

Hamilton County Express
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Ulrich is selected first female chair of agency board

By CRISTINE MEIXNER
Express Editor

ALBANY - Gov. Andrew Cuomo has named Leilani "Lani" Ulrich of Old Forge in Herkimer County as the new chairwoman of the Adirondack Park Agency Board of Commissioners.

Ulrich has been a commissioner since 2004. The chairmanship pays \$30,000 yearly.

Cuomo has also nominated Sherman Craig of Wanakena, in St. Lawrence County, as a commissioner, to fill the seat left vacant when former Chairman Curtis Stiles resigned in August. The state Senate will vote on confirming the nomination in January.

"Both Leilani and Sherman ... recognize the need to balance economic development within the Adirondacks with constant environmental protections," Cuomo said in a press release. "I look forward to working with them."

"I've known Lani for many years and am fully confident she will provide high-quality leadership for this agency whose decisions impact the lives and livelihoods of many whom I represent," state Sen. Betty Littlez said.

Brian Houseal, executive director of The Adirondack Council, an environmental lobbying group based in Elizabethtown, said, "We congratulate Gov. Cuomo on his wise decision to designate Lani Ulrich as chair of the Adirondack Park Agency and to nominate Sherman Craig to the board."

Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages President Brian Towers said, "The AATV applauds Gov. Cuomo for his excellent selection for APA chair. As a sitting in-park commissioner, Lani Ulrich embraces the principle that land preservation and open space must be balanced with the need for growth and employment opportunities."

Towers also commended Cuomo for working with the AATV to make recommendations to the APA board. "These appointments are another example of Gov. Cuomo's commitment to working with local governments throughout the Park," he said.

Ulrich moved to Old Forge in 1994. In 1997 she began coordinating discussions that grew into the Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century, a regional non-profit community development organization.

Regionally, she is on the board of Adirondack Community Housing Trust and is a member of the New York state delegation to the Northern Forest Center's Sustainable Economies Initiative.

She is a founding member of Common Ground Alliance of the Adirondacks, a forum promoting constructive dialogue among local governments, business and community leaders and environmental advocates.

Craig is a retired teacher and school administrator, currently operating his own business, Wanakena Woodworks, which makes rustic and fine furniture using local resources.

He is a current member of several organizations including the Clifton-Fine Economic Corp. and Adirondack Mountain Club.

The Adirondack Park Agency oversees land use and development within the Adirondack Park. Its board consists of 11 members.

Eight are nominated by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Of those, five must reside full-time in the park and three must reside full-time outside the park. No more than five of the eight may be of the same political party.

Cuomo announced the appointments Wednesday.