



Public comments heeded on fire towers

APA will consider designating Hurricane and St. Regis sites historic

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By the Enterprise staff

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RAY BROOK - The state Adirondack Park Agency has changed its tune on the fire towers on St. Regis and Hurricane mountains.

Last month, the APA staff recommended letting the fire towers remain but not be restored other than minor repairs to help their structural integrity. Under that proposal, the land under them would be classified primitive. The towers would remain for an unspecified amount of time and then be removed when the state Department of Environmental Conservation determined it was appropriate to do so. That decision would be made in conjunction with the APA and the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

According to this month's APA agenda, however, the preferred alternative was revised. Now the agency staff recommends reclassifying of the bases of the towers as historic areas.

Article Photos



The cabin of the St. Regis Mountain fire tower
(Enterprise file photo — Morgan Ryan)

The APA board's State Land Committee will hear a second reading of the proposal at 11 a.m. Thursday, the date of the agency's next regularly scheduled monthly meeting at APA headquarters in Ray Brook. October's business will all be conducted on one day.

The State Land Committee will also hear a first reading of the unit management plan for Watson's East Triangle Wild Forest, near Star Lake in the western Adirondacks.

The full agency board will convene at 9 a.m. Thursday for Executive Director Terry Martino's report.

At 9:30 a.m., the Park Ecology Committee will meet for two presentations related to water quality. The agency's supervisor for natural resources analysis, Dan Spada, will describe shoreline protection measures. Dan Kelting of Paul Smith's College will discuss the Adirondack Watershed Institute, an educational and research organization that offers a range of services including invasive species management and water quality monitoring.

At 1 p.m., the Regulatory Programs Committee will consider approving a greater than 25 percent expansion and new use - rock breaking and crushing proposed by the Cold Spring Granite Company in the town of Jay.

The committee will also review a proposed new commercial-use campground with 510 campsites for seasonal pull-in, rental and tent campers in the town of Fort Ann, Washington County.

Finally, Barton Wind Partners will request a second renewal for wind-monitoring masts on Pete Gay Mountain in the town of North Creek, Warren County.

At 3:15 p.m., the full agency will re-convene for the ongoing "Community Spotlight" series. This month, town of Colton Supervisor Larry Patzwald will overview his community and discuss important issues facing this St. Lawrence County town. In addition, Mary Jane Watson from the town Community Development Office will inform the board about the town's recently completed Raquette River Blueway Trail Plan. The project was funded by the state Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization grant program.

At 4:15 p.m., the full agency will assemble to take action as necessary and conclude with committee reports, public and member comment.

Meeting materials are available for download from the agency's website at

www.apa.state.ny.us/Mailing/2010/10/index.htm.

The next agency meeting is Nov. 18 and 19 at the APA headquarters. The December agency meeting is Dec. 16 and 17, also at the agency headquarters.

For more information, call the APA at 518-891-4050 or visit www.apa.state.ny.us.

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