



Draft Minutes
State Land Committee
February 2013 Agency Meeting
RB:JEC:lhb

**MINUTES OF THE STATE LAND COMMITTEE MEETING
February 14, 2013**

Committee members in attendance included Agency Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, William Thomas, William Valentino, Sherman Craig, Designee Robert Stegemann, Department of Environmental Conservation, and Committee Chair Richard Booth. Members Frank Mezzano, Arthur Lussi, and Designees Dierdre Scozzafava, Department of State and Patrick Hooker, Department of Economic Development joined the Committee. Also participating in the meeting was Executive Director Fred Monroe of the Local Government Review Board. Staff included Executive Director Terry Martino, Planning Director James Connolly, and Senior Natural Resource Planner Kathy Regan.

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Approval of Draft Committee Minutes for January 2013

A motion was made by Member Thomas to approve the draft Committee minutes for January. The motion was seconded by Member Craig. The draft minutes were then unanimously approved.

Deputy Director, Planning Report (J. Connolly)

Mr. Connolly briefly reviewed the January activity report for the Planning Division.

Alpine Zone Vegetation in the Adirondack Park (Tim Howard, New York Natural Heritage Program)

Planning Director James Connolly acknowledged receipt of the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship award by Senior Natural Resource Planner Kathleen Regan for her work and commitment to protecting the alpine vegetation while preserving the spiritual experience of the backcountry. Her efforts paved the way for continued education and protection of these highly sensitive areas.

Mr. Howard presented an overview of the New York Natural Heritage Program which is a collaborative effort between DEC and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry on classification, protection, and future for alpine zone vegetation within the Park. The New York Natural Heritage Program has been in existence since 1986.

Mr. Howard noted that the Stewardship Program provides educational opportunities for hikers while tracking vegetative growth and regrowth in summit zones as well as probable impacts of threats such as overuse and climate change. The Stewardship Program plays a vital role in establishing population baseline assessments and response measures to help protect endangered plant species while maintaining educational outreach efforts to hikers. The success of the program has been realized in areas where vegetative regrowth has been achieved.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m.