



Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY **FINAL March MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 14, 2024

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES, AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

John Ernst, Chairperson
Mark Hall, Member
Art Lussi, Member
Ken Lynch, Member
Dan Wilt, Member
Brad Austin, ESD
Benita Law-Diao, Member
Zoë Smith, Member
Matt Tebo, Dept. of State
Joe Zalewski, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Barb Rice, Executive Director
Damion Stodola, Counsel

ABSENT AND EXCUSED

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 new Counsel, Damion Stodola. Chairperson Ernst also congratulated Executive Director, Barbara Rice on her 2nd anniversary with the agency.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Glennon asked if there would be a forthcoming announcement on when the Agency might be moving, who would make the decision, and whether there would be an open house for alumni. This decision has not been made yet but will be made in consultation with the Governor's Office and the Office of General Services (NYSOGS), once the decision has been made and the move has taken place there will be an open house for alumni.

4. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024 AGENCY MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Dan Wilt, and seconded by Benita Law-Diao, the February minutes were unanimously approved.

5. RECUSALS

None

6. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

General Counsel Damion Stodola indicated an Executive Session would be appropriate to discuss ongoing litigation. On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Art Lussi, the Agency Board unanimously voted to conduct an executive session for purposes of discussing ongoing litigation.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Barbara Rice presented the Executive Director Report. Executive Director Rice offered condolences to Assemblyman Robert Smullen on the loss of his son Alexander. As they mourn the loss of their son may the Smullen family find solace in their joyful memories of Alexander.

Executive Director Rice welcomed new General Counsel, Damion Stodola.

Executive Director Rice also welcomed Executive Assistant, Angela Bates.

Executive Director Rice expressed appreciation and well wishes for Executive Director Basil Seggos, who is stepping down from his role at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Executive Director Rice informed the group of the upcoming Adirondack Planning Forum which will be kicked off April 24, 2024 by Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO COMMITTEES

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

Public Awareness and Communications Committee

Chair: Mark Hall, Committee Members: Benita Law-Diao, Dan Wilt, Brad Austin
Committee Chair: Mark Hall

Committee Members: Benita Law-Diao, Dan Wilt, Brad Austin

Director of Communications – Keith McKeever

Public Awareness Committee Report (Keith McKeever, Public Information Officer)
Director of Communications McKeever reported on a priority ongoing public outreach initiative in which Executive Director Rice and McKeever are visiting the 25 newly elected town supervisors and village mayors.

Rice and McKeever provided a general overview of APA and its programs to assist local government. Town wide GIS maps were provided to each town for general planning purposes. The maps included tax parcels, waterbodies, roads, and the APA Land Use Classification layer. McKeever thanked Matt Kendall from the Planning Division for preparing the maps and stated local government officials commented positively on their potential usefulness.

Information about Department of State and Empire State Development's NY Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant programs was highlighted. Local Government was encouraged to consider these beneficial programs designed to support small towns and villages. Rice identified important state contacts for these programs.

Executive Director Rice engaged with local leaders regarding important community projects and plans that were underway in their communities. Director McKeever and Executive Director Rice meet with Town of AuSable Supervisor Tim Bresett, Town of Elizabethtown Supervisor Cathleen Reusser, Town of Moriah Supervisor Matthew Brassard and Town of Wilmington Supervisor Favor Smith. These local elected officials discussed issues ranging from housing, infrastructure, tourism, local zoning, comprehensive plans, and community sustainability.

Executive Director Rice and Director McKeever also encourage local officials to attend the 2nd Annual Adirondack Planning Forum.

The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC)

Chair Mark Hall then introduced guest speakers from the Development Authority of the North Country. Executive Director Carl Farone, Chief Operating Officer Carrie Tuttle, Director of Telecommunications David Wolf, and Telecom Chief Technology Officer, Mark Borte presented a summary of their organization's overall operations and an in-

depth overview of its Open Access Telecommunications Network (OATN), a middle mile network which provides transport services to carriers throughout the North Country.

Presentation - <https://www.apa.ny.gov/Mailing/2024/03/communications.htm>

Presenter: Carl Farone - Executive Director, Carrie Tuttle - Chief Operating Officer
David Wolf - Director of Telecommunications, Mark Borte - Telecom Chief Technology Officer

4. Old Business – None presented

5. New Business – None presented

Park Ecology Committee

Chair: Zoë Smith, Committee Members: Benita Law-Diao, Brad Austin Joe Zalewski

The committee convened at approximately 11:30am.

Park Ecology Committee Report (Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis, Dr. Elizabeth M. Schuyler) Reported on 2023 highlights, including the volume of reviews and site visits conducted by RASS staff, staff representation at interagency meetings and conferences, and updating several guidance documents.

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) provided a briefing of ongoing efforts to minimize the impact of invasive species on the Adirondack region's communities, lands, and waters. APIPP and AWI highlighted accomplishments and discussed strategies and priorities for the year ahead.

Presenter: Tammara Van Ryn, APIPP Manager; Brett Wimsatt AWI Aquatic Invasive Species Program Director

Old Business – None presented

New Business – None presented

The committee adjourned at about 12:30pm.

Executive Session/Lunch

General Counsel Damion Stodola indicated an Executive Session would be appropriate to discuss ongoing litigation. On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Art Lussi, the Agency Board unanimously voted to conduct an executive session for purposes of discussing ongoing litigation. Because no action was taken by formal vote, no minutes of the executive session were required or taken.

Regulatory Programs Committee

The committee meeting convened at approximately 1:30pm.

Regulatory Programs Committee Members Present

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

Other Members and Designees Present

John Ernst, Joe Zelewski, Mark Hall, Brad Austin, Zoe Smith and Benita Law-Diao.

Local Government Review Board Present

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present

Barb Rice, Damion Stodola, David Plante, Sarah Reynolds, Aaron Ziemann, Bart Haralson

Regulatory Programs Report (David Plante)

David Plante began his report by giving the board an overview of February 2024 totals for permits and applications, with comparisons to prior years for the Regulatory Programs Division. Dave Plante then gave a brief update regarding the Hopmeier Munitions Testing proposal (Project Application 2021-0276) as well as an update on the Minor Wetland Activities General Permit process.

P2023-0037 (Brant Lake Foundation) Aaron Ziemann

Aaron. Ziemann 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.

A motion for approval was made by Art Lussi and seconded by Ken Lynch. All were in favor.

P2021-0213 (Schuyler, LLC) Bart Haralson

Bart Haralson 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.

A motion for approval was made by Ken Lynch and seconded by Matt Tebo. Art Lussi opposed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The committee meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30pm.

Full Agency resumed at approximately 3:40 pm.

9. Committee Reports

a) Public Awareness & Communication Committee

Mark Hall reported that the committee had heard a report from Keith McKeever and then had a presentation from the Development Authority of the North Country.

b) Park Ecology Committee

Zoë Smith reported that the committee had received a report from Dr. Lizz Schuyler and then had a presentation from the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute.

c) Regulatory Programs Committee

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

Next was a presentation by Aaron Ziemann on P2023-0037, Brant Lake Foundation, for the application of the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCOR EC within five treatment zones in Brant Lake, to control Eurasian watermilfoil.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Ken Lynch, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the permit.

Lastly Bart Haralson presented P2021-0213, Schuyler LLC, which is a proposed four-lot subdivision creating three residential building lots for single and/or multi-family dwellings to be accessed using a shared driveway off Dayton Drive and one lot with no proposed development along NYS 9N.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by John Ernst, the Board voted to approve the permit, with Art Lussi voting against approval.

10. Interim Reports

The Administration, Economic Affairs, Enforcement, Legal Affairs, Local Government Services, Park Policy and Planning and State Land committees did not meet this month.

Dan Wilt reminded everyone about the upcoming Adirondack Planning Forum.

John Ernst noted that Executive Session happened over lunch to discuss litigation, no policy decisions were made.

Local Government Review Board Report

Jerry Delaney welcomed new Counsel Damian Stodola adding that it had been a good meeting which showed the intricacies of what the Board goes through to reach decisions. Jerry Delaney also offered congratulations on behalf of the Local Government Review Board to DEC's Basil Seggos.

11. Member Comment

None

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 April 18 and 19, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 3:46 PM.

John Ernst

John Ernst, Chairperson