



Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY **FINAL February MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, February 8, 2023

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES, AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

John Ernst, Chairperson
Mark Hall, Member
Art Lussi
Ken Lynch, Member
Dan Wilt, Member
Brad Austin, ESD
Matt Tebo, Dept. of State
Joe Zalewski, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Barb Rice, Executive Director - Remotely
Sarah Reynolds, Associate Counsel

ABSENT AND EXCUSED

Benita Law-Diao, Member
Zoë Smith, Member

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Ben Amos
John Burth
Amy Hall
Bart Haralson
Jenny Hubbard
Bob Kreider, NYS ITS
Ariel Lynch
Keith McKeever
Craig Michaels
Megan Phillips
Matt McNamara
Dave Plante
Lizz Schuyler

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

1. CALL TO ORDER and 2. WELCOMING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Chairperson Ernst welcomed everyone and noted that board members Benita Law-Diao and Zoë Smith would not be in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Gibson commented on the importance of community planning, noting that the APA used to have planning assistants on staff to aid towns and villages, adding it would be nice to see that reinstated.

4. APPROVAL OF January 11, 2024 AGENCY MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Art Lussi, the January minutes were unanimously approved, with Mark Hall and Brad Austin abstaining.

5. RECUSALS

None

6. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Associate Counsel Sarah Reynolds noted that no executive session was needed.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Rice welcomed everyone, adding the hope we all get out to enjoy the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival and noted that February is Black History Month as well as the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

Executive Director Rice had the opportunity to attend Governor Hochul's presentation at Mount Van Hovenberg where announcements included \$500 million toward developing housing on state owned properties, \$13.1 million to the Rail Trail project and increased grants through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative to assist towns with large infrastructure projects. Executive Director Rice also highlighted \$2.5 million allocated to Tupper Lake for clean drinking water.

With a nod to transparency, Executive Director Rice said the Agency now has an online public input page, electronic access to issued permits, a revised Citizens Guide and noted that the Agency's FOIL has integrated into the state system. The Agency is also looking at broadening the spread of information through social media outlets, modifying APA jurisdictional information on our website and increasing community engagement, adding that the 2nd annual Adirondack Planning Forum would be happening in April.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO COMMITTEES

Without objection the Agency adjourned into committees at about 9:15 am.

Regulatory Programs Committee

The committee meeting convened at approximately 9:15 am.

Regulatory Programs Committee Members Present

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

Other Members and Designees Present

John Ernst, Joe Zalewski, Mark Hall, Brad Austin. Zoë Smith & Benita Law-Diao were absent.

Local Government Review Board Present

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present

Barb Rice, Sarah Reynolds, David Plante, John Burth, Craig Michaels, Elizabeth Schuyler, Ariel Lynch, Bart Haralson, Ben Amos.

Regulatory Programs Report (David Plante)

David Plante began his report by giving the board an overview of January 2024 totals for permits and applications, with comparisons to prior years for the Regulatory Programs Division. Dave Plante then spoke of the recent interest from a member of the public in bringing the High-Profile Report back and explained more in details why it was removed in the first place as well as measures taken to replace the High-Profile Report to better inform the public about major projects.

GP2024G-1 (Benjamin Amos)

Ben Amos gave a brief presentation of the new 2024 General Permit GP2024G-1, proposed to replace General Permit GP2002G-3AAR. The committee unanimously adopted a motion to recommend approval to the full board for the draft resolution initiating the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process and setting the public comment period for the proposed General Permit.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The committee meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00am.

Link to video and audio recordings of the Regulatory Programs report, presentation, and following discussions to be added.

State Land Committee

The committee meeting convened at approximately 10:00 am.

State Land Committee Members Present

Ken Lynch (Chair), Joe Zalewski. Zoë Smith & Benita Law-Diao were absent.

Other Members and Designees Present

Mark Hall, Brad Austin, Matt Tebo, John Ernst, Art Lussi.

Local Government Review Board Present

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present

Barb Rice, Sarah Reynolds, Craig Michaels, Megan Phillips, Matt McNamara.

