The Lake Placid News SE EDITORIAL PAGE



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A Step in the Right Direction

Members of the High Peaks Advisory Committee walked 81 of the 206 miles of trail in that wilderness area. And the result is a report which takes a significant step in the right direction.

Page 4

Simply, that direction is to bring care of the High Peaks area into the 1970's to meet a level of use that has increased 760% in the past 25 years.

The committee's recommendations are now before Commissioner Peter A.A. Berle, the top policy maker and administrator in the state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The simplicity of the report should allow Mr. Berle to get a quick reading from his division heads on the recommendations' feasibility

The proposals are tailormade for fast implementation-with the exception of major trail renovation. In general, there doesn't appear to be much room for policy debate because the committee report deals with a comprehensive list of long overdue requirements that should receive immediate attention.

For example, each year the High Peaks are subject to approximately 250,000 days of hiker use. That's based on more than 80,000 hikers spending an average of three days in the wilderness area. Yet DEC has only one three-man crew, which works in the summer, and four interior caretakers with only partial responsibility for maintenance to deal with the wilderness upkeep of campsites, trails, dams, bridges, lean-tos, pit privies and entrance areas.

Commissioner Berle should immediately urge that additional maintenance funds be added to the upcoming supplemental budget. The benefits would accrue to hikers throughout the state and would provide evidence that the Carey administration is living up to its responsibility as caretaker of public lands. Although next summer's needs probably will be met with prison labor, skilled supervision is essential. And ultimately all maintenance should become a part of the local labor market.

The committee's wilderness walks paid off in a realistic assessment of trail damage-perhaps, not as bad as it could be. The report savs:

"It is felt that a hiker is likely to overestimate the distance of eroded portions of a trail due to the increased difficulty and unpleasantness of hiking this section of the trail. For example, an estimate of the condition of the 2.7-mile trail up Ampersand Mountain was that 40% was thought to be bad, but measurement showed that only 15% was actually bad.

"However, most of the bad part, though short, was steep, wet with running water, bouldery and rooty-and therefore dangerous. Climbing in this part was slow, unpleasant and created

Daby Explains GOP Position

To the Editor

been asked of us concerning the County Republican Committee. Committee's role in the recent Vil- (3) The Committee has no author lage Primary, the North Elba Re- ity to nominate candidates. Candipublican Committee wishes to make dates are nominated only by filing the following facts known:

Committee is charged with the ination at a Party caucus. responsibility of calling and con- (4) The Committee cannot legally ducting any Republican Primary- support any candidate until that whether for Village office or for candidate has been nominated. Town office. The Committee's (5) Once a candidate is nomresponsibility for Village Primaries inated, the Committee assumes reis the result of a recent change in the sponsibility and provides support to Rules and Regulations of the Essex the candidate. County Republican Committee We hope the above will clarify our which change was necessitated by position and clear up the questions the fact that the former Village which have been asked. Republican Committee had ceased North Elba Republican Committee to function.

(2) The Committee's authority comes from the Election Law of the

Breaker one nine.

Is on a long trip

Is there any mobiles

On route seven two.

Give me some static

On a ten thirty two.

I want to make sure

It s sure to be said.

Breaker one nine

I'm like a rabor.

This rig is illegal

is don't even count

A two bundred watter

And a small gutter mount

Is there any Smokeys

On the slab up ahead

For a mobile southbound

Trung to ourrun a hound

That the slab is real clean

I don't want to be seen

With the harmer way down

While we're on the 'wo was

Anvone got a grip

State of New York and from the In answer to questions that have Rules and Regulations of the Essex

designating petitions and winning in (1) The North Elba Republican a Primary election or winning nom-

Kimball Daby Village Primary and Election Chairman

Harvey Wallbanger's Trip

By DOC OTIS

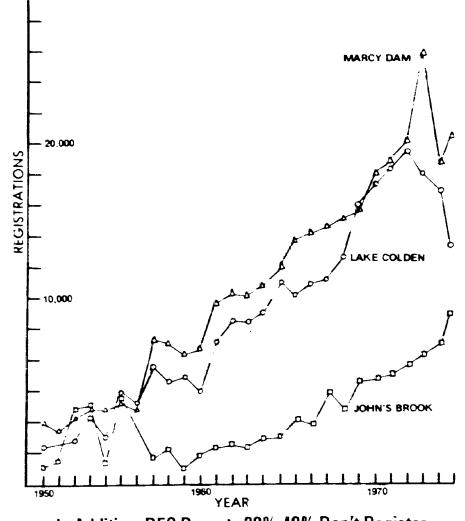
I cranked her up. To shout out afar And it shut off the fuel 'Cause that Raunchy Ol Blue Grass In a small foreign car

> A shout from Bricklaver Said I got your front door Savs I just buzzed a camera At a hundred and four

Well, the Smokers got out Mama Bears and all. Put two bears in the sky

With a roadblock ahead And a convos betind The Bears flashing lights

This is the Moral . If you really have cares. And watch out for the Bears



In Addition, DEC Reports 30%-40% Don't Register

an impression out of proportion to its length. "Although trail deterioration was localized and quantitatively less than expected, where trails were bad they were usually very bad or even dangerous. Repair or rerouting is necessary on these sections."

The committee's recommendations on permits are sensible. It found them useful for a variety of purposes-education, data gathering, prevention of overcrowding and control of physical destruction. It urged limited use of permits in problem areas.

"For example," the report says, "the DEC could identify specific trails or areas where established carrying capacities are exceeded. The Department could employ a limited use permit system for these locations only, rather than limiting all camping throughout the High Peaks."

Such a moderate approach also will have the effect of redistributing hikers to lesser used areas with the probable result that the wilderness experience will be enhanced through a



A Thank-You from Hospital Auxiliary

To the Editor: The Women's Auxiliary of Placid Memorial Hospital and our local Red Cross wish to express their appreciation to the people of Lake Placid for their wonderful support of the Blood Mobile, held on Monday. Feb. 14.

donated sandwiches and food for the blood in Jim Von Dell's name. Canteen. We thank the following for their support: Howard Johnson's, Jimmy's, Lake Placid Delicatessen, Captain Billy's, Chalet, Holiday Inn.

Lake Placid Club and the Lake To the Editor Placid Drug. Our colorful posters Catalfamo. 122 hours were volunand Red Cross volunteers.

