



Adirondack Park Agency

LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

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, 2/17/15
TDM:sas 3:00 PM

February 12-13, 2015

Thursday, February 12, 2015

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Richard Booth, Member
Sherman Craig, Member
Karen Feldman, Member
Arthur Lussi, Member
William Thomas, 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

Absent and Excused

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT

Fred Monroe, Executive Director

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Keith McKeever, Public Information Director
Amy Hall, Clerk 2
Mary Reardon, Secretary 1
Patrick Connally, Environmental Program Specialist
John Burth, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Ed Snizek, Supervisor Natural Resource Analysis
Shaun Lalonde, Soil and Water Engineering Specialist
Paul Van Cott, Associate Attorney
Sarah Reynolds, Associate Counsel
Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant-Economic Affairs
Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist
Sue Streiff, Secretary to Executive Director

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

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment

2. Approval of January 15, 2015 Agency Minutes

On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2015. A copy of the official minutes as adopted by the Agency is on file at the Agency.

3. Recusals

None

4. Motion for Executive Session

None

5. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Martino presented the 2014 Annual Report. She reported on the volume of calls, walk-ins, jurisdictional inquiry forms and permits received in 2014 which are indicative of the work the Agency is involved in.

She said that staff are working on improving internal and external efficiencies by updating forms, handbooks and permits to ensure consistent and clear information which helps create better response from the public.

She reported on staffs' ongoing work on legal guidance, emergency regulations and forestry practices. She also reported on the creation of two General Permits to address the needs of rapid response to invasive species and the placement of utility poles in wetlands.

She said that staff are reviewing shoreline stabilization in conjunction with Governor Cuomo's Communities Rising initiative. She reported that Agency staff provided training to both local governments and Agency staff which focused on water quality protection as well as Adirondack Local Land Use Plans. She commented on the Agency's Resolution commending the Town of Inlet's law requiring septic inspections at a property's point of sale thereby protecting water quality.

She commented on the Agency's public outreach through participation with local governments, colleges and even globally by hosting groups from Japan and Germany; as well as the use of Facebook and Twitter. She talked about the Agency's information services and Look-up System and how important these services are to the Agency.

Ms. Martino talked about celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and of the ongoing Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan amendment work.

She concluded by thanking the staff and Board for their contributions to the Agency.

Mr. Lussi commented that he felt the visual presentation of the Annual Report gave it more credibility by showing staff at sites around the Park. He suggested that staff use pictures when presenting projects.

Mr. Thomas asked how social media visits compared to website visits. He was told social media had less visits but was still useful. He said he often checked the Facebook page.

Mr. Booth said the report showed what has been done throughout the year but does not show what is not getting enough attention. He felt there should be a tool to give the Board a sense of the Agency's limits so they would have the information to move forward in the discussion.

Mr. Craig said the quality of the Agency staff is reflected in the report. He thanked staff for preparing the report.

Mr. Austin said the report showed the quality of the Agency's work.

Mr. Stegemann commented on multiple Agencies' coordination and efficiencies effort which helped expedite the work on Rt. 73 and Whiteface Highway projects. He said he hopes for continued cooperation between the Agencies and communities going forward.

6. Board Discussion

Mr. Lussi asked for ideas, both positive and negative, from the Board regarding ideas and topics going forward into 2015.

Mr. Craig presented his idea of Board members reviewing a list of discussion topics. His areas of concern were forestry alternatives, variances for on-site wastewater treatment systems/DOH presentation, the SLMP process, and to revisit the ACR process. Counsel Townsend said these are important topics staff are working on and should be discussed publically.

Mr. Booth asked for more detail in projects that have been approved: their success and negatives and final impacts; to track Land Use Map amendments to see what has evolved; as a regulatory agency, to be more informed about enforcement actions. He also felt the Park needs more integration in planning for recreational use.

Mr. Thomas said he is enthused by the Great South Woods Complex Planning Project because of the connection between Hamlet and State land use. He also congratulated Executive Director Martino for her work as Executive Director at ANCA and on ANCA's 60th anniversary. He said he looks forward to the opportunities possible with SLMP amendments.

Ms. Feldman said she thought Board members should make more site visits to support decision-making. She said she would like to participate in the outings such as the Goodman Mountain trail dedication. She said the Board should participate in workshops on the Friday schedule. She was glad to see the work being done to streamline and update project requirements. Mr. Lussi asked what is involved legally for education requirements. Counsel Townsend said that he would recirculate legal memos regarding education and participation in local government public meetings.

Mr. Stegemann said he was pleased with the continued efficiencies between the Agency and the Department. He said the goal of complex planning is to protect the land while connecting it to the communities. He said this will provide opportunities for communities.

Mr. Booth said the Adirondacks may become a focal point for generating alternative energy facilities such as wind and solar farms and biomass. He said the Board should be educated on these types of projects to prepare for the future. Mr. Lussi said the Economic Division should have a presentation on hydro energy in the Park as well.

Mr. Lussi said he would like to see more discussion on climate change. He said the Board should be diligent and continue to act on this topic as the Agency did with Emergency Projects Regulations.

7. Motion to Adjourn into Committees

On motion of Ms. Feldman, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Agency unanimously adjourned into committees at 9:15 a.m.

