



SARANAC LAKE

VILLAGE ADVISORY BOARDS  
2022 REPORT





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## SLACAB Members

Kirk Sullivan, Chair  
Emilie Allen, Vice Chair  
Elaine Taylor-Wilde, Secretary  
Jess Collier  
Julia Csanko  
Kathy Ford  
Nathalie Thill  
Shaun Kittle  
Dylan Van Cott  
Kelly Brunette, Ex-Officio  
Member

## ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

The purpose of the Saranac Lake Arts and Culture Advisory Board (SLACAB) is to make recommendations to the Saranac Lake Village Board of Trustees regarding policies and actions that facilitate implementation of the Village of Saranac Lake Arts and Culture Master Plan. The Advisory Board will undertake actions that support the following vision statement:

“The historic Village of Saranac Lake supports thriving arts, cultural, and community institutions, in an all-inclusive environment that fosters the creative economy, community pride, downtown revitalization, and a myriad of diverse year-round offerings within outstanding natural surroundings.”

**SLACAB continues to focus their efforts on implementing strategies detailed in the Village of Saranac Lake Arts and Culture Master Plan.**

**SLACAB’s main focus has been to visually brand the village as an arts and culture destination through the implementation and expansion of public art.**



### ABOVE:

SLACAB organized Raining Poetry in 2021 with the Adirondack Center for Writing. Both groups hope to organize a new round of Raining Poetry in 2023.



**ADOPT-A-BENCH**

In the summer of 2022, SLACAB launched the Adopt-A-Bench initiative. Local artist Matt Hudson was selected to redesign the bench in Riverside Park, which was completed in July. His colorful, eye-catching design near one of our busiest intersections brands our village as a “decidedly different” arts destination. Soon, SLACAB will be selecting new artists to design other benches throughout the village.



**PROJECTION ART**

A weatherproof projector was installed in the Riverside Park Bandshell to display animated artwork on a nightly basis. So far, the projections have featured artwork provided by students of Saranac Lake Middle School and ADK ArtRise. In addition, a collaboration with the Saranac Lake Youth Center produced animated artwork that incorporates uplifting phrases that were featured during Mental Health Awareness Month. The artwork is animated and produced by Bing Bang Boom, Inc. and will continue to change monthly.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### MURAL MAKEOVER

The Mural Makeover Project has been SLACAB's most ambitious project to date. Members of SLACAB led a successful crowdfunding campaign that raised \$14,610 for this project. In the spring, the wall alongside Ward Plumadore Park was restored and prepped for the new mural that was painted by local artists Nip Rogers and Peter Seward throughout the summer. In October, the mural was unveiled in a ceremony with approximately fifty people in attendance. Stories featured in the local press and on social media helped raise awareness about this very exciting project that firmly brands our village as an arts and culture destination.

### ARTIST MIXER

In December, SLACAB collaborated with Saranac Lake ArtWorks to host the first "Artist Mixer" at The Garagery in downtown Saranac Lake, attracting over sixty artists. The crowd was a lively mix of local and non-local artists with diverse backgrounds and experiences.



# CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Public Art: 3-D Art in Prescott and Riverside Park (A Community Enhancement Project)
- Pop-Up Galleries in storefronts
- Adopt-A-Bench
- Raining Poetry
- Artists Mixers



**ABOVE:**

SLACAB members gathered with artists Nip Rogers and Peter Seward and Trustees Matt Scollin and Kelly Brunette for the ribbon cutting event to celebrate the Mural Makeover.

### DAB Members

Jerry Michael, Chair  
Kathy Steinbrueck, Vice Chair  
Jessica Ackerson  
Amy Catania  
Laura Cunningham  
CJ Hagmann  
Jacob Kipping  
Sue Smith-Zukin  
Kelly Brunette, Ex-Officio  
Member

## DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD

The purpose of the Downtown Advisory Board (DAB) is to make recommendations to the Saranac Lake Village Board of Trustees regarding policies and undertake actions that support the following mission statement:

*“Improve economic vitality by enhancing the experience, image and lifestyle of Downtown Saranac Lake.”*

The Board of Trustees established DAB on September 9, 2013 to advise the Board and staff on matters concerning the downtown area including but not limited to:

- Implementation of community plans for the downtown area
- Policies and actions that affect downtown
- Planning and implementation of downtown events, promotions, beautification, and fundraising
- Public infrastructure activities such as streetscape projects
- Other community matters that may affect Downtown Saranac Lake

DAB consists of nine volunteer members appointed by the Board.

### BELOW:

Downtown Saranac Lake boundary as defined in the DRI Strategic Investment Plan





## DAB Accomplishments/Projects

### Downtown Revitalization

Focusing on the DRI implementation has helped DAB apply concepts from the Main Street Approach, a guide for communities working to revitalize older and historic commercial districts to build stronger downtown focused economies.