We are very grateful to the 111 donors who made the day such a Our local restaurants generously success. Many of them came to give

> Leola Peacock Connie Hayes Lake Placid it up.

Persico Sends Editorial

To the Editor:

I noted a few weeks ago that the Knickerbocker News printed one of vour editorials. Maybe you would like to return the favor and reprint the enclosed.

> Richard A. Persico **Executive Director**

Adirondack Park Agency The Feb. 10 editorial follows:

MORE FUNDS FOR APA Created five years ago, the pioneering Adirondack Park Agency has done a highly competent job of protecting the beautiful and awe inspiring Adirondacks from the ravages of reckless development. To be sure, many Adirondack residents remain resentful of the agency, regarding it as an intrusive outsider interfering with what should be local prerogatives. But because the agency has been reasonable and efficient in its regulation of land use

more and more residents are coming to understand that it is operating in their interests-that protecting the Park Agency, have very restrictive aries affected by APA Regulations. region's environment is also the best way to safeguard the region's economy This year, Gov. Hugh Carey is

recommending that the agency receive a budget increase of approxi mately \$100,000, bringing its total budget to \$889,000. This increase is necessary because of the agency's expanding duties which now include administering the Wild. Sce nic and Recreational Rivers System Act and will soon include administering the Freshwater Wetlands Act. The legislature should grant this increase Without additional funds, it would be difficult for the agency to continue to build confidence in its methods and purposes and for it to provide adequate protection to the magnificent Adirondacks

Sheriff Writes on Jail Tour

To the Edror

my Open House at the Essex pronounced this time because those County Jail a success

I was hoping more people would beard of the problem go through the jail with an escort. who did take the tour with my and know first hand one of the deputies problems the taxpavers of this county will have to deal with in the

near fu'ure who did take the tour had previously

Ken Goodspeed

Esser Courry Sheriff

Boy, they sure had the gall

We were sure in a bind

Now I m in the slammer With a hundred stamp bail They captured my ears And my CB s m jad

Keep vour CB real legal

Mill Hill Lake Placid phone (518) 523-2100 Thursday, February 24, 1977

knowledge of other peaks--peaks lesser in height but not in beauty.

And the committee views permits as a last resort.

"While the majority of the committee recommended the use of permits as an educational means and as a method of statistically analyzing camper use," the report says. "there is reluctance to employ a limiting permit system until all other means of solving the area's problems have been exhausted."

The report also considers methods to finance an adequate High Peaks program for the 1970's and beyond. It suggests state or federal capital appropriations for one-time construction projects. an increase in state funds for yearly operations and an investigation of the costs and benefits of wilderness user fees.

The report does not specify whether such user fees would be linked to any possible permit system but that's an assumption that could easily be made. We would add to the user-fee study the proposal made in The News Forum by Jack Drury of North Country Community College. He suggested the possibility of a tax on backpacking equipment with the revenue earmarked for wilderness use. Such a tax has the advantage of putting the cost on the shoulders of those who have the money to spend on recreation.

Evidently, Mr. Drury has a good many ideas. The report includes his proposal for a wilderness education program at North Country Community College. He sets forth the program's objective this wav:

"We will offer individuals an opportunity to study, first hand, the problems of wilderness management and use, emphasizing the regional problems of New York State."

Thus, the very existence of the High Peaks Advisory Committee is stimulating appropriate programs that should serve to enhance the Adirondack economy, the wilderness experience and individual education

We found the committee's report to be an unpretentious document that has the virtue of directing state policy toward an end that will not only benefit the Adirondacks but the state as a whole. It reflects the thinking of men and women who show they know the territory. And the slimness of the report attests to the fact that the membership would prefer to spend its time on the trail rather than around a conference table.

Because The News feels that the recommendations should have a wide readership in the Adirondacks-the proposals deal with the mountains in your backyard-it's printing the text of the report and selected appendices. And the editorial is to sput Forum page discussion.

Casier Sends Resolution

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution tial for future growth. (APA Regulawere done by Renee Ade and Terry furnished by Blue Line Education Community Council Jan. 14. which, teered by our auxiliary members I believe, was passed unanimously. I believe it reflects the attitude of the meeting closer than the opinions of Harlan Dodge, Mrs. Haselton, Lake Placid's Art Thompson and Dick Beamish as reported in your "As Schools Seek Adequate tax burden by necessity remains Funds

I think your paper is great - keep

The resolution follows: PROBLEM Communities with boundaries located in the area under table to APA Regulations. This the jurisdiction of the Adirondack would apply to districts with bound-

Hess Replies To Barry Charge

To the Editor:

he Village on the questions of Election. voting qualifications and eligibility of candidates for Village office

this human frailty.

In March of 1958 Mr. Barry 1958 Barry voting question. ndeavored to vote in a Village election. At that time, and for some current opinion concerning the elident Inspectors of Election at the upon which it was based is attached polls questioned Mr Barry's eligi It is respectfully submitted that bility to vote in the 1958 Village any aggrieved party has ample election due to his non-Village rest recourse to endeavor to obtain a deacy

At that time the question was Board of Elections Attorney Gen submitted to me by telephone as eral or through the courts media that heiped in trying to make day, but the enthusiasm was more. Village Attorney by the Village Clerk When it was stated that Mr. Barry had confirmed to the Election

regulations governing their potentions). This restrictive land use regulation interferes with the natural growth of taxable resources in such communities. As a result a school district's ability to raise taxes for school support from new revenue sources, or potential revenue -sources is seriously curtailed. The

on existing taxable property. SOLUTION Move that legislation be introduced which would Frank Casier allow school districts and other local Saranac Lake governments to receive additional state aid in lieu of lost taxable resources at the local level attribu-

Inspectors he was not then residing In last week's paper Mr. Jack within the Village limits, an opinion Barry charged the un⁴ .signed with was provided that he was not legally providing inconsistent opinions to eligible to vote in the 1958 Village

The current question of the eligibility of George Christian Ortloff The passage of time has a way of as a candidate for Village Trustee is clouding the accuracy of the memory an entirely different legal matter. of the story-teller, and even as fine a My legal opinion on this issue was zentleman as Mr. Barry is subject to based upon an entirely different set of facts and applicable laws than the

As to the correctness of my period prior to that time, he had in gibility of a candidate for Village act physically resided outside the Trustee, a copy of the opinion, and Village of Lake Placid. The indepent the assumed factual information

contrary ruling or opinion from the

Norman L. Hess Village Attorney

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The text of the High Peaks Wilderselected appendices follow:

CHARGE TO THE COMMITTEE During the early 1970's, there were clear indications that the use of the High Peaks Wilderness Area was increasing rapidly and had reached a significant level, with evidence of extensive trail deterioration

In the Fall of 1974 Commissioner James Biggane convened a committee of citizens known for their long interest and experience in the High Peaks area. and charged them with investigating the propriate courses of action. The following is a report of the two year investigation by the High Peaks Advisory Committee.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

on summit areas. Significant aspects ness Advisory Committee report and adding to the complexity are over High Peaks Wilderness. crowded conditions at desirable locations and an inadequate response by the Department to the need for trail relocation where erosion is severe.

