

ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS & VILLAGES

January 10, 2020 at Indian Lake Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Matt Simpson, President; Mo Wright, 1st Vice President; Brian Wells, 2nd Vice President; Directors Preston Allen, Jean Raymond; Regional Directors Bill Farber, Steve McNally; Senior Advisors Fred Monroe, Ron Moore; Assemblyman Dan Stec, Mike Pratt, ORDA; Pam Wright, AATV Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Simpson welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Quorum is present.

On a motion by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Allen the minutes of the October 30, 2019 were unanimously approved.

On a motion by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Wright, the financial report was unanimously approved. Mrs. Wright said included with the abstract are the vouchers for December. On the back is the financial spreadsheet for all of 2019.

Mr. Simpson said the December Membership meeting went well and everyone seemed to enjoy the venue. Mrs. Wright said a reservation for 60 was made and due to inclement weather, many didn't attend. AATV was charged for 40 attendees. Mr. Simpson said they didn't have to do that as they were preparing for 60. A deposit has been made to the Courtyard Marriott Lake George for the December 2020 meeting. The June meeting will be held at the Hotel Saranac.

Mr. Simpson introduced Mr. Pratt of ORDA. Mr. Pratt spoke of the constitutional amendment and how they will be affected. He said they are in the very early stages with meetings with Adirondack groups. Mr. Simpson asked what the groups were asking for. Mr. Pratt said the "asks" do vary. He thought it was important to meet with this group to let you know where they are coming from. Mr. Farber said we need to work together to get these amendments done. Mr. Wright asked if Mr. Pratt is ready for first passage this year. Mr. Pratt said this is in early stages and not high on the priority list right now. Mr. Farber said DEC needs to be involved in this.

Mr. Simpson shared a memo received from Mark Schachner regarding tree cutting. It read "We are extremely pleased to report that the Court of Appeals has finally today decided to hear what we call the Trees/Timber Forest Preserve case. The initial Appeal briefing schedule has been established and will continue over the next several months, probably ending sometime in June. This means that oral argument on the Appeal will probably not be held until September, which will be the one-year anniversary of when the Chain Lakes Road case was argued. The wheels of justice spin excruciatingly slowly, when they spin at all. Our "amicus" or "friend of the court" brief will not be due until near the end of this schedule. However, this will be a substantial effort and we will be describing our game plan to you in the near future." Ms. Raymond said we need to be sure we have funds set aside for this effort. Mr. Simpson said he would check on the amount but thought it was \$12,000 to \$14,000.

Mr. Wells said he had not heard on the deadline for the appeal on the bridge decision. Mr. Wells said the bridge had been moved down stream. He will inquire if anything has been done with DEC to shave numbers on the trails. Mr. Farber said we should have made a follow up meeting with DEC and really should meet again. It is overdue. Mr. Wells said he has a meeting next week with DEC.

Mr. Farber reported Cathead Mountain and Camp Gabriels are at the same stage. It comes down to details and it is seen as an opportunity to negotiate. Camp Gabriels has a strong case as there is on site water system to serve Fire Departments and others. The problem is the debates if someone is interested in redevelopment. There is a question of legal authority. Mo asked if he was any closer on Cathead and if there were any sit-downs with groups. Mr. Farber said there is no consensus to do an amendment. It has been slow and painful. He is looking for leverages.

Mr. Simpson asked if there are any updates on Cellular. In the Governor's State of the State he said no community would go without cell service. Mr. Delaney said from a Review Board perspective the policy is outdated. They are given the best data for citing towers as companies are designing them. The lack of cell service is a known safety issue and it is not being addressed. Mr. Simpson said on the regulatory side, the process needs to be made more appealing. Mr. Farber said in the State of the State the verbiage was on the regulatory side. Everyone needs to come together and figure this out. Mr. Monroe

questioned the legal authority of what they are doing with the application process. Mr. Delaney questioned how this thought process could be broken. He spoke of a test case he is following.

Mr. Wright asked if there was an update from the Task Force. Mr. Farber said the Governor has a report but it has not been made public. He said the way this is playing out may not be bad. Ms. Raymond asked if the Task Force saw the report. Mr. Farber said the Task Force was the collector of the information and repeated this was playing out as well as we could hope for. Mr. Delaney said he heard one suggestion that came out of the report is the APA needs to update the policy. Mr. Farber said the next phase should be to push for funding. He said regulatory reform needs to be done as well but funding for the companies is what they will be looking for. Ms. Raymond suggested a tax incentive. Mr. Wright asked if there is any way they could get the report so they could bring it to the NACo conference in Washington. Mr. Farber said he thinks the report will be released soon. Mr. McNally reported they have received permissions for the 2nd tower. He will look into what the contractor thought of the application process to get their side of this.

Mr. Simpson said everyone has received the 2020 Legislative Agenda as prepared by Behan. He asked for feedback. Mr. Wells had emailed out his suggestion for inclusion. Ms. Raymond said this is well done but needs to be more condensed and suggested an Executive Summary be made. Mr. Wright asked about the tower policy listed on the last page. Mr. Farber said there hasn't been a lot of thought about this. Mr. Wright suggested bullet points on one sheet of paper to hand out and offered to work on this.

Mr. Simpson said there are two vacancies on the Board for Regional Directors, Regions A and E. Mr. Simpson asked Board Members to think about and reach out to those they think would be interested.

Mr. Simpson told the Board he is running for Assemblyman. He will remain as President for this year and asked his Vice Presidents for their support at events when needed. He said the Board needs to think about a President for next year and going forward. Mr. Wright said he would not be interested in the President position as it would not be a good decision for the President and Administrative Assistant to live in the same household. He said he would continue to support the President but does not want to step up. Mr. Wells said he too would support the President but does not want that position.

Mr. Simpson said the National Association of Counties will hold their legislative conference in Washington DC February 29th to March 1st. He said Mr. Wright, Mr. Farber and Ms. Raymond will be attending. He asked for the Board's support if it was determined he needed to be there for a day for meetings. On a motion by Mr. Farber, seconded by Ms. Raymond Mr. Simpson was unanimously given the approval needed to attend NACo and, AATV would pay for his expenses. Mr. Farber will share with NYSAC who will be attending and the timing of meetings.

Mr. Simpson welcome Assemblyman Dan Stec. Assemblyman Stec updated the AATV Board of Directors on the State of the State and what came out of the Governor's address.

Mr. Geraghty brought handouts from Divide NY which has separated the State into 3 regions. They will start having meetings. Handouts are attached to these minutes.

Mr. Moore asked if anyone had heard about Crane Pond Road. The entry from Schroon Lake has washed out. Access may be difficult for anything other than a 4x4 or an ATV. This may become an issue.