



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Terry Martino
FROM: Jim Connolly
DATE: March 28, 2013
SUBJECT: Highlights of Planning Division Activities for
March 2013

REGIONAL PLANNING

Meeting of Adirondack Partnership Recreation Work Group

APA Planning Director Jim Connolly and Economic Development Specialist Dan Kelleher attended a meeting of the Adirondack Partnership Recreation Work Group which was held at SUNY-ESF's Adirondack Ecological Center in Newcomb. The work group held a facilitated meeting with Town Supervisors from the five towns affected by the recent purchase of lands from the Nature Conservancy for addition to the Forest Preserve (Newcomb/Indian Lake/Minerva/North Hudson/Long Lake). Local officials were asked to generate ideas to improve recreational access and economic opportunities in their area. A report is being prepared on overall recreational opportunities for the Park as well as a summary of ideas and recommendations from the five communities which is expected to be released within the next two months. The report will be shared with the North Country Regional Economic Development Council and the Governor's staff.

Meeting with Town of Ticonderoga on Revisions to the Official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map

On March 13, Planning staff (M. Kendall) met with Debra Malaney, Supervisor for the Town of Ticonderoga, and former Town Supervisor Bob Diedrich to discuss potential map amendments that would expand the Hamlet of Ticonderoga. The Agency approved a hamlet expansion map amendment in 2008. Over the last five years, the Town has extended the sewer system and the Town is now interested in expanding the Hamlet to include the new sewer districts. The Town

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will be providing the Agency with more information regarding the sewer district and the Agency will create maps for the Town that show the potential map amendment areas. The Town can use these maps for local discussions regarding the map amendments. If the Town decides to proceed with a map amendment, the Agency will assist the Town in assembling the necessary information for the map amendment application.

Region 5 Open Space Committee Meeting

On March 22, APA Planning Division staff attended the Region 5 Open Space Committee Meeting at the OPRHP office in Saratoga Springs. Attendees included Tim Burpoe (Franklin County Legislator), Brian Towers, Julia Stokes, Robert Banks, Rocci Aquirre (Adirondack Council), David Gibson (Friends of the Forest Preserve), Roger Dziengeleski, Zoe Smith (WCS), Duane Ricketson, Teri Ptacek, Pieter Litchfield (ALA), Graham Cox (Audobon), Bob Stegemann (DEC), Alane Chinian (OPHRP), Kurt Kress (OPHRP), Tom Martin (DEC), David Winchell (DEC) and Kevin Prickett (APA). Tom Martin provided an update on the former Finch lands. He covered the APA's classification process, the parcels that will be classified, and opportunities for public comments. The Committee discussed the need for regular meetings. Much of the remainder of the meeting was devoted to updating and revising the Region 5 Regional Advisory Committee Report. Suggested policy recommendations included tracking the plan's effectiveness, means of acquisition and protection, the need to develop a 480b program, and stewardship support. Members discussed the forest industry relationship to open space protection. Members also discussed updates and revisions to the priority projects list. The next meeting will be held on April 12, 2013 at DEC's Warrensburg offices.

STATE LAND and UMP REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Hurricane Mt and St. Regis Mt. Fire Tower Unit Management Plans

Agency Planning staff are reviewing initial drafts of unit plans for the St. Regis and Hurricane Mt. Fire Tower Historic Areas which were recently prepared by DEC staff for Agency review. The two plans provide management objectives and proposals to protect the fire towers on the summits of Hurricane and St. Regis mountains. Public meetings on the two plans will be scheduled later this

year. The Agency is also required to hold a public hearing on the plans which will be coordinated and held concurrently with DEC's public meetings.

Commissioner Martens Meeting at Santanoni Historic Area

On March 17, APA Deputy Director Jim Connolly joined DEC Commissioner Martens and Region 5 Director Bob Stegemann on a cross-country ski trip into the Santanoni Historic Area. The event was part of an open house which is organized annually by DEC, the Town of Newcomb, Adirondack Architectural Heritage and SUNY-ESF's Adirondack Interpretive Center. Camp Santanoni is the only publicly owned former Great Camp, constructed in 1892 by the Pruyn family. It consists of three complexes of historic buildings which have been designated as a National Historic Landmark - the Gatehouse area, a farm area and Main Camp complex. The Historic Area was acquired by the State in 1972 and added to the Forest Preserve. A unit management plan and reclassification of lands associated with the historic structures was completed in 2000. An amendment to the unit plan is being prepared by DEC which will address potential replacement of an historic barn on the site. State land staff reviewed the Initial draft UMP for the Great Camp Santanoni Historic Area.

Meeting with DEC Staff on Primitive Tentsite Management

On March 12, Agency staff met with DEC staff to discuss management issues related to group camping and roadside primitive tentsite management within the Park. Issues discussed included group sized allowed at Wild Forest and Wilderness area campsites; separating parking areas from tent sites at roadside locations; seasonal use during hunting season; restricting site impacts from camping activity and basic facilities for each tentsite location including fire ring, privies and other improvements. A DEC/APA staff work group is developing specific recommendations to improve guidance for campsite management. The work group will be seeking additional input from Forest Rangers and user groups, especially group camps which use campsites along canoe routes within the Park.

Meeting on Whiteface Mt. Ski Center Unit Management Plan Amendment

APA, DEC and ORDA staff met on March 8 to discuss inter-agency comments on an amendment to the Whiteface Mt. Ski Center Unit Management Plan (UMP). Completion of the plan by ORDA followed by a determination of consistency with the State Land Master Plan must be completed prior to final approval of the plan by DEC Commissioner Martens. The Unit Management Plan amendment provides final authorization for expansion of the Ski Patrol building on Little Whiteface Mountain which will house equipment for the Essex County and NYS Police Emergency Communications Network. APA has already approved the project subsequent to review authority under the APA Act, however, the State Land authorizations are still required via a UMP amendment in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. ORDA's proposed UMP amendment also includes development of an emergency access road to one of its ski trails and restoration of an old structure known as Porcupine Lodge as a warming hut for skiers.

State land staff developed intern program to perform a variety of GIS tasks in support of Park planning, including GPS data collection and GIS analysis.

State land staff reviewed the Initial draft UMP for the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Area.

State land staff completed historic resource reviews for several projects as part of the NYS Historic Preservation Act in the following locations: the Village of Saranac Lake, the Town of Santa Clara, the Town of Lewis, and the Town of Minerva.

State land staff worked with Regulatory division staff as part of the permit process necessary for new developments at Second Pond boat launch.

State land staff attended meeting for the Region 5 Open Space committee.

State land staff provided Agency staff training the use of GPS.

State land staff provided Planning division staff training on accessibility design.