



Adirondack Park Agency

SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
Park Policy & Planning Committee
January 13, 2017 Meeting
MK:ap

PARK POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES **January 13, 2017**

The Committee convened at 10:30 a.m.

Park Policy and Planning Committee Members Present:

Dr. Chad Dawson, Chair, Dan Wilt, William Thomas, Bradley Austin (ESD)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Sherman Craig, Art Lussi, John Ernst, Barbara Rice, Karen Feldman, Robert Stegemann (DEC), Sandi Allen (DOS)

Local Government Review Board:

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, James Townsend, Dan Kelleher, Rick Weber, Bart Haralson, Colleen Parker, Kate-Lyn Knight, Robyn Burgess, Keith McKeever, Annemarie Peer

Town of Essex Map Amendment (Kathy Regan)

Ms. Regan filled in for an ill Mr. Kendall. Ms. Regan presented a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Town of Essex. She also let the Board know that in their mailing there was a map they may wish to use during her presentation.

Ms. Regan explained that the Town of Essex requested a series of amendments located throughout the Town. Ms. Regan said that today staff are asking the Board for authorization to publish the DSEIS and proceed to public comment. Staff intend to hold one public hearing, which will take place in the Town of Essex.

Ms. Regan gave the Board a brief background on the project. Staff has been working with the Town for five years. The Town is revising their local zoning laws and maps. The Town has zoning classifications that match the densities of the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan (APLUDP) land use areas, but in many cases were

not in the same locations. The Town wanted the two maps to match with regard to densities. Mr. Kendall digitized their zoning map and identified where their zoning boundaries were and identified the differences between their map and the APLUDP map. Altogether there were 26 areas that were different. The next step was to decide which classification was preferred for the areas that conflicted. With assistance from the Agency the Town considered soils, wetlands slopes and land use patterns. The result was a list of Town zoning map changes and APA map amendments needed to achieve the goals of having the two maps match. The Agency added support with mapping and some assistance with the SEQR process. Ms. Regan showed a map with the current zoning and noted that in many cases Town zoning is more restrictive than ours.

Ms. Regan reported the Town has requested a series of 15 map amendments which will be the final step in removing most of the inconsistencies between the two maps. The Map Amendments total 5,518 acres and include four areas reclassified to less restrictive categories and 11 reclassified as more restrictive.

Ms. Regan showed a slide of the map of the proposed areas.

Ms. Regan reviewed the four areas proposed to be reclassified as less restrictive. The first is Area C. It is 5.5 acres classified Resource Management to reclassify as Hamlet. It is served by water and sewer.

The second is Area F. It is approximately 60 acres, classified Resource Management and proposed to be reclassified as Rural Use. It has agriculture and residential use, with no access to public water or sewage.

The third is Area G. It is 76 acres, classified as Resource Management and proposed to be reclassified to Low Intensity. It is primarily forested land with some residential development. It lacks access to public water and sewer.

The fourth is Area N. It is 35 acres, classified as Rural Use and proposed to be reclassified to Low Intensity Use. It has some rural use, mostly forested with some rural residential development. It has no public access to water or sewer.

Ms. Regan reported that there are eleven items proposed to be reclassified as more restrictive and she will highlight two of them.

The first is Area I. It 2,599 acres, classified as Rural Use and proposed to be reclassified as Resource Management. It contains Phinney and Sprig Mountains.

The second is Area H. It is two and half miles of shoreline, mostly underdeveloped forest.

Mr. Ernst pointed out an error on page 7-8: the area H is classified incorrectly on the memo as less restricted and should say more restrictive.

Ms. Regan asked for authorization for staff to make ministerial changes.

Dr. Dawson asked if the Town will host the Public Hearing. Ms. Regan responded affirmatively and noted that it may be in the summer so that the summer residents could be present. He also wanted to know how much public input has been had at this point. Ms. Regan responded in the past the public has been invited to Town meetings, but that there has not been a lot of public input to date.

Dr. Dawson also wanted to know if the Town handles the public comments. Ms. Regan responded that the Agency's staff collects the public comments.

Dr. Dawson also wanted to know why are we making the maps compatible. Ms. Regan said it is the desire of the Town to have the two maps match.

Mr. Stegemann wanted to know what the Town's motivation or goal is for doing this? Ms. Regan responded the Town and residents find it easier if our maps and their zoning maps match.

Mr. Lussi asked if the property in Area H is developed? Ms. Regan said there is some development. Mr. Townsend responded there may be three or four separate parcels, and he believed these to be seasonal. Ms. Regan reminded members that all landowners will be notified by certified letters of this action.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to accept the DSEIS and to proceed to Public Comment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilt. All were in favor. The motion also enabled staff to make ministerial corrections, if necessary, to the DSEIS.

Old Business

None

New Business

Dr. Dawson reported that there were two new items. They were as follows:

1. Dr. Dawson and Chairman Craig provided comments on the Task Force on Sustainable Energy Development. They said it is in the beginning stages. Staff worked with the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) to provide an overview of Agency Jurisdiction that will be helpful to ANCA staff in their new Circuit Rider Program. They pointed out that the discussions with ANCA included the potential for solar, wind, hydro and other forms of energy production projects in the Park.
2. Dr. Dawson mentioned the possibility of setting up guidelines for mountain biking. With the Governor supporting biking throughout the State, possibly a task force should be put into place with Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Conservation to consider Park-wide planning efforts.

Dr. Dawson adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.