



Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY **DRAFT DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, December 15, 2022

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES, AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

John Ernst, Chairperson, *Remotely*
Mark Hall, Member
Andrea Hogan, Member
Benita Law-Diao, Member
Art Lussi, Member
Ken Lynch, Member
Zoë Smith, Member, *Remotely*
Dan Wilt, Member
Brad Austin, Empire State Development
Matt Tebo, Dept. of State
Randy Young, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Barb Rice, Executive Director
Chris Cooper, Counsel

ABSENT AND EXCUSED

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT

Jerry Delaney, Executive Director

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Milt Adams
Amy Hall
Dan Kelleher
Keith McKeever
Megan Phillips
Jim Pinheiro
Bob Kreider, NYS ITS

Link to video and audio recordings of the proceedings to be added.

1. CALL TO ORDER and 2. WELCOMING REMARKS

Chairperson Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., welcomed everyone, and offered congratulations to Zoë Smith on being named interim executive director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Horvath, a resident of North River, would like the Board to consider an outside independent review of any environmental impacts prior to approving any permits for an expansion of Barton Mines.

Beth Maher, a resident of North River, spoke about health concerns from increased mining such as dust and noise from mining operations.

4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 17, 2022 AGENCY MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Benita Law-Diao, the November minutes were unanimously approved with Ken Lynch and Randy Young abstaining.

5. RECUSALS

None.

6. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Rice welcomed everyone, noting that this was the last meeting of 2022, and adding thanks to the staff for their hard work and warm welcome. Executive Director Rice also thanked the Board for their welcome and is looking forward to 2023.

Executive Director Rice congratulated the 38 men and women who recently graduated from the NYS Forest Ranger school, adding special recognition to Matthew Adams, son of APA staff member Milt Adams. Congratulations were also extended to Dan Kelting on being named president of Paul Smith's College and to Zoë Smith on being named interim executive director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute.

Executive Director Rice said that efforts to mark the APA's 50th anniversary are continuing with the new 50th logo going into use beginning in January, a new map coming out soon, and a list of diverse speakers to appear at Agency meetings being created.

Lastly Executive Director Rice noted that Governor Hochul had recently announced that Tupper Lake would receive \$10 million for community improvements and that APA staff had assisted with securing those funds.

8. Motion to Adjourn into Committees

On motion of John Ernst seconded by Art Lussi, the Agency adjourned into committees at approximately 10:20 a.m.

State Land Committee

The committee meeting convened at approximately 10:20 a.m.

State Land Committee Members Present:

Ken Lynch (Committee Chair), Benita Law-Diao, Andrea Hogan, Art Lussi, Randy Young (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

John Ernst (Chair) *remotely*, Brad Austin (ESD), Mark Hall, Zoë Smith *remotely*, Matt Tebo (DOS), Dan Wilt

Local Government Review Board

Jerry Delaney

Agency Staff Present:

Chris Cooper, Barb Rice, Megan Phillips, Kevin Prickett, Matt McNamara

(1) State Land Report (Megan Phillips)

Deputy Director of Planning Megan Phillips provided an update regarding the rail trail. The trail segment under active construction between Lake Placid and Saranac Lake will be reopened by December 19th for snowmobiles and other winter uses including cross country skiing, fat bikes, snowshoeing, etc. Snow fence has been installed in some areas near Fowlers Crossing to ensure user safety. At the Saranac Lake Depot, unnecessary track is being removed and the ground is being regraded before the snowmobiling commences. Kubricki Construction is also working on the Washington Street parking area in Tupper Lake.

Deputy Director Phillips also reported that staff continue to conduct site visits in preparation for a 2023 classification package, which will include roughly 6,000 acres of state land that have been acquired since the last classification action in 2018, reminding the board that the Adirondack Park Agency Act requires the Agency to classify the state lands in the Park according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use.

Lastly, it was noted that the team continues to work with DEC on unit management plans. Plans in the queue include Rollins Pond Campground & Day Use Area, Golden Beach Campground & Day Use Area, and John Brown Farm and Crown Point Historic Sites.

Link to video and audio recordings of the complete report to be added.

