



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

**MINUTES OF THE STATE LAND COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 13, 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. Member Frank Mezzano, 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 Associate Natural Resource Planner Walter Linck.

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 2:00 p.m.

**Approval of Draft Committee Minutes for May 2013**

A motion to approve the draft committee minutes was made by Member Craig and was seconded by Member Thomas. All were in favor.

**Draft Whiteface Mountain UMP Amendment (J. Connolly)**

Jim Connolly reviewed the proposals in the Olympic Regional Development Authority's Whiteface Mt. Unit Management Plan amendment. This was a second reading of the proposed draft amendment which focuses on replacement of the Ski Patrol building on Little Whiteface Mt. and installation of emergency communications equipment for the State Police and Essex County. This item was for action.

Member Valentino moved the item for approval to the Full Agency Board. Member Thomas seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Accessibility Standards and DEC Programs to Address Access for People with Disabilities (C. Fraser, DEC/K. Prickett)**

Kevin Prickett presented an overview of the training he received at the National Center on Accessibility (NCA). His presentation included a brief review of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Carole Fraser then shared actual ADA (Americans with Disability Act) projects that DEC have completed on the Forest Preserve for ADA compliance. She reviewed access opportunities at John Dillon Park, an ADA accessible facility developed by International Paper Co., as well as projects at Fish Creek and Scaroon Manor Campgrounds, and at Saranac Islands, Lake George Islands, and Moss Lake campsites. She also reviewed DEC's responsibility in providing and creating universal access opportunities on other Forest Preserve lands.

Ms. Frasier then provided a virtual tour of DEC's Universal Access Program website. This website offers viewers the opportunity to visually see the amenities offered at ADA compliant DEC recreational facilities.

Local Government Review Board Executive Director Fred Monroe asked if private land situated between two Wild Forest areas is purchased by the State and consequently classified as Wilderness, would there be necessary requirements set forth under the Americans with Disabilities Act to then make the area handicapped accessible. Ms. Fraser responded that some handicapped individuals need and desire Wilderness settings as do people with no disabilities even though they may need assistance or special equipment to access the area. Wilderness provides quiet and solitude to individuals that desire it and is a part of the programs administered by the Department. Mr. Monroe then asked if a small strip of land was classified as something other than Wilderness to provide handicapped access, could that be considered as providing reasonable access under the Act. Ms. Fraser responded yes it could.

Agency Executive Director Martino noted that with the number of wounded soldiers, the aging demographics and the recent number of wounded spectators from the Boston Marathon, the need for facilities and accommodations to serve the physically challenged is significant. The potential for integrating what is being done on private land with public lands can put the Adirondack Park in the forefront of recreational destinations with amenities developed for the disabled. She added this is a major factor of the Park's tourism base.

Committee Chair Booth asked where the longest handicapped accessible trail is located in the Park. Ms. Fraser responded John Dillon Park which has nearly 5 miles of trails. He then asked if a check list of qualifications is used when determining if a trail is suitable for improvements to be made to meet ADA compliance standards. Ms. Fraser responded that the genesis of

this program began with 185 accessibility projects and a budget of \$5 million with a timeline of 5 years to complete each project. The Department hired and trained staff to see these projects to fruition. Since then DEC staff has received additional training to identify areas that have characteristics that naturally lend themselves to accessibility projects based on site characteristics.

Member Wray asked if this program is in response to the Galusha settlement. Ms. Fraser responded affirmatively and added that the program has exceeded all initial expectations.

Committee Chair Booth asked if the Department has discussed the wheel chair models developed for handicapped persons with an all-terrain access design. Ms. Fraser responded that the 2010 revision to the ADA included a new definition of a power mobility device and left it up to the various agencies individually to decide where and when it would be appropriate for these types of devices to be used. There are five assessment factors. The Department's response to this new definition has been the CP-3 program (Commissioner's Policy #3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities), a policy which many other states do not have. There are areas that are maintained for all types of mobility devices including dune buggies, ATVs, golf carts, etc. The roads that are open for CP-3 access are where the Department invites people with disabilities to go to first. However, Ms. Fraser added, the Department is open to discussion with land managers and people with disabilities to provide access to areas they desire to visit. She added that even in Wilderness areas, sites are assessed to see if access can be provided. Geographic and programmatic approaches are taken to provide access where possible so that people do not have to drive 100 miles between fishing piers for example.

Member Mezzano noted that often times the handicapped projects are used by members of the public who are not physically challenged as they provide easy access into an area.

Agency Chair Ulrich asked about the process involved in obtaining a CP3 access permit. Ms. Fraser responded that in all instances a doctor's certificate is necessary to be provided by the individual requesting the permit to demonstrate that he or she does indeed have a mobility issue. She added that these areas are open to everyone and the success has been realized by the Department through letters received by individuals who have

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been able to access the Forest Preserve despite their disability.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.