



VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE
ADVISORY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
2023





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Arts and Culture Advisory Board

2023 Members

- Kirk Sullivan, Chair
- Emilie Allen, Vice Chair
- Elaine Taylor-Wilde, Secretary
- Echo
- Julia Csanko
- Kathy Ford
- Shaun Kittle
- Nathalie Thill
- Dylan Van Cott

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 on visually branding the village as an arts and culture destination through the implementation and expansion of public art.



SLACAB’s Artist Mixer event series included the opportunity for attendees to collaborate on a work of art.





ADOPT-A-BENCH PROGRAM

In the summer of 2022, SLACAB launched the Adopt-A-Bench initiative and this program continued into 2023. After SLACAB distributed a call-for-artists to “adopt” benches throughout the village, an additional three artists were selected: Jordyn Sharpe, Peter Avery Bird, and Julia Fatato.



Their new, colorful benches can be seen in Garwood Park, on Main Street, and on Upper Broadway by the Adirondack Center for Writing. To date, this program has “adopted” four benches throughout the village that add colorful, eye-catching designs.



PROJECTION ART

The projector that was installed in the Riverside Park Bandshell continues to display animated artwork on a nightly basis. In 2023, the projections featured original art from students of the Saranac Lake Middle School and a collaboration with the Saranac Lake Youth Center. Animated artwork incorporated uplifting phrases for Mental Health Awareness Month. The artwork is animated and produced by Bing Bang Boom, Inc. and will continue to change monthly.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS ALONG LAKE FLOWER

In collaboration with members of the Downtown and the Parks & Trails Advisory Boards, members of SLACAB spearheaded the Community Enhancement project that produced three unique installations of public art alongside Lake Flower in Prescott Park and Riverside Park.



After a nationwide call-for-artists successfully garnered dozens of applicants, three artists were selected: Matthew Horner (pictured above), Kirk Seese, and Steven Gutierrez (pictured below). In the summer of 2023, their installations were installed along Lake Flower, invigorating the landscape with unique, eye-catching artwork that continues to brand Saranac Lake as an arts destination.



ARTIST PARTIES

Members of SLACAB held two Artist Parties in 2023, hosting hundreds of artists. These events help galvanize and grow the local artistic community and build upon Saranac Lake's culturally rich, welcoming, and "decidedly different" village identity. The purpose of these semi-annual events is to bring together creative people of diverse backgrounds in our community.



2024 GOALS & INITIATIVES



SLACAB is dedicated to continuing to visually brand the village as an arts and culture destination through the implementation and expansion of public art. There are several SLACAB specific projects that help to further this mission:

- **Public Art Plaques-** Design and install four permanent plaques that will recognize the artists, projects, and the village's role in each project, to be installed at the three public art installations alongside Lake Flower, the mural near Ward Plumadore Park, and potentially at one or more Bug Crawl installations
- **Pop-Up Art in Empty Storefronts-** Curate temporary art installations inside windows of empty storefronts throughout downtown, including art installations by students
- **Downtown Bathroom Mural-** Design and produce a small mural to be painted inside the brick framing
- **Artist Parties-** Additional mixers that support and help expand our local artistic community
- **Adopt-A-Bench Program-** Continue to put out a call to local artists to design and paint public benches
- **Public Performances-** Support live performances of various art mediums in and around the village
- **Projection Art-** Continue to curate and produce digital art to be featured in the Riverside Park Bandshell

