

Resolution #01 – 2013

WHEREAS; The Village of Tupper Lake has long supported the building of a community connector trail within the Village and Town of Tupper Lake that would bring addition recreational and economic benefits to our community, only to be delayed continually by the NYS Department of Transportation at expense to the local taxpayer.

WHEREAS; The Village of Tupper Lake is now in danger of losing NYS grant monies dedicated to this community connector trail project due to delays brought on by NYS Department of Transportation officials now claiming right of way to a 100 plus year old abandoned railroad spur, after the project was approved and work by Village employees undertaken.

WHEREAS; The Village of Tupper Lake through this NYS grant funded community connector trail will provide improved access to the thousands of people visiting our busiest tourist destination, the Wild Center, to the rest of the business community and vice versa, connecting to the Municipal Park and the proposed Adirondack Rail Trail.

WHEREAS; with the all the abandoned rails gone, the rail bed would be in optimum condition for trail purposes, and

WHEREAS; the removal of the rails and ties would make the corridor much more attractive as a trail than if the rails and ties were to remain in place making the economic benefits imparted to nearby communities greater, and

WHEREAS; this would create a unique long-distance trunk trail that could provide public access to the open space and recreational resources of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, provide trail linkages with remote Adirondack communities and local trail systems and thereby impart economic benefits to the region by attracting trail users, and

WHEREAS; because trail uses would be promoted, this would require less funding from the State and other sources for corridor construction and maintenance, and

WHEREAS; the travel corridor is the State of New York Snowmobile Trail Plan's most critical link. There is no other practical long-distance trail route through the Adirondack Park for snowmobiles, and

WHEREAS; it appears that there would be a more rapid and greater economic benefit to the Villages situated along the corridor through multiple use recreation with the rails removed, and

WHEREAS; the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan (UMP) suggests, an alternative of designation of the corridor as a multi-use recreation trail. There is no singular issue related to state land use in the Adirondacks presently generating as much public interest as the possible rail to trail conversion. The New York State DOT & New York State DEC have been remiss in not proceeding to opening the UMP in a more timely fashion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; The Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Tupper Lake hereby supports the removal, salvage and sale of the rails along the corridor with the proceeds of said sale to be put into development of the multi-use recreational trail concept, and

FURTHER RESOLVED; The Village Board of the Village of Tupper Lake for the good of our economy, hereby requests that Governor Cuomo, DEC Commissioner Martens, DOT Commissioner McDonald and expedite, opening and reviewing the UMP to effect a rail-to-trail conversion of the corridor, and

RESOLVED; copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, the Commissioners of the NYS Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Conservation, the Adirondack Park Agency, members of the State Assembly and Senate who represent Adirondack and adjoining communities; the Adirondack Association of Towns and Village and to such others who may have an interest in the economic future of the Village of Tupper Lake and the future of the Corridor.

Date: October 22, 2013

*Motion by
Trustee Donah,
Second Trustee Snyder
(Carried 3-2,
Mayor Maroun and
Trustee HeBlane "opposed")*

Seal:

Mary A. Casagrain
Mary A. Casagrain, Village Clerk/Treasurer