

ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS & VILLAGES

April 24, 2020 - via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Present: Matt Simpson, President; Mo Wright, 1st Vice President; Brian Wells, 2nd Vice President; AATV Board of Directors Jerry Delaney, Bill Farber, Fred Monroe, Ron Moore, Jean Raymond; North Hudson Town Supervisor Stephenie DeZalia; Congresswoman Elise Stefanik; Michael Ostrander, District Director for Congresswoman Stefanik.

Mr. Simpson thanked Ms. Stefanik for joining them on the call. Congresswoman Stefanik gave an update on Federal legislation. Mr. Moore asked if Ms. Stefanik knew when the Adirondacks would be open for business. Mr. Moore said his concern is the influx of people coming to the area. Ms. Stefanik said there will be regional and local data taken into consideration and a partial/gradual approach will be used. She said local public health departments will be giving recommendations as well. Mr. Farber asked if AATV could help with any issue and asked about rural broadband. Ms. Stefanik said funds need to be allocated and it needs to get done. She asked if anyone heard of any specific issues on anything to bring them to her attention. Mr. Simpson asked about camps/campgrounds. Ms. Stefanik said she is encouraging NYS to put out guidelines to assist with this. She has been inundated with phone calls on this and she has been deferring to the County Public Health Departments. Mr. Moore said he is glad this subject came up as he is concerned about camps with Memorial Day/Summer Season upon us. There will be a large influx of people coming to the area and he is concerned how this will affect us. Ms. Stefanik said this needs to be addressed with the NYSDOH and will share the message to try to get guidance. Ms. DeZalia asked about college students and the TAP program. She said it appears the funding is gone. Ms. Stefanik didn't know the answer but said she would follow up on this. Ms. DeZalia was also concerned with the Relay for Life and their fundraising. Ms. Stefanik said non profits are eligible for assistance programs. Mr. Wells thanked Ms. Stefanik for the phone calls and the support. He said the EMS/Personnel from other counties that come in to assist is added pressure during this COVID pandemic. Mr. Wright asked if Ms. Stefanik knew if SPAC or the Saratoga Race Course was going to be opening. Ms. Stefanik said the race course will continue with the season but doesn't know what that will look like. SPAC, according to their website, is taking small time frames to make determinations and will continue to evaluate. Ms. Stefanik asked if anyone had heard if their County Fairs would be happening. Mr. Delaney said Clinton County's would normally be held in July and that has been cancelled. No one else had heard about theirs. She asked if anyone heard anything to let her office know. Everyone thanked Ms. Stefanik for her time and updates. She said any questions can be referred to her and said not to hesitate getting in touch with her at any time.

Mr. Simpson said everyone had received a draft resolution providing direct COVID-19 related Federal Aid to all municipalities. On a motion by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Wells Resolution #1 was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 1 of 2020

Provide Direct COVID-19 Related Federal Aid to All Municipalities

WHEREAS, the federal government recently enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Section 601 of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) provides a \$150 billion fund for states, tribal governments, and units of local government with a population in excess of 500,000 people; and

WHEREAS, less than one-half of 1 percent of municipalities in the entire United States meet this population threshold and are thus ineligible to receive direct funding from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, of the 933 towns in New York, 931 are not eligible for direct federal funding under the CARES Act, including the members of the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages; and

WHEREAS, towns provide essential services to the 9 million New Yorkers town residents, including, but not limited to, ambulance, police and fire protection services, building and code enforcement, and highway maintenance, and have continued to do so throughout the ongoing health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic has created significant financial stress for local governments in New York as an estimated \$2 billion in sales tax revenue has been lost, as well as other sources of revenue such as permit fees, justice court fines, and mortgage recording tax; and

WHEREAS, the depletion of different revenue sources for local governments, combined with lack of funding, will result in reducing essential services or shifting the cost onto real property taxpayers, many of whom are experiencing their own financial stress;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages calls upon United States Congressional Representatives Elise Stefanik, Paul Tonko; Senator Charles Schumer, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, to support federal funding related to the coronavirus pandemic that is directly delivered to all municipalities, regardless of population size.

Mr. Simpson said an email and letter was distributed to the Board requesting AATV's support of a letter to DEC - Emergency food projects and organics recycling. The Board chose not to support/not take action on this request at this time.

Ms. Raymond gave an update to the tower coming to her town. Mr. Wright said the APA was present when balloons were flown at the Luzerne Tower. They had no issues but has heard nothing since. Mr. Wells said Verizon came in to update their equipment. He asked if they could go up 10 feet. Verizon said if he got the permissions they would. Mr. Wells put in a request for a modification of the permit already in place. He said the amount of redundant information the APA requested was sickening. Mr. Simpson asked Mr. Delaney if there has been any discussion on the permit policy. Mr. Delay said not really.

Mr. Simpson said the June meeting is scheduled for June 7th & 8th. He asked what the board thought of cancelling or postponing the event. He added it would be difficult to plan at this time as the hotel is not open due to NYS "pause". Mr. Wright made a motion to cancel the venue for the June meeting. Mr. Farber seconded the motion. Mr. Delaney said the by-laws may direct AATV to have 2 meetings a year. Mr. Simpson said if that was the case a Zoom call could be set up for the members to call in. Ms. Raymond asked for a review of the by-laws to check on this. She also requested AATV ask for the deposits given to Hotel Saranac back. Mr. Simpson asked Mrs. Wright to email the hotel and ask for the funds sent to them back.

Mr. Wright suggested another Zoom call in a couple weeks. All agreed. On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Delaney the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Wright
Administrative Assistant