Planning Division Report (Megan Phillips)

Deputy Director Phillips provided an update on the status of the rail trail construction and noted that state land staff continue to prepare unit management plans with DEC and other agency partners, including plans for John Brown Farm and Debar Mountain Wild Forest. State land staff have also been engaged in consultations regarding pond reclamation, pumpable privies, accessible fire rings, and mountain bike races at Mount Van Hoevenberg.

Deputy Director Phillips also reported that Agency staff continue to participate in the High Peaks visitor use mgmt. framework project and mentioned a time lapse video that depicts conditions along the trail to and on the summit of Mt. Marcy in the High Peaks wilderness on a busy summer weekend last August, now available at highpeaksvum.com.

The Agency issued its findings and decision statement regarding the 2023-24 state land classification package. The document was shared with local governments impacted by the action and is now posted on the Agency's website with the January state land mailing materials. The package was relayed to Governor Hochul for her approval and signature on Monday, February 5.

The Local Government Services team has processed two variance referrals so far in 2024 and have five variance pre-applications and one referral currently in the hopper. Staff are also actively working on approved program amendments with the Town of Hague (for their sanitary code) & Town of Westport (for signs & administrative changes).

The second annual Adirondack Planning Forum will be held at the Hotel Saranac on April 24 and 25. Staff are working on identifying and confirming panelists for our concurrent tracks. One track will entail Department of State trainings that offer continuing education credits for planning and zoning board members, and the second track touches on issues that are of interest to a broader audience in the Park.

The Geographic Information Systems team is putting the finishing touches on a job description for a paid GIS internship with the Agency this summer. We will post the opportunity through the NYS Student Internship Portal at www.nysinternships.cs.ny.gov/nnyl/.

Rollins Pond Campground Unit Management Plan (Josh Houghton, DEC, and Matt McNamara, APA)

Staff from DEC and APA presented the proposed final draft of the UMP and summarized and responded to comments received from members of the public, and summarized changes made to the final plan. On motion of Joe Zalewski, seconded by John Ernst, the committee advanced a resolution finding the plan in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan to the full agency for consideration.

Golden Beach Campground & Day Use Area Unit Management Plan (Josh Houghton, DEC, and Megan Phillips, APA)

Staff from DEC and APA presented the proposed final draft of the UMP and summarized and responded to comments received from members of the public. On motion of John Ernst, seconded by Joe Zalewski, the committee advanced a resolution finding the plan in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan to the full agency for consideration.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The committee meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 am.

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

Full Agency resumed at approximately 11:30 am.

9. Committee Reports

a) Regulatory Programs Committee

Dan Wilt reported that the committee had heard a report from Dave Plante.

Next was a presentation by Ben Amos of the draft General Permit 2024G-1: Certain Minor Regulated Activities in APA Jurisdictional Wetlands. This permit will replace General Permit 2002G-3AAR. It includes minor updates to clarify which regulated activities qualify and strengthens permit conditions.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Art Lussi the board voted unanimously to authorize a 30-day public comment period.

There was no old or new business.

b) State Land Committee

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

Next Matt McNamara and Josh Houghton presented the proposed final draft of the Rollins Pond UMP, summarizing and responding to public comments received, as well as highlighting changes made to the final plan.

On motion of Ken Lynch, seconded by Art Lussi, the board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution finding the plan in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Last Megan Phillips and Josh Houghton presented the proposed final draft of the Golden Beach UMP, summarizing and responding to public comments received.

On motion of Ken Lynch, seconded by John Ernst, the board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution finding the plan in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

There was no old or new business.

10. Interim Reports

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

Dan Wilt reminded everyone about the upcoming Planning Forum.

Local Government Review Board Report

Jerry Delaney commented about problems with the state campground reservation system, adding hopes that the DEC investigates how the reservation system is being manipulated and noting that there is hope for improvement.

11. Member Comment

Art Lussi reminded everyone of the World Cup ski jumping competition that will be happening in Lake Placid, adding that it's well organized with lots of room for people to attend.

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

None

14. Public Comment

None

Link to video and audio recordings of the full Agency presentation to be added.

Chairperson Ernst said that the next meeting will be March 14 and 15, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 11:35 am.



John Ernst, Chairperson