PRIMARY FINDINGS

Committee has found that trail deterioration is localized to specific sections Lake Colden and John's Brook Valley. of most trails-14 percent or approximately 30 miles of the total trail mileage volving two primary components: a) of the High Peaks trails is in critical physical effects, and b) subjective efcondition. This is a substantially lower fects of use on visitor experience. The percentage than had been expected but mix of these elements will vary from situation fully and recommending ap- it is indicative of a serious, continuing location to location. Below timber line, deterioration of the trail system.

principally related to the original align-tive or subjective factor. Above timber ment, position and elevation of the trail line the soil and vegetation are so fragile on the slope, the methods of trail con- that the physical impact of use domistruction, the degree of continuing nates and determines the carrying ca-The High Peaks trail network grew in maintenance. It is only secondarily pacity. a relatively unplanned manner during related to the extent of human use. A 9. Trails lead hiking traffic squarely the last half of the 19th Century and the well located trail (i.e., the John's Brook through the heart of each camping area. early 20th Century by the actions of Valley Trail), that receives adequate This factor adds to an awareness of groups such as the Adirondack Trail maintenance can sustain more than congestion and thus has a strong nega- tage of inexperienced and ill-prepared Improvement Society (ATIS), the Lake 10,000 users per year without unac- tive impact on the subjective carrying winter hikers and campers use the High Placid Club Camp and Trail Committee, ceptable environmental deterioration, capacity. The existing concentrated Peaks



Cairns and Footprints Mark Iroquois Peak Trail

forming an interlocking trail network.

kind in the Adirondack Park. Other trail depends more on drainage and steepnetworks exist, but they generally are ness of the slope than on use levels. valley trails to lakes and ponds with a If the use is in predominatly damp few isolated opportunities to climb to a areas, along level sections of a trail. mountain top. Only in the High Peaks where the soil is generally soft and Wilderness Area does one find such an drainage is poor, use will have a greater extensive system of valley and summit effect on trail deterioration. This results hiking trails, scenic vistas, camping and in muddy trail areas that continuously lean-to sites, and cross-country ski widen as hikers seek a dry route. The trails.

early in the 1930's. However, there was conditions. The trail may be able to little attention focused on this gradually sustain greater use in dry weather than increasing erosion because of the low levels of human use at that time. Increase in use was not much different from one year to the next until the mid 1950's. During the 1960's increased use was coincidental with a new environmental awareness. Today, after a rapid growth in use, over 700% in the last 2: vears, a problem situation has developed that must be rectified. The question facing the Committee: What is the problem and how can it be resolved?

THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

To address this charge the Committee's initial objective was to analyze the pressures or the environmental deteassumed hiker-induced deterioration of moration of the High Peaks Wilderness the trail system. The study efforts revealed that the problem is not simple. 5. The primary form of human pres-It does not involve trail erosion alone sure on the High Peaks results from the Rather mis a complex web of human use mumbers of backpack campers and then and natural environmental forces, both activities rather than day hikers or any destructive and recuperative. Com- other asers. Early indications from the pounding these difficulties are mainten. Wilderness Trap Ticket Program ini- material, has led to a significant loss of ance levels insufficient to keep pace tiated in the Fall of 1976, reveal that vegetation at certain high elevation with either the deterioration of the during the Fall period more than 90% of camping areas as well as the major physical environment or the quality of the annual visitor days are generated by camping concentrations at Marcy Dam. the wilderness experience for the user such campers Statistics to be taken Indian Falls and Lake Colden. The Characteristics of the problem include during 19" will reveal the proportion of impact of this destruction is pranarily destruction of vegetation around camp- campers to lakers during other seasons aesthetic at low elevations and ecolo- Adirondack Foor Trails Conference feaing areas, accumulation of latter, polle- 6 M: Marcs, the highest point of great at high elevations tion of waterways by human waste and land in New York State, is a unique 10. The Committee has found sub- gather feedback from private organiza-

the Shore Owner's Association of Lake On the upper slopes, however, where Placid and by guides hired to cut trails shallow organic soils cover the bedrock. for individuals or hotels. Starting in the carrying capacity is greatly reduced and 1920's the State Conservation Depart- the environmental threat multiplied. ment commenced a series of continuous The level of use required to break the caused by the numerous 'herd paths' improvements that extended trails to natural ground cover of leaves and leading to the trailless peaks above the mountain summits from abandoned needles to its underlying soil can be 4,000 feet requires prompt rehabilitative iumbering roads, skidways and the in- guite small, only a few hundred hikers actions or this wilderness resource will formal trails then in existence, thus per year. If the soil thus exposed is be lost. One properly designed and highly erodable, this process will com- located path would handle the traffic It is important to realize that the High mence at a typical rate of approximately Peaks trails are the only system of its an inch in depth per year. This rate

(Photo by George Viscome)

ability to sustain use in such areas Historically, trail erosion was noted varies widely with seasonal weather in wet

> 3. Summit deterioration is greater than formerly believed. Most trails lead to mountain summits where human impact concentrates on the most fragile of all High Peaks environments. Vegetation on Alpine summits is composed primarily of rare and endangered species found nowhere else in New York

4. During the last two decades of rapid growth in use, the Department's annual hudget and field personnel staffing has never kept pace with use

Text of Report on High Peaks

(4) locations: Marcy Dam, Indian Falls,

8. Carrying capacity is a concept incarrying capacity (the acceptable level 2. Trail deterioration appears to be of use for a site) is primarily a qualita-

disproportionate to that of the rest of the time of the Committee's charge. This was the result of massive cleanup 7. The problem of overuse is not efforts, since 1974, conducted by volungeneral throughout the High Peaks. It is teer groups under DEC coordination and confined to certain intensively-used from the educational thrust of Ridge areas of high recreational value and to Runners and Wilderness Rangers. The the heavily traveled hiking corridors cleanup efforts, litter bag program and through the area. Significantly, camping public education (i.e. carry-in, carry-out 1. A physical trail inventory by the use is heavily concentrated at only four program) have combined to improve the situation. Continuing this effort is necessary.

