



TOWN OF NORTH ELBA

Rail Corridor Resolution September 10, 2013

The Town of North Elba has long supported having a bike path using the NYS Recreational Corridor. For over ten years the Town worked to engineer a bike path next to the railroad tracks, and has applied for and received grant monies to construct a trail which would allow the corridor to be used both by the tourist train, and as a recreational trail.

It has now become evident that the dual use of the transportation corridor is not financially feasible given a change in federal wetland regulations. Recently, we were informed by the Army Corps of Engineering that the project will be subject to full review and an expansion of projected engineering which will prove cost prohibitive.

Given this inflexible decision, the North Elba Town Council now fully endorses a conversion of the Lake Placid to Saranac Lake portion of the NYS travel corridor from its current use as a railroad corridor to a more appropriate use as a recreational trail. This is not a change in our position which has always been to use the corridor for recreational purposes; however this is acknowledgment that in order for the corridor to be used as a bike path, the rails will need to be removed.

It is our opinion that a bike path from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake will be used and enjoyed by a future diversity of users including local residents and tourists alike which will help generate recreational enthusiasm and expand economic opportunities throughout our entire region.

The North Elba Town Council therefore respectfully requests that Governor Cuomo, DEC Commissioner Martens, and DOT Commissioner McDonald amend the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan and allow for the removal of the in-place rails so that a recreational trail can be built in its place.

Robert T. Politi, Supervisor

Bob Miller, Councilman

Derek Doty, Councilman

Jack Favro, Councilman

Jay Rand, Councilman