



DRAFT MINUTES
Public Awareness and
Communications Committee
October 10, 2013
Agency Meeting
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PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
October 10, 2013

The Public Awareness and Communications Committee convened at 9:30 am.

Committee Members Present:

William Thomas (Acting Committee Chair), Sherman Craig, Bradley Austin (DED), Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

Other Members or Designees Present:

Leilani Ulrich (Agency Chairwoman), William Valentino, Karen Feldman, Daniel Wilt, Richard Booth, Arthur Lussi, Robert Stegemann (DEC)

Local Government Review Board Present:

Frederick Monroe - Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, James Townsend, Counsel, Keith McKeever, Mary Palmer, Ed Snizek, Shaun LaLonde, Kathy Regan, John Burth, Devan Korn, Paul Van Cott, Dan Kelleher, Robyn Burgess, Brian Grisi, Jennifer McAleese, Colleen Parker

Acting Committee Chair William Thomas started the meeting by stating that this was an important day for the Agency because we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Adirondack Park Agency.

Keith McKeever gave a presentation on the Adirondack Park Agency and its 40 Year Commitment to the Adirondack Park. He highlighted the strengths of the APA Act and commitment of staff past and present. He also noted the partnerships that have been created over the years.

Mr. McKeever introduced the panel of speakers who were involved in the development and evolution of the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan. The panel included previous staff members Richard Persico, Executive Director, Adirondack Park Agency (1973-1978) and Richard Hoffman, former Agency Community Planner and Staff Attorney (1981-1992), Daniel Smith, former Chairman for the Task Force on the Adirondack Park

Agency (1994), and Andrew Halloran who served as Counsel to then Senator Ron Stafford.

The panelists discussed the Plan's origins and shared their memories of its development. They also discussed current management issues as well as their ideas for future management for the private lands of the Park.

The panel discussion was followed by a question and answer period for the Board and Public.

Sherman Craig asked what the original intent was on the issue of clustering.

Mr. Persico said that it was to preserve open space.

William Valentino asked if the original intent for the agency was to only be involved in larger regional projects and pass authority on to local governments, and having only nineteen local governments with approved plans what could have been done differently.

Mr. Persico said on a practical basis with limited resources it would have been better to let local government review Class B projects. This in turn would have promoted more local planning.

Andrew Halloran added that people that live in the small towns in the park were not pro-zoning and they do not want to tell people what to do with their property.

Daniel Smith also commented that when a local town adopts a land use plan there is a zoning ordinance, a subdivision ordinance and a sanitary code. If there was a model for those three components it would be cheaper, easier and more acceptable.

Richard Booth asked what the issue of the shoreline restrictions was at that time.

Mr. Persico explained that it took a lot of negotiation. It was a political decision in the end, because the APA Act was not going to pass with the strict shoreline restrictions.

Karen Feldman asked if there were any discussions of the economic impact on the towns in the original intent of the Act, or what the factors should be.

Mr. Persico said that it was put in very early in the preliminary plan and highlighted in the principles of the act.

Arthur Lussi asked if the framers of the Plan ever contemplated that in 40 years the State would own one million more acres.

Mr. Halloran stated that there were big discussions about how much land the state should own. Back then the goal was a 50 - 50 partnership.

Fred Monroe commented that in the original APA Act, section 801 clearly pointed towards balance. He asked how you can have a state land plan that is created by the Agency that rejects the balance that is mandated by the Legislature.

Mr. Persico responded that the balance was built into the private land use and development act.

Mr. Smith stated from his professional experience the APA Act was not driving people out of the Park and worked to cluster development.

Chairwoman Ulrich commented on the relationship the Agency has with the Local Government Review Board and that its intent is to assist the Agency. She asked the panel if they thought the relationship with the Local Government Review Board is better now.

Mr. Hoffman responded saying that the relationship has radically improved over the years.

Ron Konowitz, seated in the audience, commented that part of the economic viability of small Towns is having access to State Land for the many outdoor activities there are. He asked the panel if the intent of the original Plan was to make adjustments over time to allow for more activities on Forest Preserve Land.

Mr. Persico said that it was a planning process that you have to continue and the balancing process was there from the start.

Mr. Halloran reminded everyone that change is not necessarily bad, there is room for new things to happen. Total preservation is not the way to go. Mr. Smith added that consistency in life is good.

Chairwoman Ulrich presented the panel with plaques recognizing the importance of what they brought to the Agency and the Park.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 12:25 pm.