Friday, February 13, 2015

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Richard Booth, Member
Sherman Craig, Member
Karen Feldman, Member
Arthur Lussi, Member
William Thomas, Member
Dan Wilt, Member
Brad Austin, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development
Dierdre Scozzafava, Designee, NYS Department of State
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Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant-Economic Affairs
Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist
Sue Streiff, Secretary to Executive Director

Full Agency

11:00 A.M.

Presiding Chairman Lussi reconvened the Full Agency meeting at 11:20 a.m.

1) Committee Reports

a) Regulatory Programs Committee

On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Booth, the Agency unanimously approved the Franklin County Department of Emergency Services project to replace an existing 200-foot-tall guyed lattice tower with a 180-foot-tall self-supporting lattice tower and installation of 10 new antennas with amendments consistent with the Committee recommendations. (P2014-0140)

Mr. Booth clarified that there was not a lower standard applied to this project due to development outside of the Park.

On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Ms. Scozzafava, the Agency unanimously approved the Lyme Timber Company timber harvest on a 240 acre portion of Lyme's 6,161 acre Robinwood Tract with amendments consistent with the Committee recommendations. (P2014-0222)

Mr. Stegemann said he supports this prescription of harvest to ensure the economic future of forests.

On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Agency unanimously approved the DMK Development/Tractor Supply project involving construction of a 19,000 square foot commercial retail building. (P2013-0252)

On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Booth, the Agency unanimously approved staffs' recommendation of denial of variance for Raymond and Amy Butler involving an increase in height of an existing 19-foot-tall single family dwelling to 33 feet in height with amendments consistent with the Committee recommendations. (P2014-0039)

b) Administration Committee

On motion of Ms. Feldman, seconded by Ms. Scozzafava, the Agency unanimously approved an amendment of the Delegation Resolution to permit consideration of minor variances by the Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs.

c) Park Policy Ecology Committee

Mr. Lussi said that Mr. Snizek's report included an opportunity for Board member training: Observing Frogs, Birds & Plants on February 28 and March 21 and Outdoor Observations on May 30. He reported on the Adirondack Youth Climate Change Summit presentation.

d) Park Policy and Planning Committee

On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously approved the acceptance of the DSEIS for the Town of Wilmington Map Amendment 2014-03 and authorized the committee to proceed to Public Hearing. (MA 2014-03)

e) Legal Affairs Committee

On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Lussi, the Agency unanimously approved the January 15, 2015 committee minutes.

f) Public Awareness and Communications Committee

On motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Ms. Scozzafava, the Agency unanimously approved the January 15, 2015 committee minutes.

2) Interim Reports

The Economic Affairs, Enforcement, Local Government Services, and State Land committees did not meet this month. Monthly reports were included in the mailing.

3) Old Business

None

4) New Business

None

5) Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

6) Local Government Review Board Comment

Fred Monroe commented on the Adirondack Youth Climate Center presentation. He remembered Nellie Staves who helped create the Wild Center, and said how much she would have enjoyed the presentation. He also talked about Adirondack Lakes Alliance and the work they are doing to combat invasive species. He commended Governor Cuomo's Park-wide invasive species plan.

7) Member Comment

Ms. Scozzafava said she thought the presentation was excellent and congratulated the participants.

Mr. Wilt also enjoyed the presentation and hoped the Board would help encourage the expansion of the program. He reminded all to register for Local Government Day. He sent best wishes to Chairwoman and Jim Ulrich.

Mr. Booth also sent his regards to Jim and Lani Ulrich. He welcomed Fred Monroe back. He talked about a PBS special he watched featuring Dr. Trudeau and the battle against tuberculosis which featured the history of Saranac Lake. He said one of the climate change presenters mentioned it would be a long journey to affect climate change. He said the United States' energy policy of inexpensive gas has to change if there is going to be real climate change. He encouraged students looking into science careers to make an extra effort in math and economics as well.

Mr. Stegemann said the presentation was great and that it had reminded him of his own stewardship duties and responsibilities. He reported that the DEC is also working on an invasive species plan.

Ms. Feldman said the presentation was inspiring and that all should do whatever they could to help educate these students and try to keep them in the Park. She acknowledged Mr. Monroe and his work organizing and working with the Adirondack Lakes Alliance. She thanked him for all his work in the prevention of invasive species.

Mr. Craig thanked the Regulatory Committee for their hard work and preparation for the monthly meeting. He thanked Mr. Monroe for his commitment to combating invasives. He said the presentation was great and reminded him of his years as a math teacher.

Mr. Austin said he enjoyed the presentation and reminded all that everyone can do something to help climate change. He mentioned the Governor's invasive species plan, broadband plan and workforce training tax incentive.

Mr. Thomas thanked staff for the 2014 Board Highlights and Division Reports. He said they are important documents that capture the work the Agency and staff do.

Executive Director Martino reminded all that the 2014 Board Highlights and Division Reports are available on the Agency website. She thanked Regulatory Programs staff for the preparation on their presentations. She commented on how exciting the Youth Climate Change Summit presentation was. She said she looks forward to 2015.

Presiding Chairman Lussi said it is important for all to reduce their carbon footprint. He said he had recently installed a wood/oil furnace and encouraged people in the North Country to move toward wood or pellet stoves. He sent wishes to the Ulrichs.

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Attachments:

P2014-0140

P2014-0222

P2013-0252

P2014-0039

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman