NEW YORK STATE
Adirondack
parkagency

Draft Minutes
Local Government Services Committee
June 2012 Agency Meeting
RB:JEC:lhb

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
June 14, 2012

Committee members in attendance included Agency Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, Sherman Craig, Arthur Lussi, Designee Robert Stegemann, Department of Environmental Conservation, and William Thomas, Committee Chair. Members Frank Mezzano, Cecil Wray, Richard Booth, William Valentino and Designee Jen McCormick, Department of Economic Development joined the Committee. Also participating in the meeting was Executive Director Fred Monroe of the Local Government Review Board. Staff included Executive Director Terry Martino, Associate Counsel Sarah Reynolds, Planning Director James Connolly, Local Planning Specialist Brian Grisi and Environmental Program Specialist Robyn Burgess.

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Local Government Services Program Report (B. Grisi)

Mr. Grisi briefly reviewed the program report that was included in the Board's April mailing packet.

Status of Local Land Use Controls in the Park and Review of APA Approved Local Land use Programs (B. Grisi/R. Burgess)

This presentation provided background information for the Board to utilize when making decisions regarding amendments to Local Land Use Programs. In the coming months, several towns will request the Agency to approve major amendments to their local programs. Ms. Burgess and Mr. Grisi provided an informative overview of the process.

It was noted by Agency Chair Ulrich and Committee Chair Thomas that this presentation is very enlightening and might need to be spread out over the course of two Agency meeting periods to provide adequate time for review.

Mr. Grisi and Ms. Burgess discussed the variance reversal process. Member Wray asked about shoreline variance projects and staff approval of such. Ms. Burgess and Mr. Grisi responded that the Agency does not approve variances issued pursuant to a local land use program; however, the Agency does have the authority to reverse a decision by a local Zoning Board of

Appeals. Paul Van Cott clarified that the reversal of a variance granted by an approved town is done at the staff level primarily due to the 30 day time clock associated with these variances. Authority to reverse a variance is passed to the Executive Director via the delegation resolution granting such authority.

Member Booth asked if the shoreline variances are subject to the practical difficulty provisions of the APA Act. Mr. Grisi responded that the town records are reviewed to ensure that the practical difficulty guidelines have been applied but that the over-riding consideration is also whether or not provisions of NYS Town Law are followed by the ZBA for approval of a variance.

Agency Chair Ulrich asked for a more detailed compilation of data for Agency members and staff to use when reaching out to towns. Such information might include economic conditions, land use designations, site plan review, State land percentages, etc.

The presentation on the Local Government Services program will be continued at the July Agency meeting with a focus on the amendment process.

Old Business
None

New Business
None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 p.m.