



**MINUTES OF THE PARK POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2013**

Committee members in attendance included Agency Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, William Thomas, Richard Booth, William Valentino, Designee Patrick Hooker, Department of Economic Development and Committee Chair Sherman Craig. Members Frank Mezzano, Arthur Lussi, and Designees Dierdre Scozzafava Department of State and Robert Stegemann Department of Environmental Conservation 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, Counsel James Townsend, Planning Director, and James Connolly.

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Deputy Director, Planning Report (J. Connolly)

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

Presentation on the Adirondack Partnership Recreational Work Group Recommendations (J. McKenna, W. Farber)

Jim McKenna and Bill Farber gave a presentation on the recommendations developed by the Adirondack Partnership Recreational Work Group to improve recreational opportunities throughout the Park and how improved opportunities can help stimulate regional and local tourism. The goal is to enhance tourism by promoting unique recreational opportunities that exist both on the Forest Preserve and throughout the communities. Improving the tourist industry will help to sustain the economies of the communities located within the Blue Line. Connecting communities will also help to increase visitation by diverse user groups who visit the Park for a variety of recreational activities. The vision is to have a comprehensive recreation plan for the Park that unites communities to enhance the tourist economy which in turn will support job creation and quality of life for the residents of the Park.

Mr. McKenna noted the important role public access plays in promoting the tourism industry. He also noted the importance of developing infrastructure projects such as bike lanes during road reconstruction projects to enhance linkages between

communities. He noted the importance of everyone, including State and local agencies, to work together to accomplish the intended goal of enhanced tourism throughout the Park with the objective to achieve a more sustainable economy during all seasons.

Member Mezzano noted the difficulty the Town of Lake Pleasant and the Village of Speculator encountered when attempting to connect their communities with an established bike lane. Mr. McKenna noted that due to the Regional Economic Council concept, communities will be better positioned to accomplish their intended goals. He also noted that perhaps instead of established bike routes being built during road construction projects, perhaps wider shoulders will serve the purpose of facilitating bike routes. Member Mezzano concurred.

Agency Chair Ulrich noted the need to get tourism entities to communicate with each other and also noted that the encouragement from the Governor has likely helped to improve this process. She then asked why the Recreation Work Group has been successful in its endeavors thus far. Mr. Farber responded that much of the success is due to the participants selected to be involved with the Partnership Work Group and the leadership of Mr. McKenna.

Member Lussi asked about the signage Mr. McKenna mentioned in his presentation. Mr. McKenna responded that the concept of signage would be similar to what was done by NYS DOT in the Catskill State Park. The objective would be to create recreational signage that would be consistent, would project an Adirondack Park logo, and would lead to local recreational facilities and amenities. The signs would be throughout the Park, not just at the entry way to the Park.

Agency Chair Ulrich noted the need to protect the Park's resources and asked if resource protection has been a part of the Group's dialogue. Both Mr. McKenna and Mr. Farber responded affirmatively. Mr. Farber added that stewardship was the intersection of the discussion and noted there was broad support from the Group to achieve balance between diverse user groups and protection and stewardship of the land by the DEC to maintain the recreational assets the Park provides for visitors and residents alike.

Old Business

None

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New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.