> 17. The Committee finds that numerous wilderness areas in the United States are managed through use of permit systems that work. Permits can be used for a number of functions that range from education and data collection to limitation of use. Public acceptance of permit systems has been good where they have been carefully intro-

18. The study of Winter Wilderness Recreation Use prepared by Cornell University, Wilderness Ranger reports. and personal observations of committee members indicate that a high percen-

Peaks Wilderness Area. 9. Assure that trail head parking capacities are commensurate with interfor use. Resolve the unique problems at "The Garden" parking lot.

Education

planning and management of the High

is the first line of defense in the care and areas, as is now being done by the State a preservation of the High Peaks, expand College of Environmental Science and the program of public education to Forestry in its summit rehabilitation convey the new ethic of environmental program. swareness. The program could utilize a 3. Identify all critical rehabilitation for high school and college students, the projects. relaying of information through televi- 4. Implement a comprehensive promore effective signing in the High the top" philosophy. Peaks.

2. Install at each entrance to the High sections that cannot be relocated. Im-Peaks the sign. Guidelines to Respon- plement rehabilitation projects for such sible Woodsmanship, designed by the sections. Committee: Accomplished.

coordination of volunteer cleanup efforts

Rehabilitation 1. First priority should be directed to

improvement of the trails leading to Mt. Marcy and Algonquin Peak

2. Encourage and support efforts to 1. Recognizing that public education restore eroded and damaged summit

broad array of techniques, including the and relocation projects. Prepare a conencouragement of school mini-courses solidated budget packet to fund these

sion and "outdoor" shows, the use of gram of relocating seriously eroded trail sporting goods' stores as communica- sections. Establish a relocation policy tion outlets, in addition to the Depart- based upon longer, more gradual trail ment's development of brochures and slopes than the former "quickest way to

5. Identify those highly used trail

6. Eliminate the multiple herd paths 3. Print a pocket-size High Peaks to the so-called trailless peaks. Deterleaflet to be available to each hiker upon mine and retain the one best route to



(Photo by George Viscome) Allen Brook Tumbles Down Allen Mountain

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS camping areas have occurred because of

their attractive natural gualities, favorable and accessible locations. 10. Deterioration and physical erosion

with less damage to the summits.

11. The results of the ADK Ridge Runner Program and the Department's new Interior Ranger Program indicate that effective public education can have a beneficial effect upon the conduct of the Wilderness user and ultimately upon the environment.

12. Use of the High Peaks by groups larger than 10 persons constitutes a greater pressure on the resource than would the same number of users as individual day hikers or backpackers. Federal Wilderness management has independently arrived at this conclusion and currently limits group size to 10

13. The relative high use of trails within the eastern High Peaks zone con-trasts with the low level of use in the remainder of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The eastern zone of the High Peaks is defined as all of the High Peaks Wilderness Area east of the Northville-Placid Trail and north of the Duck Hole t is in this eastern zone where most of he overuse occurs

14. An extensive committee study, a the form of a survey by day hikers, has revealed that numerous alternatives all trails. exist outside the High Peaks for an experience that approximates much of the High Peaks experience, including open peaks with vistas.

15. The use of vegetation for camp fires, other than dead and downed

destruction of anyone alpine vegetation attraction that draws a logic level of use stantially less litter than expected at the tions and users in order to enhance DEC

Planning 1. Develop as first priority, the comprehensive overall wilderness management plan for the High Peaks Wilderness mandated, by the State Land Master Plan. The Committee recommends inclusion of the following, not specifically mandated by the Plan: a) A comprehensive evaluation of the entire trail system, considering overall needs and demands and b) a defined carrying capacity for trail, summit and camping areas, supplemented by detailed plans for specific areas of the High Peaks

Wilderness. 2. Determine the best methods for relocation of badly eroded trail sections. 3. Develop an action plan to make improvements to the trails to Mt. Marcy and Algonquin Peak.

4. Improve the means of recording use. Use automatic counters to obtain more accurate use data. Conduct periodic surveys of destination and attitudes of users to provide bases for more effective wilderness management plan-

5. Continue the planning process. initiated by the Committee to evaluate diversion of use from the High Peaks by taking the following actions: a) survey additional areas: b) analyze survey data: c) determine the effectiveness of diversion, including a cost-impact analvsis: e) designate a DEC liaison person to coordinate and interface with the Committee in this study: f) upgrade the Master Trail Atlas to include listing of

6. Evaluate the management implications of limiting some or all camping within the High Peaks to designated

Encourage continued research on resource protection methods by public and private organizations. Charge the High Peaks Advisory Committee with continued studies and collection and correlation of all other "back country" studies for use by the DEC

8 Conduct or severate an annual taring trail maintenance workshops to



sible Woodsmanship.

Visitor Center, with multi-media capa- 19⁻⁻ bilities, to directly reach those who utilize the region and are likely to experience the High Peaks.

5. Establish and enforce standards of leadership for courselors leading organized camp groups. Evaluate the desirability of requiring special orientation sessions for camp counselors as perthe Joint DEC ADK training sessions conducted in 19⁻0.

6. Add 4 DEC Ridge Runners t augment the current DEC staff of 2 Wilderness Rangers currently assigned to the High Peaks.

Lessen the impact of Mt. Marcy as an attraction by rewriting Recreation Circular No. 8 and retitling n-Hiking in the High Peaks. Stress responsible Woodsmanship. Expand the publication of Regional Trail Guides to emphasize areas outside the High Peaks. Add a charge for such brochures.

1. The Committee strongly urges the Department to seek the additional funding vitally needed to hire sufficient field personnel to bring maintenance in the High Peaks to a level commensurate with acceptable use.

