



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 Minutes, Full Agency, May 2014, Agency Meeting, TDM:sas 2:47PM 5/14/14

May 8 & 9, 2014

Thursday, May 8, 2014

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Arthur Lussi, Acting Chair
Sherman Craig, Member (absent and excused May 9)
Karen Feldman, Member
William Thomas, Member
William Valentino, Member
Dan Wilt, Member
Brad Austin, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development
Dierdre Scozzafava, Designee, NYS Department of State
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Terry Martino, Executive Director
James Townsend, Counsel
Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman, absent and excused
Richard Booth, Member, absent and excused

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT

Fred Monroe, Executive Director

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Keith McKeever, Public Information Director
Kathy Regan, Senior Natural Resources Planner
Rick Weber, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs
Mary Reardon, Secretary 1
Robyn Burgess, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Fritz Aldinger, Environmental Program Specialist 1 Trainee
Annemarie Peer, Keyboard Specialist 1
Sue Streiff, Secretary to Executive Director
Ed Snizek, Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis

Video and MP3 audio recordings of the proceedings, including public comment, are available in their entirety via webcast at http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2.

Presiding Chairman Lussi called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of March 13-14, 2014 Agency Minutes

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2014. A copy of the official minutes as adopted by the Agency is on file at the Agency.

3. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Martino reported that since Local Government Day, there has been another regional event with the sponsorship of Adirondack Day by the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages. She said the leadership of the AATV continues to foster recognition of the Adirondacks Park. Mr. Craig attended the event and reported on the diversity of groups present and their ability to network. Ms. Feldman reported that there were many groups interested in getting involved with the Wounded Warrior Project and that she will be following up with them. Mr. Stegemann said the event provided great exposure to the Adirondacks, particularly with down-state legislators responsible for policies that affect the Park. Mr. Monroe said the AATV was presented with a proclamation from the Governor in recognition of Adirondack Day.

Ms. Martino reported on the ongoing exploration of a biomass project involving the three State facilities in Ray Brook: State Police, NYS DEC and the Agency. Mr. Stegemann commented that this work has been ongoing for two years. He said there are still issues to be discussed such as maintenance, but it will be more practical and efficient.

Ms. Martino informed the Board that she, Dan Kelleher and Richard Weber will host an Industrial Roundtable on May 14, 2014. She said they will meet with six counties to discuss commercial and public use applications and who to contact at the Agency. She also said that following the Hydrilla Roundtable with Agency and DEC staff, it has been decided that there will be one permit created which will be used by both agencies.

Executive Director Martino welcomed Annemarie Peer to the Agency as a Keyboard Specialist 1.

Ms. Martino discussed the Agency's Arboretum and briefed the Board on past recipients. She said this year the Agency is honoring the longest serving Chairman, Herman "Woody" Cole. She thanked Kyle

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Martin and Keith McKeever for placing the plaques and Mr. and Mrs. Craig for providing the cedar stakes. Mr. Craig noted that Dr. Peter Vanderwater, a noted Environmentalist at St. Lawrence University, had passed.

4. Recusals

Mr. Craig recused himself from the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest UMP.

Mr. Lussi said that although P2014-14 involves a beverage distribution company that delivers to his family owned business, it would not affect his vote on the project and he did not recuse himself.

5. Motion for Executive Session

None

6. Motion to Adjourn into Committees

On motion of Robert Stegemann, seconded by Dan Wilt, the Agency unanimously adjourned into committees at 9:30 a.m.

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Friday May 9, 2014

Full Agency

9:40 AM

Presiding Chair Lussi reconvened the Full Agency meeting at 9:40 AM for Community Spotlight with Mayor Robert Blais, Village of Lake George; Darlene Gunther, Village Clerk-Treasurer; Dave Harrington, Superintendent of Public Works and Lisa Nagle, ELAN Planning, Design & Landscape Architecture.

Mayor Blais gave a brief history of the Village. He said that early industry consisted of logging and sawmills. He said the town had two sawmills which employed a good portion of the residents. When the sawmills burned, the residents realized the need to form a fire service and build a water system. The Village of Lake George was incorporated to meet this need.

Mayor Blais said the Village began to attract young people in the 1960's and lost its reputation as a family resort. He said he ran for Mayor to bring families back to the Village. He said this was accomplished through zoning, creating a sign ordinance, the open container law, and raising of the drinking age.

Planner Lisa Nagle said the town received grants from the Department of State and other State agencies as well as funding from private donations to improve walkways, the fire station, parks and more. She said that when planning for growth, the Village created Formal Design Guidelines to encourage good design. She explained the work being done on the Environmental Park and its positive environmental impacts.

Village Clerk-Treasurer Darlene Gunther explained some of the ways the Village generates revenue: Sales and Occupancy Taxes, parking meters, parking passes during Americade, meters on public docks and facility use permits. She said the Village has strong reserves and budget flexibility.

Mayor Blais said the Village has had much success working with the Town of Lake George and has many shared resources. He said for now residents do not want total dissolution but he foresees dissolution in the future.

Superintendent of Public Works Dave Harrington said it is the Village's goal to protect the lake. He listed environmental

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improvements including a stormwater upgrade, alternative de-icing agents, significant and ongoing improvements to the waste water treatment plant and switching to "green" products. He said Village employees are very good stewards of the lake.

