



ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

Adirondack  
Park Agency

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Executive Director

*DRAFT MINUTES*  
Public Awareness and  
Communication Committee  
December 12, 2019  
Agency Meeting  
WHT:KPM:mp

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

**December 12, 2019**

The Public Awareness and Communications Committee convened at 1:15 pm.

### **Committee Members Present:**

William Thomas, Committee Chair, Daniel Wilt, Bradley Austin (ESD) and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

### **Other Members or Designees Present:**

Arthur Lussi, Dr. Chad Dawson, John Ernst, and Robert Stegemann (DEC)

### **Local Government Review Board Present:**

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

### **Agency Staff Present:**

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Christopher Cooper, Counsel, Keith McKeever, Mary Palmer

### **Approval of Draft Committee Minutes for September 2019**

By motion of Mr. Wilt, seconded by Mr. Austin, the September minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Public Outreach Report**

Mr. McKeever said work has started on the 2019 Annual Report, and should be presented in March 2020.

### **DEC Presentation on Smart Growth Grants**

Dylan Walrath (DEC) gave a presentation on the Adirondack Park Community Smart Growth Grants. He said the grants were awarded to communities and organizations in both the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

Mr. Walrath said some of the program's goals are supporting main streets, encouraging reuse of underutilized buildings, ensuring environmental resource protection, enhancing recreational sites, as well as promoting and supporting tourism.

Mr. Walrath said there are three project types: capital improvements, organizational development/ capacity building, and cultural, environmental, and natural resources. He said there were twenty-one grants awarded in the Adirondack Park.

Mr. Walrath discussed the projects and dollar amount awarded to each of the recipients.

Mr. Thomas asked if there is any follow-up to make sure the money was being used appropriately for what it was granted for. Mr. Walrath answered affirmatively. He said there is quarterly reporting and regular communication with the recipients. Mr. Walrath noted that people have plans when applying for the grants and he understands that sometimes things change. He said there have been times when they have had to make changes in those plans.

Mr. Thomas asked what the time span for completion was for these awards. Mr. Walrath said these are three year contracts.

Mr. Stegemann commended Mr. Walrath for such good work to have a program be so successful. He said so much of the work is behind the scene that people do not get to see. Mr. Stegemann added that Mr. Walrath is on top of all the applications and gives great advice to applicants. Mr. Walrath said his goal is to help people and communities in the Adirondacks because they have such limited resources. He said the more that can be done to help them get through is so important for a State agency.

Mr. Delaney also commended Mr. Walrath. He said he has had the opportunity to work with Mr. Walrath on some State grants and that office is very timely, good to work with, and very helpful.

Mr. Ernst said this program is helpful to small start-up businesses. Mr. Austin agreed. He said it is a lot of work and there is much appreciation for what Mr. Walrath is doing for these communities. Mr. Austin added that sometimes small grants take more work than the multi-million dollar grants.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Thomas, Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.