

Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages  
June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Matt Simpson, President; Mo Wright, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Brian Wells, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Ron Moore, Senior Advisor; Preston Allen. Jerry Delaney; Bill Farber, Kevin Geraghty, Steve McNally, Joe Pete Wilson.

Mr. Simpson called the meeting to order. He welcomed all in attendance. He is hopeful the next meeting will be in person.

On a motion by Mr. Farber, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Simpson said he had a meeting with Liz Benjamin who is working for a group that is promoting 5G Cellular. She is looking for people to collaborate. 5G is more for downstate and more populated areas that have already gotten to 4G. It is a different issue than what is happening in the Adirondacks, which is a lack of any cell coverage and investment in infrastructure. He asked Ms. Benjamin how it would help the Adirondacks if AATV were to collaborate. The Adirondacks are not even in a position to look at 5G. The mayor of Saranac Lake signed on; but areas such as Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, Glens Falls, and Plattsburg perhaps those areas will see projects proposed for 5G. That is not going to happen in AATV's area where there is no coverage whatsoever. There is a place for small cell technology in the broader picture of how we are going to create connectivity in the Adirondack Park. There may be opportunity to have conversations with the right people but questioned whether they would be focused on AATV's issues.

Mr. Farber said the challenge is if we were living in a different world, we would have requested a meeting. He understands their efforts on 5G but we need to make sure we do not get lost in the mix and that all their capital goes into building 5G. This would put us off further. We saw this when they went from 3G to 4G technology. It held us up more than helped us.

Mr. Delaney said he had a long conversation with Verizon and the small cell technology does not need 5G. The reps comments were there is nothing in the Adirondacks that is prepared for 5G yet. It is out of touch for us at this time. He did say that once we are ready at 4G it is just an action of changing a node. The idea of 5G within the Park is quite a ways off.

Mr. Simpson said he will talk with Ms. Benjamin more and ask to have meetings set up with providers. They need to understand we can be supportive but our focus needs to be what we can do here in the Adirondacks where we do not have those critical infrastructure opportunities. Mr. Farber added for them this would be a perfect partnership. They want something from us right now. It is a good time to ask for what we want.

Cathead Mountain/ORDA Amendments/Camp Gabriels

Mr. Farber said NYSAC reported the Legislators might be coming back to session after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. There is some speculation they may come back after that when the Federal Government acts on whatever support they pass. Each time the Legislators come back and then leave, the odds go down that they will return. This is an extraordinary session because of an extraordinary year.

The Cathead Mountain Amendment is critical for the emergency communication system. The environmental groups are on different pages with respect to different amendments. The irony is the least amount of push back is around the Camp Gabriels amendment. The other side is the Legislator is looking for plans that are more concrete. The ORDA amendments, all groups agree to the outcome. Everyone is agreement that Cathead's emergency communications needs are paramount and that they need to exist. There is one hold out-group and that is the Adirondack Council. The Council believe an amendment may

not be necessary and have suggested an administrative fix. An administrative fix has to be approved by the two State agencies and neither APA nor DEC have an appetite for the proposal the Adirondack Council has put forward. The proposal is to re-open the jeep trail. Both agencies feel it has constitutional issues as well as State land Master Plan compliance issues. For Hamilton County, it is a road to nowhere albeit the trail simply took you to the ranger cabin, which is down at the foot of the summit. It does not get you to either peak. He is hopeful we can get through this. We need to find concerted push from all of our Adirondack Legislative Delegation to make sure everyone understands the importance of doing first passage of these amendments. Mr. Simpson asked is there something AATV could do. Mr. Farber said “all hands on deck push”.

Mr. Simpson said there are two vacancies on the Board. He has two names to fill the vacancies. Mr. Simpson asked the Board if they had any additional suggestions. Mr. Farber suggested Mr. Simpson contact the two people.

Mr. Simpson said we have talked about getting proposals for a new website. We have a proposal from Paradox, Tom Williams. The cost was estimated at \$6,500 to \$7,500. There was discussion on other companies that could be contacted. Ms. Wright would contact a couple more to get quotes. Mr. Moore said the platform should be changed, be user friendly/ease of use and the cost of a maintenance contract should be considered. Mr. McNally suggested the company that recently updated the Town of Minerva’s site.

Mr. McNally stated a need to stay on the cell phone tower heights and work to get something done.

Mr. Wilson said there is an advisory group for the high peaks. The next step would be a detailed plan for shuttles, parking, portable toilets and rangers on the ground. This is a long-term plan that needs to stick. The issues need to be pushed to get DEC engaged and keep them engaged. It’s a whole park issue.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Farber the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Wright  
Administrative Assistant