(2) Broadalbin Boat Launch Unit Management Plan (Josh Clague, DEC, and Megan Phillips, APA)

Josh Clague delivered a presentation on the content of the public draft UMP for the Broadalbin Boat Launch. Megan Phillips shared State Land Master Plan guidelines and criteria that are used to determine conformance of the draft UMP.

On motion of Andrea Hogan, seconded by Art Lussi, the committee unanimously voted to authorize a joint public comment period with DEC through January 16.

Link to video and audio recordings of the presentation and following discussion to be added.

(3) Wild Forest Basic Guideline No. 4 – No Material Increase of Road Mileage on Wild Forest Lands

Board members deliberated on the topic and program staff and counsel were available to assist with answering questions. No formal action was taken at this meeting however the board did instruct staff to prepare a fourth no material increase alternative and to begin drafting desired conditions for Wild Forest roads.

Link to video and audio recordings of the presentation and following discussion to be added.

The committee adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Regulatory Programs Committee

The committee meeting convened at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Regulatory Programs Committee Members Present:

Dan Wilt (Committee Chair), Matt Tebo (DOS), Art Lussi, Ken Lynch

Other Members and Designees Present:

John Ernst (Chair) *remotely*, Brad Austin (ESD), Mark Hall, Zoe Smith *remotely*, Benita Law-Diao, Andrea Hogan, Randy Young

Local Government Review Board Present:

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Chris Cooper, Barb Rice, John Burth, and Ariel Lynch

(1) Regulatory Programs Report (John Burth)

John Burth began his report by reviewing statistics for 2022, and how they compare to years prior. Mr. Burth then spoke briefly about steps that the Regulatory Programs Division will be taking starting in 2023 regarding posting applications we are reviewing, as well as permits we are issuing.

Link to video and audio recordings of the complete report to be added.

(2) P2022-0008 Winney (Ariel Lynch)

Ariel Lynch gave a detailed overview and presentation of the project including review of jurisdiction, conclusions of law, a description and slides of the project location and the

existing conditions, site history, proposed project details, visual analysis slides, public comment, review by others, and staff's recommendation and permit conditions.

Link to video and audio recordings of the presentation and following discussion to be added.

A motion for approval with conditions was made by Matt Tebo and seconded by Ken Lynch. All were in favor.

(3) Old Business

None

(4) New Business

None

The committee meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25pm Thursday, December 15, 2022.

Full Agency resumed at approximately 2:25 p.m.

9. Committee Reports

a) State Land Committee

Ken Lynch reported that the committee had heard a report from Megan Phillips.

On motion of Ken Lynch, seconded by Art Lussi, the Agency voted unanimously to allow the Agency to hold a joint public comment period with DEC on the Broadalbin Boat Launch UMP on Great Sacandaga Lake.

Discussions were also held on Wild Forest Basic Guideline #4, No Material Increase of Road Mileage. Consideration was given to the three questions initially raised by the Board, generally agreeing to the acceptable mileage calculation from 1972. Further discussion was held on what constitutes material increase, with a general recommendation to staff that they possibly come back with other alternatives. Discussions were also held on CP3, regarding whether or not it should be included.

b) Regulatory Programs

Dan Wilt reported that the committee had heard a report from John Burth.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by John Ernst, the Agency voted unanimously to approve P2022-0008, Lane Winney, Town of Mayfield, Fulton County, with conditions.

10. Interim Reports

The Economic Affairs, Enforcement, Legal Affairs, Local Government Services, Park Ecology, Park Policy and Planning, and Public Awareness and Communication committees did not meet this month.

Local Government Review Board Report:

Jerry Delaney wanted to thank the Board for the openness around the discussions on road mileage as it has real implications on how towns and counties look at state land inside their boundaries, adding that it's been fifty years so it was time for this discussion to happen. Jerry Delaney ended by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

11. Member Comment

Brad Austin commented that he had recently seen a wonderful article about the Ernst family, noting that it was very informative and enjoyable.

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

None

14. Public Comment

None

Before ending, Chairperson Ernst announced that the next Agency meeting is scheduled for January 11 & 12, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 2:33 p.m.

John Ernst, Chairperson