### Ongoing Projects and Initiatives

- Banner Program
- Communication with Businesses, Residents, and Stakeholders
- Downtown Parking Inventory & Map
- Downtown Planter Program
- Education of Downtown Businesses: Sidewalk Sandwich Board and Open Flag Policy
- Rail Trail Connections
- Walk & Talks



RIGHT:

The Main Street Approach's Four Points

### Events

#### Music on the Green

The Music on the Green (MOTG) concert series celebrated its ninth season with six successful concerts in Riverside Park. Spring Street, a local group, brought in a crowd of two-hundred-fifty people, while the returning favorite ten-piece ensemble, Alex Torres and His Latin Orchestra, brought in a crowd of over three-hundred people! The MOTG Committee hopes to continue into the 2023 season with even higher attendance numbers. The MOTG Committee consists of one DAB member and the Ex-Officio member.



#### Downtown Trick or Treating

Coordinate the road closure with the Police Department and the Village DPW. Write and issue a press release. Design, print, and distribute window signs for participating businesses.

#### Light Up Downtown

Coordinate the road closure with the Police Department and the Village DPW for the fire truck parade. Coordinate with DPW on the Village Christmas Tree placement. Write and issue a press release. Design, print, and distribute event flyers.

#### Walk of Fame

Add new members as needed.



# SPOTLIGHT ON DOWNTOWN SARANAC LAKE'S HISTORY

- **Saranac Lake History**- Education on historic landmarks and corridors in Downtown and an examination on where historic practices and preservation overlaps with current Downtown priorities/initiatives. DAB relies on Amy Catania's insights and experience from 14+ years as HSL's Executive Director for history updates at the monthly DAB meeting and an occasional 'pop-quiz.'



Town's first high school was located at the site of the Hotel Saranac, 1843 Broadway Bridge sketch by William Distin, 1966



## DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD GOALS FOR 2023

- Further Implement Downtown Strategic Plan to strengthen Downtown Saranac Lake
- Walk and Talks Around Downtown
- Support the successful completion of DRI Public Projects
- Adopt a Food Truck Policy for Downtown
- Signage for Downtown Parks and Parking
- WiFi in Downtown Parks
- Downtown Saranac Lake Historic "Did you know?"
- Improve the appearance of public spaces in Downtown
  - Advocate for Walgreens to rehab the Pocket Park at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Church Street.
  - Name, install signage, and request the Village stripe and perform general maintenance for the public parking lot at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Broadway.
  - Advocate for Franklin County to paint the walls of the Broadway bridge over the Saranac River



# Downtown Business Snapshot



SERVICES

**82**



RETAIL SHOPS

**36**



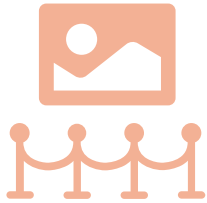
RESTAURANTS

**20**



ORGANIZATIONS

**12**



ART GALLERIES

**5**



CHURCHES

**7**



ATTRACTIONS

**5**



BANKS

**5**



HOTEL

**1**

## New Downtown Businesses

- Amor a la Vida- Amy Johnstone is back in Saranac Lake with fair trade alpaca blankets and apparel
- Bad-to-the-Bone Pet Grooming- Meg Risha has the shampoo and bows on Broadway for all pet grooming needs
- Champlain National Bank- The Saranac Lake branch moved onto Church Street to a renovated space
- Early Dawn Confections- Mark and Jill Zagrobelny are baking traditional breakfast pastries + gluten/dairy free treats
- Grand Union- The downtown location took over the space previously occupied by Tops Friendly Markets
- Mountain Mechanical- Heating, ventilating, and air conditioning needs



### **PTAB Members**

Ezra Schwartzberg, Chair  
Ashley Milne, Vice Chair  
Dwight Stevenson, Secretary  
Jimmy Cunningham  
Steve Langdon  
Tyler Merriam  
Colleen O'Neill  
Sara Roth  
Josh Wilson  
Rich Shapiro, Ex-Officio  
Member

## **PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD**

The purpose of the Parks and Trails Advisory Board (PTAB) is to make recommendations to the Saranac Lake Village Board on policy and implementation that support and promote healthy lifestyles through healthy infrastructure, such as walking, bicycling, parks, trails and other activities. PTAB was established by the Village Board on May 26, 2009 (originally established as the Healthy Infrastructure Advisory Board).

PTAB's main focus is on facilitating the implementation of the Village of Saranac Lake Trails Master Plan and Park Vision Plan as well as the Complete Streets Policy.

PTAB's other duties include:

- **Make recommendations on capital improvement projects, transportation improvement plans, recreation programs/plans and other Village programs and projects that relate to bicycling, walking and recreation**
- **Act in an advisory capacity in matters pertaining to public recreation and transportation**
- **Strategize for parks, recreation, leisure and transportation in Saranac Lake and hold public meetings for input on those strategies**
- **Establish funding priorities for grants**

The Village Board recently adopted the Community Forest Management Plan to guide management of Saranac Lake's urban forest by implementing a proactive, organized program that sets goals and monitors progress.



# 2022 Priority Projects

- **Fireworks Guidelines Issued**

» PTAB members provided recommendations to the Village for new fireworks guidelines for private permit requests, including the most environmentally friendly firework materials to be used, and a mandatory clean-up process to help eliminate fireworks debris. pollution.



