



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

**DRAFT
RESOLUTION OF THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF
VIDEOCONFERENCING FOR AGENCY MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 relating to the New York State budget for the 2022-2023 state fiscal year, which included an amendment (Part WW) to the Open Meetings Law (OML) to make permanent (until July 1, 2024) the expanded use of videoconferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings, under extraordinary circumstances, regardless of a declaration of emergency;

WHEREAS, the amendment requires a public body to adopt a resolution authorizing the use of videoconferencing for itself and its committees or subcommittees and the establishment of written procedures governing member and public attendance consistent with the amended OML;

WHEREAS, the Agency has successfully conducted open meetings by videoconference;

WHEREAS, the Agency seeks to maximize participation of its members regardless of extraordinary circumstances that would otherwise limit the ability to attend a meeting in person; and

WHEREAS, the Agency desires to authorize the expanded use of videoconferencing to conduct Agency meetings, under extraordinary circumstances, regardless of a declaration of emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Agency authorizes the use of videoconferencing to conduct open meetings of itself and its committees or subcommittees consistent with the provisions of the amended OML;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agency, in accordance with procedures the APA Policy and Guidance System (Agency Policy 1), initiate the process to adopt a new policy governing the use of videoconferencing to conduct open meetings of itself and its committees or subcommittees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy shall comply with the provisions of the amended OML;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy shall include the following extraordinary circumstances allowing a board member to attend a meeting by videoconference: disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, and any factor or event that, in the discretion of the Chair, qualifies as significant or unexpected circumstance excusing the member from being physically present; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the policy shall reflect the ability of the Agency to suspend the in person participation requirements of the amended OML in the case of a state or local state of emergency that would impair the ability of the Agency to hold an in person meeting.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Absent: