



APA votes to make fire towers historic sites

October 14, 2010 - By MIKE LYNCH, Enterprise Outdoors Writer

RAY BROOK - In rare move, the state Adirondack Park Agency's Board of Commissioners voted Thursday to classify land beneath fire towers on St. Regis and Hurricane mountains as historic, which would let the structures remain and be restored.

[Article Photo](#)



The fire tower atop Hurricane Mountain in September 2009 (Enterprise photo — Lou Reuter)

The full board gave the final approval Thursday afternoon, just hours after the APA's State Lands Committee gave the plan the go-ahead. The vote was 9-0; Commissioners Cecil Wray and William Valentino were not present.

The two sites, if they receive the go-ahead from the governor's office, would become the fourth and fifth historic sites in the Adirondack Park. The three that currently exist are Camp Santanoni, a 32-acre site containing the great camp built by Robert C. Pruyn in 1892; Crown Point, which

contains the ruins of Fort Crown Point and the Fort St. Frederic; and the John Brown Farm, which includes the abolitionist John Brown's farmhouse, his grave, a barn, a pond and an area his family once farmed on about 65 acres.

"I think the reality is that historic resources are in a different place today than they were in the 1970s," said Commissioner Richard Booth, who heads the State Lands Committee. "Society gives much greater recognition to them than they did. I think the towers are absolutely tied to the history of the woods. While there is an impact on the surrounding areas, other than aesthetic impact, it's an extremely limited impact."