2. Designate a Department liaison person to work with interest groups. involved with High Peaks volunteer. activities. Investigate mechanisms that will enable the voimt eet program to continue successfully should mittal volmiter interest wane

3. Assure the effectiveness of the trail maintanance program by the develop ment of effective monitoring techmoves. Use the Committee as a compopert of the monstoring program

4 Assure full implementation of the "carro-st-carro-cost" policy, with contimed joint DEC volunteer efforts campane solid waste. Discontance the Northville-Lake Placed trail and of burning puts and garbage puts at the easure High Praiss asse Commer DEC (Continued on Page 7)

Herd Path Off the Summit of Mt. Marshall entering the High Peaks. The leaflets each peak as a "wilderness path" with should include a trail map and an ex- absolute minimum marking, as done for planation of the Guidelines to Respon- Iroquois by 46'er volunteers during 1975. Focus initial attention to the peaks 4. The Committee strongly urges that of Allen. Donaldson. Hough and Sevthe Department create an Adirondack mour. (Planned by 46'ers for summer.

Redistribution WITHIN THE HIGH PEAKS

1. To reduce the human impact and enhance the camping qualities of Marcy Dam. develop a major-dav-use oriented-alternative trail to Mr. Marcv. (Starting at South Meadows, by-passing Marcy Dam and following a route in the vicinity of Table-Top Mountain.) This will reduce the human impact and enhance the camping qualities of Marcy Dam. It will also open up the opportunity for numerous new, loop-trails for day hiking.

2 Study the need for other new trails. 3. Study potential areas for new. dispersed camping sites.

OUTSIDE THE HIGH PEAKS Objective: Redistribute Use Outside

High Peaks Wilderness. 1. Divert a portion of hiker use to non-High Peak areas whose potentials have been established through planning, based upon the survey and its

2. Educate the public to the existence of acceptable new areas and promote use through new guides and maps. 3. Implement Marked Foot Path con

cept in test areas. 4 Re-open selected old routes, log ging toads and traditional sportsmen's trails and designate these as unmarked

formaths 5 Re-route short sections of snowmobile trails to go around boggy areas to make them more adaptable for hite

b Construct new motes to desirable locations where no trails exist and which studies show are not best served by "hecheat" mater

* Emphasis in new trail construction should be placed primarily on trails. Cortizze the latter bag program Ex. dose so centers of population, senable pand the "Carry-m-carry-out" poincy for five one day family walks and secondarily inter to menude user carry out of all or extended unit systems, such as the



Ranger Report

hap was reported this weekend, the and they began heating beverages the High Peaks rangers. Ranger most crowded weekend in the High for the sufferer Peaks this winter.

Indian Pass trail Sunday with eight Keene. When they started back up there z other Explorer Scouts from Ridge- the trail, their toboggan slid into a wood, N.J. He picked up too much tree and broke a runner, so Mr. speed on a downhill run, fell and Hurd returned to the Loj and called hurt the ligaments in his knee. He Lake Placid ranger Gary Hodgson. lay about two miles from the Adi- Mr. Burton left the solitude of rondack Loj.

arrived within minutes of the ac- bile. Friends took him to Placid cident. The scouts were well pre- Memorial Hospital, where he was pared for a bivouac. They were on a treated and released av trip, but Ranger Hurd said they — The accident occurred at about had a sleeping bag and a closed 2:80 PM, and Mr. Burton reached $rac{\bullet}$ cell insulating pad with them in case – the hospital at about 5.30

Mark Button, 17, was skiing down listed the aid of ranger Peter Fish of it could be with 150 people camped

Indian Pass, towed in a snow boat Wilmington ranger Wesley Hurd behind Ranger Hodgson's snowmo-

Only one minor wilderness mis- of accident. They also had a stove It was an uneventful weekend for Robert Conklin reported all quiet at Mr. Hurd skied to the Loj and en- Marcy Dam on Sunday as quiet as

> One hiker who did not come to the High Peaks this weekend was Mark Zangara of the Bronx. His feet were severely frostbitten as he climbed Mt. Marcy Jan. 29.

He was released from Placid Memorial on Feb. 12, but Dr. Edward Hixon said he will be convalcscing at his home for a month. Dr. Hixon said he's on his feet, wearing a felt slipper, and probably won't lose any toes



AuSable Chamber Gets Olympic Logo

Cathy Calhoun recently won a \$25 government bond as the winner of the AuSable Valley Chamber of Commerce Olympic logo contest. The logo will be in- Rvan. corporated into chamber membership cards, billboards

An Approach to the High Peaks

(Continued from Page 1)

said, will be accomplished by an inter disciplinary team of experts in such fields as geology, botany, forestry, biology and weather.

Mr. Jensen expects the wilderness management techniques to be in place for the 1980 Winter Olympics a: Lake Placid.

Although the report concerns the High Peaks Wilder ness Area, its impact will affect other lands as well. For example, policy conclusions reached for the High Peaks will have impact on the Dix and Giant M: Wilderness Areas, the Sewards and Santanoni.

In addition, the committee recommends redistributing use outside the High Peaks area. It urged re opening of selected old routes, logging roads and sportmen's trails as well as the marked footpath to facilitate such redistribution to other areas. Additional routes near Harry Eldridge Ir Glenn W. Fish (vice chairman). Mr population centers also would be established. Such a Jensen, Edwin H. Ketchledge, Ervin H. Markers program would be implemented through an educational Barbara McMartin, David L. Newhouse, Arthur E. program promoted through new guides and maps.

supplemented by a 28 page appendix. Its seven sections deal with planning education, maintenance, rehabilita tion, redistribution, control and funding. The recommendations are the result of extensive data guaranting and debate among committee members

and directories. Left to right are Lorrie Hathaway,

president, Dave Anderson, Cathy Calhoun and John

"It represents an evolution of thinking." Mr. Jensen explained "Every issue was argued pro and conjuntil a consensus was reached. The committee embraces a spectrum of interests and activities ranging from cross country skiing (Almy D.

Coggeshall of Schenectady) to landscape architecture (Altred Obrist of Syracuse). Significant segments of the membership represent the Adirondack Mountain Club and the College of Environment Science & Forestry at Syracuse: Members are

J William Adriance, Mr Coggeshall (secretary) Newkirk Margares G. O'Brien, Mr. Obrist, Rober The committee's report itself is a slim 11 pages Ringlee. John F. Stau and Sidney P. Tuthill Jr.

An Official Perspective on 1990

(Continued From Page 1)

EDUCATION There will not be enough new permanent residents to strain the educational resources of any community in the primary area. Lake Placid Central School will be temporarily disrupted by nearby during the games as a press center.

HEALTH CARE - More physicians will be needed during the summer seasons, due to the increase in visitors. Emergency medical services will be improved because the Emergency Medical Services System will be growth in the primary area will be about 20% greater adopted for the games

PUBLIC SAFETY - Local police forces, which are now strained during peak summer months, will have to add some personnel and equipment after the games.

