

Hamilton County Express
June 30, 2010

Review board records FOILED

By PETE KLEIN, Staff Reporter

CHESTERTOWN-Two environmental groups have teamed up to demand almost every record of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board since it was created in 1973, 37 years ago.

The Review Board is a watchdog agency created by the state Legislature to monitor the activities of and make recommendations to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), the super zoning authority of the Adirondack Park.

The Adirondack Council and Protect the Adirondacks! have filed the requests under the state's Freedom of Information Law.

According to Review Board Executive Director Fred Monroe, The Adirondack Council is demanding all reports to the governor, state Legislature and Adirondack counties made from 1973 to 2009; the Review Board's budgets from 1973 to 2009; and all written communications seeking funds from Adirondack towns in 2009 and 2010.

The Adirondack Council is an environmental activist group with offices in Elizabethtown and Albany.

Protect the Adirondacks! is making FOIL demands in other areas. These include all financial statements and reports for 2008 to 2010; and copies of all contracts with invoices submitted by and work provided by all advertising, public relations and communication advisors between 2008 and 2010.

Protect is also demanding all the minutes from all Review Board meetings from 2008 to 2010.

Monroe says, "The documents sought by Protect the Adirondacks! have been provided. The Review Board is currently reviewing The Adirondack Council's request."

The FOIL request from Protect is the newer of the two.

Monroe said, "The Protect FOIL came just after the New York Post story on the Nature Conservancy / Domtar \$3.5 million profit [allegedly made on a sale of land to the state]."

Protect the Adirondacks! was formed when The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and The Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks merged in 2009. It has offices in Saranac Lake and Niskayuna.