- **Baldwin Park Redesign**

» The Village was awarded a LEAF grant for the redesign of Baldwin Park based on the concept in the Park Vision Plan. PTAB serves as the Project Advisory Committee. LaBella, the consultant, analyzed existing site conditions and presented three design options. Given the environmental conditions of the site and the waterfront, PTAB selected a design. The design was presented at a public meeting. Support for keeping a tennis court at the park was expressed during the public meeting and via the online survey. New courts are now being planned at Mt. Pisgah.



DPW planted trees in waterfront parks in celebration of Arbor Day to retain designation as a Tree City USA.

New Parks and Recreation Department Page was added to the Village website.

TREE CARE  
PARKS DEPT.

## Upgrades at Mt. Pisgah

- Thirty lights on the ski hill were converted to LEDs
- In total there are eight new locations for snow guns
- Clean Energy Communities (CEC) grant is being used to install an electric heat pump in the lodge, the goal is to continue to make improvements in energy efficiency



**2022 EVENTS: Pisgah Pedalfest (over one-hundred participants/volunteers), various ski team trainings and competitive races, youth ski lessons, and the annual Winter Carnival races and torchlight skiing.**

## Community Updates

- BETA- Worked with the newly formed Saranac Lake Innovative Cycling Kids (SLICK), to complete 1.25 miles of singletrack at the Saranac Lake High School. It is a project in support of the school’s “Out Ride” mountain bike program for middle and high school students.
- SLICK was born from a crew of one-more-lap mountain bike loving kids in Saranac Lake. They successfully worked to raise over \$34,000 to build the new Harrietstown Bike Park and pump track. The pump track has been completed and is open to the public.
- Friends of Mount Pisgah and various dedicated Pisgah volunteers helped build up the mountain’s snowmaking over the course of forty-four shifts totaling three-hundred-twenty-eight hours. Pisgah staff were supported by forty volunteers this season.
- Fireworks Clean Up- Volunteers removed debris after Winter Carnival fireworks.



## Bike & Pedestrian Infrastructure Update

- Trails
  - NEW! Harrietstown Bike Park off of John Munn Road (SLICK)
  - 1.28 miles of new trails (BETA)
  - Southern Gateway Connector Trail
    - » Four-hundred-fifty LF roughed in across the old sand pit and then paved by Village DPW to connect to the Rail Trail
    - » Three-hundred-forty LF on Will Rogers Drive sidewalk to connect the Southern Gateway Trail to Lake Flower Avenue



## Year-Three of Saranac Lake Trail Stewards

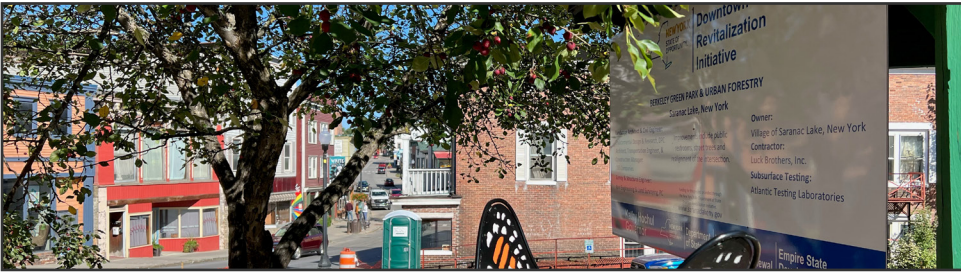
### Saranac Lake Trail Stewards

- Volunteers performed thirty-four and one-half hours of labor in 2022 on Baker Mtn., the Bloomingdale Bog trail, and Moose Pond trails.
- Volunteers removed blowdowns (nine and one-half hours), cleared culverts (fifteen hours), and did ditching/waterbar maintenance (nine hours).
- Volunteers provide rapid response to blowdown complaints when NYSDEC’s seasonal trail crew is not available.

# CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Continued DRI Project Implementation
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Update

- Rail Trail Connections
- Prioritizing and Selecting New Playground Equipment



## PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND STREETScape DESIGN

### Berkeley Green

Restroom building is framed and roof is complete. Paving and concrete work is complete. Above grade plumbing and electrical rough-in are in progress within mechanical room and bathrooms.



### Ward Plumadore Park

Construction will begin next spring, with demolition and landscaping.

### William Morris (Carousel) Park

Storm drain structures are installed and concrete walkways are poured. The project will resume in the spring with installation of the fence, paver walkway, landscaping, amenities, and the finishing of the entryways.



### Urban Forestry/Streetscapes

The layout for the trees has been redesigned after a walk-through. The work on the intersection of Main Street and Broadway is scheduled to coincide with the tree planting in spring 2023.

### DRI by the Numbers: 5 Private Ownership Facilities Created/Enhanced, 2 Public/Private Partnership Projects, 5 Public Projects

Play ADK, Bitters & Bones, Pendragon Theatre, Historic Saranac Lake Museum, and The Carry | Tom Boothe Whitewater Park, Energize Downtown Fund Established | Berkeley Green, Ward Plumadore Park, William Morris Park, Woodruff Street, and Main & Broadway Urban Forestry



THANK YOU TO ADIRONDACK RESEARCH FOR THE INDESIGN TEMPLATE