SEWER AND WATER - The water supply and sew age treatment systems in the Town of North Elba and the Village of Lake Placid are capable of meeting the and some areas particularly the High Peaks Wilderness needs of the Olympic period. The predicted population Area near Lake Placid, are considered to be overused at growth will have no significant effect on sewer and water this time. These dramatic increases in wilderness usage services after 1980

FLECTRICAL SUPPLY - The Lake Placid Municipal Electric System will have to be improved for the games Otympic-related improvements account for 88 % of the otal cost of the proposed project. The Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee will pay this share about \$1 million

COMMUNICATIONS - The New York Telephone Company will expand its Central Office equipment in mental Conservation is included in the EIS. It describes 1976 to accommodate both local needs and Olympic afternative means to control wilderness use and savs Olympic customers to support the special costs so that Games

local ratepavers are not ultimately burdened with premium costs to recoup the Olympic investment

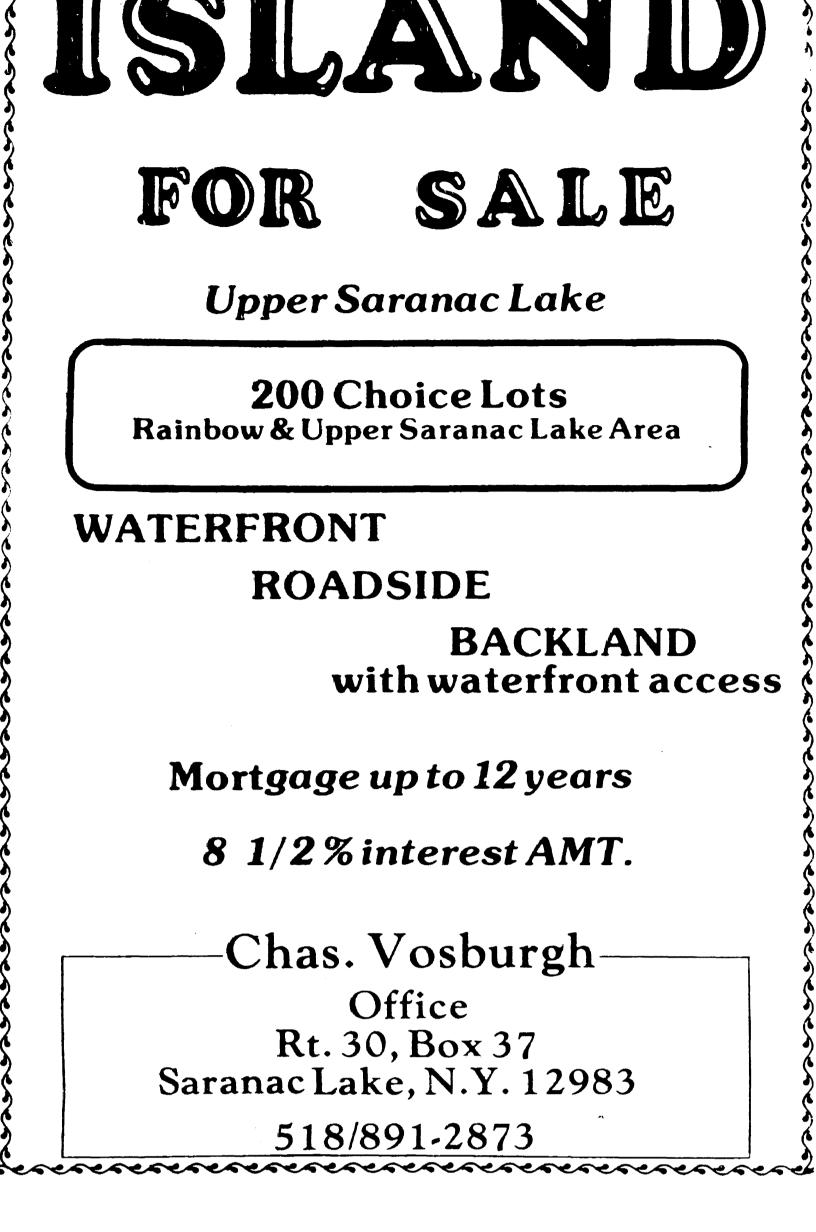
TRAFFIC - During the games, there will be periods of congestion in Lake Placid and on adjacent roads. This can be relieved somewhat by a shuttle bus system that removes visitor vehicles from the area. Bus traffic will construction of the field house and by use of the school blossom at key intervals, and "travel for local residents will be less convenient and slower during those times.

> NO MAJOR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS will be required to handle growth after the games. Traffic than expected in 1990, due to the Olympics. The increase in the secondary area will be about 7.2% greater than the normal projected traffic growth. The EIS concluded that the Olympics would have little

effect on the condition of adjacent wilderness areas. There has been a dramatic increase in the growth rates of wilderness usage over the last several decades have shown little or no relationship to changes in the summer seasonal population in the Primary and Secondary Study Areas

"Therefore no relationship has been drawn between the projected increase in the summer seasonal nonula tion as a result of the Olympic Program and any further increases in wilderness usage although the Olympics are anticipated to have an influence on increased use A statement of policy by the Department of Environ

the cost of Olympic related improvements from those to effectively protect and preserve the fragile resources required for normal service and so clarify the ability of of these public lands will be in place prior to the Olympic





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(Continued on Page 5)

1. Prohibit all camping above 3,500 feet except where site studies, conducted by the Department, indicate that specific locations in the 3,500-4,000 elevation zone are environmentally capable of accepting such use and do not conflict with safety concerns related to high elevation camping. Encourage a 'hike high-camp low'' philosophy.

2. Assure that areas of concentrated camping, now occuring at Marcy Dam, Indian Falls. Lake Colden and John's Brook Valley, do not exceed their respective carrying capacities. Take technique on a regular basis to follow such action as necessary, including the changes in trail conditions issuing of permits to disperse use, achieve environmental equilibrium and ensure a high quality wilderness experience for all users. Determine the actual need for wilderness permits by conducting tests and taking measurements that that tundra-like area on the alpine can provide accurate indications of use at each location. Relate this use to $\mathbf{a} = 80$ acres. As of this report only 40 acres specific carrying capacity for each loca- of this zone are covered by vegetation.

system necessary for control purposes, permit system for these locations only by erosion and trampling. rather than limiting all camping throughout the High Peaks.

