on the status of Agency Departmental Bill S. 6718, which proposes changes to Section 809 of the Act.

f. Economic Affairs Committee

Mr. Lussi expressed his appreciation to Development Authority of the North County Executive Director James Wright, for his informative presentation on the development of broadband infrastructure across the northern portion of the Park.

g. State Land Committee

Mr. Booth noted DEC staff's presentation on the public comment draft of the Taylor Pond unit plan.

8. Interim Reports

The Enforcement, Administration, Local Government Services and Park Policy and Planning committees did not meet this month. Monthly activity reports for certain committees were included in the mailing.

a. Local Government Services Committee

On a motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Ms. Scozzafava, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the April 19, 2012 committee minutes.

b. Park Policy and Planning Committee

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Committee unanimously approved the April 19, 2012 committee minutes.

9. Local Government Review Board Comment

Review Board Executive Director Fred Monroe spoke about a problem facing wetland restoration projects involving forest preserve lands, and the need for a constitutional amendment. He referred specifically to the West Brook conservation project in Lake George as a good example.

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Mr. Monroe also noted the need for a grant program to help ease the financial strain placed on local governments and lake associations in combating milfoil.

10. Member Comment

Mr. Valentino commented on the ARC conference, noting Dan Spada's re-election as president and Clarkson University President Tony Collins's statement that "...Broadband is the equalizer of the world." Mr. Valentino also commented on the continued operation of coal-fired power plants with no pollution controls in the Midwest. He noted his recent trip to Budapest and Prague where they are facing the same problem as towns in the Park in terms of their young people leaving the area for more attractive jobs.

Ms. McCormick applauded and encouraged continued cooperation among state and federal agencies by respecting each other's expertise and authority and avoiding duplication of efforts. She also commended the Community Spotlight presentation on the Town of Ticonderoga.

Ms. Scozzafava noted the Governor's announcement of a \$40 million competitive grant fund for local governments that have demonstrated recurring savings for taxpayers from streamlined operations and innovative cost-cutting projects. Additional information is available on the Department of State website at www.dos.ny.gov/funding/.

Mr. Thomas commented on the complexity of the Taylor Pond draft unit plan. He commended the broadband and Ti-Alliance presentations, and looked forward next month to a staff presentation on review requirements for Agency-approved local land use program amendments in preparation for upcoming major local program amendment requests.

Mr. Booth said he appreciated the review of the Stickney Pt. subdivision, and looked forward to future review of approved projects. He also expressed mixed feelings about overall efforts to control invasive species, and encouraged staff to talk about efforts by other jurisdictions outside the Park, particularly downstate, to address the problem.

Mr. Wray commented on the review of Agency-permitted projects and encouraged selection of projects that were controversial at the time of approval.

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Mr. Lussi encouraged the involved agencies to pursue the implementation of the wetlands mitigation banking agreement. He also commended DOT's response to the public appeal for additional width for bike traffic on portions of State Route 86 between Ray Brook and North Elba.

Mr. Stegemann applauded the common sense approach to DOT's decision regarding the bike lane. Referring to the Ti-Alliance discussion, he was encouraged by the desire to act both environmentally and economically. He also urged people to think outside the box with respect to the Regional Economic Development Council forums that are being scheduled over the summer.

Mr. Mezzano noted a similar issue in Lake Pleasant with respect to pedestrian traffic and the difficulties encountered in convincing DOT to provide for a pedestrian lane. Regarding Stickney Pt., he noted the Travaglini (2011-182) project last month was the impetus for the discussion this month.

Ms. Martino acknowledged the Board's comments about reviewing previously permitted projects. She commented on the Stickney Pt. project as it exists today and on the importance of seeing that the project can be done the right way through working with the applicant and through permit conditions. Ms. Martino also commented on the APIPP presentation and remarked on the enthusiasm of the employees. She noted the Ticonderoga community revitalization work and the recognition of the Fort's historical value in promoting tourism. She also referred to the wetlands mitigation banking agreement and the benefit of presenting the concept for the Agency's consideration prior to action.

Chairwoman Ulrich called attention to Ed Frantz's remark about being caught between policy and science, and the importance of science driving policy. She called attention to an upcoming talk on May 29, 1-3 p.m., at APA offices in Ray Brook, which will focus on cohousing and "intentional communities" which offer an alternative for single family homeowners in the Park who find life isolating or for those who are unable to find housing. The talk will be streamed live online at http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2.

Chairwoman Ulrich noted that the ADK Futures mapping and visioning work, by Jim Herman and Dave Mason on behalf of Common Ground Alliance, will be the focus of a report to be presented to the Alliance on July 18 in Long Lake. She also noted the importance of events such as the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, to be held in San Francisco in November.

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11. Adjournment

The Agency unanimously adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

LCU/TDM/dal

Attachment:

Community Spotlight Presentation on Town of Ticonderoga/
Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman