

Resolution Supporting The Recommendations Of The Adirondack  
Association Of Towns And Villages And The Adirondack Park  
Local Government Review Board To Amend The Adirondack State  
Land Master Plan

9 December 2014

By Brian Taylor:

Whereas, the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board have long advocated for a comprehensive review of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) - the document that governs the use of all 2,614,000 acres of state-owned land in the Adirondacks, and

Whereas, the Adirondack Park Agency is currently initiating a process to review and amend the SLMP - which has not had a major review in a quarter century - and is in need of significant revisions to reflect the realities of today's Adirondacks and the needs of the people who seek to make their homes and earn their livings here, and

Whereas, upon passage of the Adirondack Park Agency Act by the New York State legislature, the Act required the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to draft the Adirondack State Land Master Plan for approval by the Governor, and

Whereas, Governor Rockefeller's Memorandum in Support of the Act, and the Press Release he issued when he signed the SLMP in 1972 make it very clear that both he and the state legislature intended that the state interest in the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the Adirondacks be balanced with the needs of the residents for a strong economy and healthy communities, and

Whereas, the Statement of Legislative Findings and Purposes of the APA Act (Section 801) states:

"The basic purpose of this article is to insure optimum overall conservation, protection, preservation, development and use of the unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack park

A further purpose of this article is to focus the responsibility for developing long-range park policy in a forum reflecting statewide concern. This policy shall recognize the major state interest in the conservation, use and development of the park's resources and the preservation of its open space character, and at the same time, provide a continuing role for local government."

Whereas, for the past four decades, state land purchasing and management policy in the Adirondacks have been tipped decidedly against economic sustainability. During that time, many traditional uses have been severely restricted or prohibited, and 320,000 acres of productive private forest lands have been purchased and converted to "forever wild" state forest preserve lands, and

Whereas, today, as documented in the 2014 Adirondack Park Regional Assessment, Adirondack populations continue to dwindle, schools continue to lose students, and emergency services continue to struggle financially and lose volunteers, and



Whereas, in recognition of the Agency's current willingness to review and amend the SLMP, it is incumbent on local government to take this unique opportunity to support amendments to the SLMP that reflect the need for economic development sensibly balanced with the character of the Adirondacks, and

Whereas, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board (Review Board) and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV) have prepared the attached list of their recommendations for changes in the SLMP, Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages hereby states its support for the recommended amendments to the State Land Master Plan attached hereto, and encourages the AATV membership and the Review Board to pursue said recommendations with all due haste, and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Deputy Director of Planning, Kathy Regan, Adirondack Park Agency, PO Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977 and via email to SLP Comments@apa.ny.gov, and be it further

Resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Charles Schumer, Congresswoman-Elect Elise Stefanik, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator James E. Seward, Senator Joseph A. Griffo, Senator Patty Ritchie, Senator Kathy Marchione, Senator David Valesky, Senator Liz Krueger, Assemblyman Dan Stec, Assemblywoman Janet L. Duprey, Assemblyman Al Graf, Assemblyman Mark Butler, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, DEC Region 5 Director Bob Stegemann, DEC Region 6 Director, Judy Drabicki, the Twelve Counties of the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Park Agency, and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages membership and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

Seconded by: Cindy Valik and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: D. Virgil; B. Taylor; W. Farber; C. Garvin; C. Valik

Nays: None

I, Amanda Seeley, Town Clerk of the Town of Morehouse do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Morehouse Town Board at a regular meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014.



Amanda Seeley  
Town Clerk