3. Encourage High Peaks users to carry stoves for cooking.

4. Prohibit wood fires in all areas above 3,500 feet elevation.

5. Assure that users stay on designated trails above timberline, in particular those summit areas that support alpine vegetation.

6. Limit user group size to no more than 10 individuals.

7. Prohibit tenting within 100 feet of a lake or stream.

8. Prohibit tenting or campfires on trails. Urge placement of tents at least 100 feet from the trail.

Funding

The High Peaks Wilderness Advisory Committee recognizes several important problems related to the funding of the programs it recommends: 1) Funding has never been adequate to enable the Department to properly care for the area; 2) Many of the suggestions included in the report require additional funding; 3) There is a direct correlation between the funding for construction and maintenance of the trails and camping areas, and their physical carrying capacity; 4) The use of volunteers has been important both in reducing maintenance and cleanup costs, and in providing planning and responsible citizen leadership. Volunteer programs should continue but should never be thought of as a substitute for Department personnel.

With this background, the Committee pledges active support in helping the Department obtain adequate appropriations for the recommended programs. Further, the Committee suggests that the following be studied to determine their potential for funding

1. The possibility of Federal or State capital appropriations for the one-timeexpenses urgently needed for major trail construction, relocation and rehabilitation projects.

2. Increase regular State funds, as necessary, for planning and wilderness protection, i.e., fire, pollution, education and trail maintenance.

3. A study should be undertaken immediately, to determine costs and benefits of wilderness user fees to supplement funding for trail maintenance

SELECTED APPENDICES

Study of Existing Trail Conditions Existing trail conditions in the High-Peaks Wilderness area were studied by committee members who walked the principal routes. The objective was to determine quantitatively the condition on exposed rocks.) Additional carris are of the trails, especially the location of needed poor sections. Several techniques were explored for data taking. The method selected for this report was to have each member use a standard form to indicate trail conditions (e.g., sections that were mucht roots, guilled, eroded to fedrock, lack of sufficient waterbars, defective conduces or defective bridges.)

The study ovvered 81.4 miles (29%) of the 206 miles of trails in the High Peaks the biker or camper's physical ase of his Wilderness Area. Approximately 11 problems including: Deep wear. 0.05 the user's expectations of wilderness iences approximating those of the High Since this approach would be a divimiles, water crosion, 6.22 miles: overis solitade ... roory. 1.56 miles: poor cordinoy. 0.56 Recreational carrying capacity can be If mountain climbing to overlooks Committee proposed that one or two test pared): bad waterbars, broken elevated ar the experience of the visitor "Carro how bering days that they are capped Marked Footpath onecept

Several reports mentioned heavy rain as ponents of carrying capacity are: having occurred one to two days earlier. The survey thus revealed that trail detenature, and that the actual mileage of and seriously eroded trails is less than formerly supposed.

The existing trail conditions survey some modifications, the method could privacy usefully be extended to the entire mileage and be used as a monitoring

Summit deterioration

The Alpine Zone of New York State. summits above timberline, consists of The most scenic mountain trails within Should the Department find a permit the High Peaks converge on the sumthe Committee recommends gradual. produces a concentration of hikers in the limited use of permits rather than im- most fragile of environments within the partment could employ a limited use is also extremely vulnerable to damage



Trail Crew Boss Gene Loughran, right, on Dix with Jeff Obermeyer

Seward

During the last 10 seasons, researchers at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry have devised a technique to stabilize eroding portions of the Alpine meadows and to permit native plants to return. A combination of seeding and fertilizing has resulted in a stable grass sod or mixed grass and moss cover which reverts to the native Alpine cover if left undisturbed. Restored areas will sustain Alpine vegetation without further treatment

Certain management practices are essential to continuing restoration and preservation of the Alpine summits: 1. Continue research and further treatment of selected Alpine areas

2. Limit summit trails to one route and ensure that the trail is over exposed rock and away from vegetation. (The 46'ers are already doing this on trailless peaks. Warning signs have been placed on trailed summits. Both the 46 ers and ADK are improving the system of cairns

3. Prohibit camping in Alpine Zones. 4. Prohibit fires in Alpine Zones.

Concept of Carrying Capacity

The wilderness recreation user areates two primary types of impacts on the wilderness environment physical and psychological. The physical impact is caused by the amount and character of surroundings Psychological impacts inners have been studied and these have suggested wording and further explamiles (14%) were found to have critical are related to the subjective quality of been shown to offer wilderness experimentation of the concept is given below.

miles: poor bridges. 3 Comments from defined as "the character of recreational with views is sought, the laker can be Marked Footpaths be developed, to reporters indicated other problems in- use can be supported over a specific satisfied in the Southern Adirondacks by determine the feasibility of these routes cluding me monrect mileage sign a period of time by an area, without climbing to the numerous exposed cliffs under field conditions. The Communee washed out culvert, a submerged causing excessive damage or deteriora- or to the summits of mountains so already has before it several suitable "Hack-up Marilda" (subsequently re- tice to either the physical environment severity buryed in the aftermath of the montes which could serve as tests of the

Text of Report on High Peaks

walkways, and trails worn to bedrock ing capacity functions as an identifiable with outcrops of bare rock. Aerial 1. THE PHYSICAL CAPACITY to Outside the High Peaks there exist withstand use, beyond which the natural networks of abandoned logging roads

which individuals feel that their wilder- loop trails with opportunities for climb has met its goal of devising a method of ness experience is not satisfactory be- ing and camping. rapid and objective trail evaluation in cause of a loss of the sense of wilderness

> the FACILITY CAPACITY should also beauty can be designated with minimal be addressed. This is the maximum expense level of the use that man-made facilities-trails, camping areas, parking - can be reached by existing trails and lots, lean-tos, privies and the like, can paths. Others require new paths. Some accommodate. Facility capacity is not should be left as challenges for those affected by natural constraints, but is who bushwack. The survey has identidetermined by management decisions fied many rewarding destinations but and fiscal implications.

Trailless Peaks

The herd paths on many trailless peaks were found to be more a detriment to the illusion of trackless wildermits within the Alpine Zone. This ness than a problem with the physical environment. A survey indicated that minimal erosion exists on the majority of mediate, general use permits. For ex- High Peaks. The vegetation in this en- trailless peaks. The exceptions are five ample, the DEC could identify specific vironment is primarily composed of rare peaks for which recommendations are trails or areas where established carry- and endangered species found nowhere tabulated below. In these cases, natural ing capacities are exceeded. The De- else in New York State. The vegatation erosion will continue so that restoration is not possible without these specific corrections.

> ALLEN—Relocation of path to ridge in the upper reaches of Allen Brook. DONALDSON-Relocation of path to avoid the bad slide on the descent from

HOUGH-The descent from the Hough summit to the herd path from the Macomb-South Dix colout to the Dix Trail should be modified to lessen the damage caused by the steep slides.

IROOUOIS-The herd path on each side of Boundary Mt. requires adequate treatment, probably cordurov or elevated walk, to lessen the "wallows" through wet, low areas. (Accomplished)

SEYMOUR-Barriers of natural material are required to close the number of alternate paths near and on the summit, leaving only the one best adapted to the terrain.

Diversion of Use of Study

Partial results are available from the survey of day walks, instigated by the committee, to study the hiking potential survey was prompted by findings that prove the public will readily accept new books by the Adirondack Mountain Club - Footpath and its dangers should be preand magazine articles featuring new pared and accompany sets of maps of Adamdack adventures)

Three basic types of hiking exper- maps could be sold by the State. A Peaks

(not listed in mileage). Only 7.7 miles standard against which to compare reconnaisance, followed by foot explowere hiked and studied in the rain. ongoing use. The two primary com- ration, has been used to locate these vista points.

rioration is not general but local in resource will be unacceptably altered; similar to those which formed the basis of some of the low elevation High Peaks 2. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CAPA- trails. In Wilderness areas, these routes CITY or the subjective level beyond - could become the basis for several long

Informal sportsmen's paths to ponds the High Peaks Wilderness Area. With through overcrowding, noise or a lack of lakes, streams and waterfalis make ideal hiking routes. Utilizing these, short A third aspect of carrying capacity. nature walks with destinations of scenic

> Many desirable hiking destinations much work, including an update of the Department's Master Trail Atlas, needs to be done.

Permit Systems

As part of a study of a permit system for hikers and campers within the High Peaks, the committee undertook a background analysis of the types of permits issued in other wilderness management areas. This included a study of the effectiveness of permits and their acceptance by the public.

The committee has compiled a body of information documenting permit use in-Federal and State management areas throughout the United States. The committee feels these studies are important to the understanding of such systems as they relate to the High Peaks area.

Noting that most wilderness management areas now employ a permit system of some sort, the benefits of permi systems are described below.

1. EDUCATION-Permits provide an opportunity to educate the hiker or camper both to his safety and to his responsibility for the wilderness. They provide an opportunity for an educational contact between the ranger an the user.

2. STATISTICAL DATA-Permits can numbers of hikers or campers, the frequency of heavy use periods, group sizes and areas with greatest visitor appeal. Permits can provide the necessarv data for determining carrying capacity of trails, campsites or entire

3. Prevention of physical destruction of the wilderness. Permit systems which limit the numbers of hikers or campers can provide the means of protecting wilderness resources in situations where the carrying capacity of an area has been exceeded.

4. Maintenance of the valuable spiritual aspects of a wilderness experience. At times permit systems may be needed in specific areas to prevent the noise. overcrowding and deterioration of the environment which the wilderness visitor seeks to escape.

While the majority of the committee recommended the use of permits as an educational means and as a method of statistically analyzing camper use, there is reluctance to employ a limiting permit system until all other means of solving the area's problems have been exhausted.

However, the committee feels that permits may be inevitable in specific areas or in sections of the Adirondack Park

Marked Footpath Concept

The committee recommends that the DEC evaluate the new trail concept proposed by the Committee-The Marked Footpath. The committee believes that certain trails should be developed that would blend into the natural landscape to the highest degree possible, reducing the cost of construc-

tion and subsequent maintenance. The Marked Footpath would be such a route. The essential premise is that a footpath route would not be cleared but would be delineated by the use of sufficient trail markers. A herd path would soon develop with a defined print on the ground that could easily be followed. Should it be desired to abandon the route, the markers could be removed and relocated. Natural processes would then obliterate the route in a few seasons.

Such a trail will essentially be self maintaming, except for the replacement of markers. Hikers can belp in throwing of the non High Peak Adirondacks. This aside downed branches along the path and by not cutting any vegetation. Special markers should be used for areas (e.g., publication of new guide these paths. Explanations of the Marked routes of Marked Footpaths. Thes-

sion from the usual trail concept the



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PUBLIC INVITATION TO OWNERS TO MAKE DWELLING UNITS AVAILABLE FOR LEASING BY ELIGIBLE FAMILIES UNDER SECTION 8 **EXISTING HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS** PROGRAM

Owners and managers of rental housing in the Town of Wilmington are invited to participate in the Section 8 Existing Housing Assistance Payments Program which will provide rental assistance to the elderly, the handicapped and large families with low to moderate income. Funds for this program have been provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Town of Wilmington Housing Agency.

Under the Section 8 Program, direct monthly payments will be made to owners of rental property on behalf of eligible persons to cover part of their rental cost. In order to qualify for the Program, housing units must meet program housing standards, and must fall within the following H.U.D. Fair Market Rents (basic rent with utilities included) limits for Wilmington:

1 bedroom. \$125 2 bedrooms. \$148 3 bedrooms. \$164 4 bedrooms. \$181

In certain cases, the Fair Market Rents may be

increased up to 10% The Town of Wilmington Housing Agency will enter into a Housing Assistance Payment Contract with owners of acceptable units who agree to participate in the program, in order to provide monthly Housing Assistance Payments to the owner on behalf or participating families.

The benefits to owners of rental housing in the Town of Wilmington are: 1. Lessens possibility of late rental payment or non-

- payment Provides payment of a percentage of rental for
- vacancy period up to 60 days, when certain conditions are met: 3. Allows for annual rent adjustments due to inflation
- and increased cost, such as real property taxes and utilities:
- Guarantees payment of assisted portion of the rent. under terms and conditions of the Housing Assistance Payment Contract.

Owners and managers who are interested in offering units for participation in the program or who wish further information are encouraged to attend a public meeting Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wilmington Town Hall, Wilmington, N.Y., or call Patrick McIntyre at 946-7790. or Tom Randall at 946-7730.



Town of Wilmington Housing Agency Patrick McIntyre Program Manager 946-7790