Mayor Blais said the Village of Lake George was fortunate to have tourists as the principle economic engine and that it is a balance between attracting tourists and appeasing residents. He said the Village has much to offer to all ages.

There was a question and answer session during which Mayor Blais informed the Board that as a gateway to the Adirondacks, the new Visitor Center dedicated a staffed area which highlights many Adirondack towns.

A certificate of appreciation was given to the group of presenters.

The presentation ended at 10:45

1. Committee Reports

a. Regulatory Programs Committee

- 1). On motion by Mr. Valentino, seconded by Mr. Austin, the Agency unanimously approved the variance for Anthony and Katherine Cincotta in Jay, NY, Essex County. (P2013-249)
- 2). On motion by Mr. Valentino, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously approved the expansion of Commercial Use for 1016 Saranac Properties in St. Armand, Essex County. (P2014-14)
- 3). On motion by Mr. Valentino, seconded by Mr. Thomas the Agency approved a variance for Benjamin and Betsy LeRoy in North Elba, Essex County. Susan Parker addressed Board members' concerns regarding stormwater as well as clarifying maintenance of the retaining wall. Mr. Austin, Ms. Feldman, Mr. Lussi, Ms. Scozzafava, Mr. Stegemann and Mr. Valentino voted for, Mr. Wilt voted against. The motion carried. (P2013-227)

b. Economic Affairs Committee

- 1). Mr. Lussi reported on the presentation by Mr. Cilley of St. Regis Canoe Outfitters. He reported that the committee approved its April minutes and report.

c. State Land Committee

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- 1). On motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the Agency unanimously approved a resolution to seek public comment on the Bog River Complex UMP Amendment.
- 2). On motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously approved a resolution to seek public comment on the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest UMP Amendment.
- 3). On motion by Mr. Wilt, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the Agency unanimously approved the determination of compliance for the St. Regis Mountain Firetower Historic Area UMP with the State Land Master Plan.
- 4). On motion by Mr. Stegemann, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously approved the determination of compliance for the Hurricane Mountain Firetower Historic Area UMP.

d. Local Government Services

- 1). Mr. Wilt reported on the Local Government Day presentation by Brian Grisi and Robyn Burgess.

2. Interim Reports

The Administration, Park Policy and Planning, Enforcement, Public Awareness and Communications, Park Ecology, and Legal Affairs Committees did not meet this month. Monthly reports were included in the mailing.

3. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

4. Local Government Review Board Comment (F. Monroe, LGRB)

Mr. Monroe cited two reasons for the Board to revisit the transfer of building rights issue: P2014-14 required the transfer of a building right to allow expansion and he also noted Mr. Cilley's implication of the need for lodging in the Newcomb area to attract people to the new state land there.

5. Member Comments

Ms. Scozzafava congratulated Brian Grisi and Robyn Burgess for another successful Local Government Day. She appreciated the presentation by Mayor Blais and what can be accomplished with good leadership and by working together. She thanked Mr. Lussi for acting as Chair.

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Mr. Wilt also appreciated the presentation of Mayor Blais and staff. He noted that he voted against P2013-227 because he felt that the house is excessive for the size of the lot and approving the project sets bad precedence. He thanked Mr. Lussi for acting as Chair.

Mr. Valentino commented on the horrific air pollution in China. He said the reinstated EPA air quality laws are great for the environment.

Mr. Thomas appreciated the presentation by Mayor Blais and staff. He said amazing things were happening in Warren County. He reported on the whitewater event in North Creek and presented Mr. Townsend with a Derby button.

Mr. Austin said the Mayor's presentation was fantastic. He appreciated the Mayor's leadership at the southern gateway to the Adirondacks. He also reported that applications are being accepted for CFA grants. He thanked Mr. Lussi for acting as Chair.

Ms. Feldman reported that Sherman Craig was feeling better. She thanked Mr. Lussi for acting as Chair. She thanked staff for their hard work. She said with climate change, the Board needs to have a discussion on variances for shoreline setbacks. She said she's looking forward to fishing and being outdoors.

Mr. Stegemann spoke of the vibrancy of the Park. He said as he worked with Mayor Blais on DEC projects, he was struck by the Mayor's powerful ability to communicate. He commended staff on their work on the UMPs and amendments.

Mr. Townsend put out a public call for 1961-1966 Whitewater Derby buttons for Mr. Thomas.

Executive Director Martino thanked Mr. Lussi for acting as Chair. She appreciated the presentation by Mayor Blais and staff. She said that the Agency Aboretum honors those who make a difference and give staff a sense of purpose.

Mr. Lussi said he struggled with the LeRoy project. He spoke to Mr. Wilt's point of setting precedent and said that if the project had not been pre-approved by the municipality, he would not have approved it. He said the Mayor was a tough act to follow. He said the Mayor was fortunate to have a clerk so fiscally sound, a Public Works Superintendent so environmentally conscious, and such a thoughtful planner.

6. Adjournment

By unanimous consent the Agency adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Attachments:

P2013-227 LeRoy

P2013-249 Cincotta

P2014-14 1016 Saranac Properties LLC

LCU/TDM/sas

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman