

**ADIRONDACK COUNCIL WILL NOT BE PRESSURED INTO WALKING AWAY
FROM RESPONSIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN TUPPER LAKE HEARING**
*Outrageous Demands by Project Boosters Only Strengthen
Organization's Resolve to Remain an Active Participant in Formal Public Hearing*

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TUPPER LAKE, N.Y. -- The Adirondack Council today announced that it has no intention of withdrawing as a party from the formal review of the proposed 600-plus-unit Adirondack Club & Resort, despite personal attacks and attempts at intimidation by supporters of the project.

Over the past two weeks, supporters have orchestrated a series of letters to the editors of local newspapers, a town board resolution and a press release from the Chamber of Commerce questioning our role in the upcoming hearings and attacking staff members in a personal manner.

"The Adirondack Council has a lawful and very important role to play in the public review process of the Adirondack Park Agency's upcoming formal hearing," said Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian L. Houseal. "The proposed Adirondack Club and Resort is the largest development project ever reviewed by the Adirondack Park Agency. Its impact would be felt far beyond Tupper Lake. Its size and scope require expert assistance, which we intend to provide at no cost to the taxpayers.

"When this project was first proposed in 2006, our members and other people in Tupper Lake and the surrounding area requested our help in understanding, and reacting to, the plans," Houseal said. "They recognized that the decisions made by the Park Agency would have long-term consequences for the environment and for the quality of life in Tupper Lake for generations to come.

"Two of our staff members are graduates of Tupper Lake schools," Houseal added. "Several current and past trustees of the Adirondack Council have been Tupper Lake residents, and we have many supporters who own property and pay taxes in Tupper."

Houseal added that the Adirondack Council had hired a consultant in 2008 to seek a \$200,000 Smart Growth state grant for Tupper Lake. The consultant won that grant, plus several more, which have resulted in nearly \$1 million in community development and planning money flowing to Tupper Lake over the past few years.

In addition, the Council spent thousands of dollars in 2009 sending its communications team to every daily newspaper editorial board and TV/radio market in the state to promote a Constitutional Amendment to bring a new power line into Tupper Lake. That new supply of electricity halted a series of dangerous, lengthy, mid-winter power outages.

"Frankly, it is hard not to resent being told we don't belong in the conversation about the future of Tupper Lake, after the good faith we have shown the community," Houseal said. We understand that the economy is slow. We know people are frustrated. We want to see the Adirondack Club and Resort project approved as soon as possible but there are some key issues that need to be resolved first.

"One of the issues is proper phasing to guarantee that the project is built from the ski center outwards. This will ensure that roads, utilities and other subdivision infrastructure are concentrated in appropriate areas and don't needlessly damage the environment and cost the Town money to maintain in the future.

We also have concerns about the so-called great camp lots east of Lake Simond. We intend to use the best available science to make our case to protect water quality and wildlife habitat in this area.”

Houseal noted that there are more than 30 individuals and organizations that were granted party status in the case by the administrative law judge. Public participation is an essential part of project review everywhere in New York State.

“It often leads to improvements that make projects more successful,” said Houseal. “That’s our hope here.

“We also remind the folks who are pushing us to go away that the APA’s permit review is only part of the overall state environmental review that the project’s applicants must satisfy before any construction can begin,” he said. “They still need permits from the state Department of Health and the state Department of Environmental Conservation. The DEC’s last communications with the developers indicated that their application for a DEC stormwater- and waste water treatment permit was incomplete.

In preparation for the beginning of the APA hearing in March, the Council has identified the firm of C.T. Male and Associates to testify regarding the applicant’s proposed plans for storm water and erosion control management, wastewater treatment, potable water supply and site hydrology. Experts from the Wildlife Conservation Society will testify regarding potential adverse impacts on forest health and wildlife habitat on Resource Management lands. Dodson Associates, landscape architects, and Lacy Associates, land-use planners, will testify regarding the principles of conservation design, cluster development alternatives, and project phasing.

The Adirondack Council is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. Founded in 1975, the Adirondack Council accomplishes its mission through research, education, advocacy and legal action.