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD

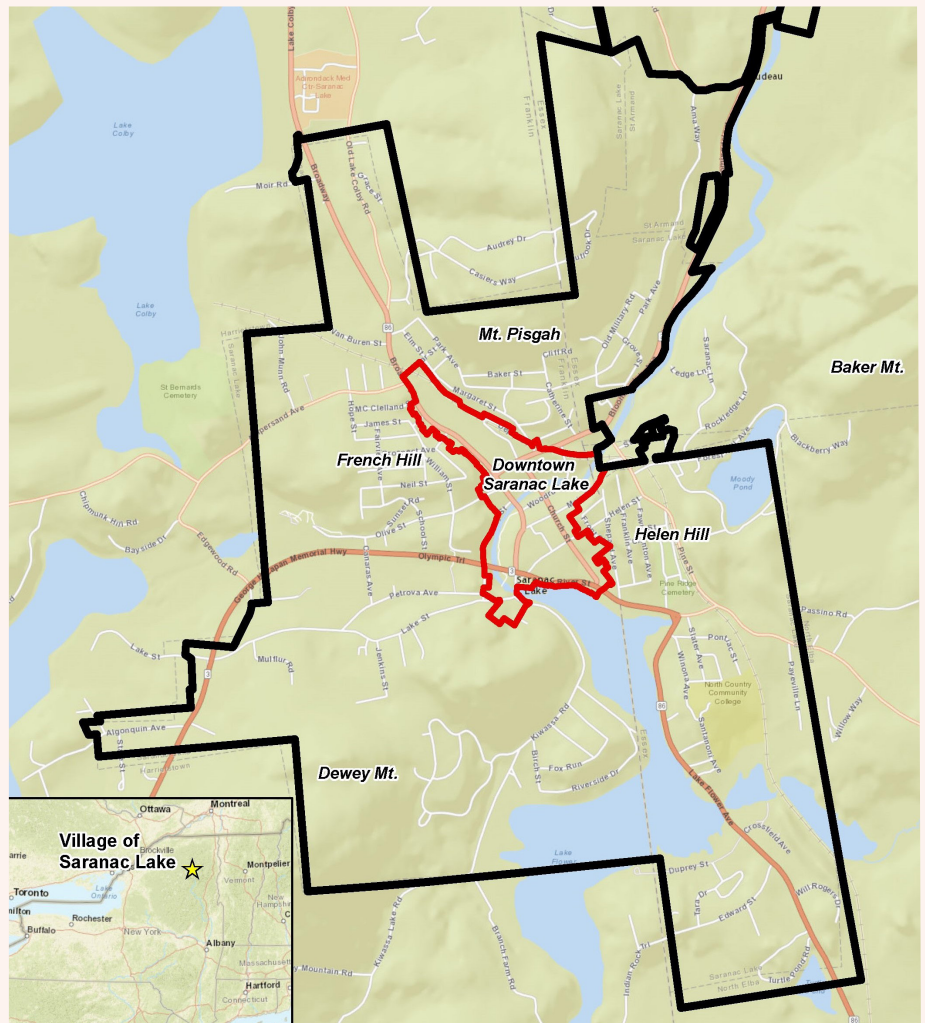
The purpose of the Downtown Advisory Board (DAB) is to make recommendations to the Saranac Lake Village Board of Trustees regarding policies and undertake actions that support the following mission statement:

“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.



VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE

— INC. 1892 —

Downtown Advisory Board

2023 Members

Jerry Michael, Chair
Kathy Steinbrueck, Vice Chair
Amy Catania
Mark Coleman
CJ Hagmann
Jacob Kipping
Sue Smith Zudin
Kt Stiles
Jake Widrick

DAB ACCOMPLISHMENTS ONGOING PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

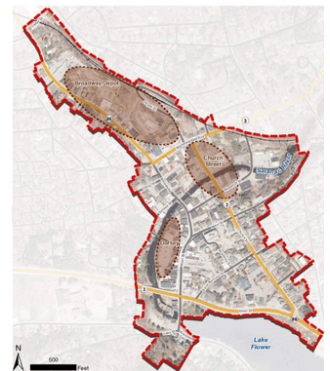
2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Broadway Bridge repainting
- Walk and Talks around downtown to continue to establish needs
- Drafted language for the Food Truck Law that was later adopted by the Village Board
- 2023 Season of Music on the Green, Community Clean Up Downtown Day, Downtown Trick or Treating and Light Up Downtown
- Village streets with snowmobile access revised and extended to Main St.
- Revised Banner Program with new set of banners
- Connected with "Walgreens" pocket park landowner to inquire about park upkeep items



ONGOING PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

- Pursued installation of WiFi in the following parks per the SLICC contract: Berkeley Green and William Morris Park
- Identify placement and increase signage for WiFi in Riverside Park, William Morris Park, and Berkeley Green
- Establish contact for upkeep of pocket park at the corner of Bloomingdale Ave. and Church St.
- Depot Area development and other rail trail connections
- Communicate significant community calendar dates and other initiatives that impact Downtown
- Replace benches and lighting in the "Walgreens" park if property owner allows the Village to do so



ANNUAL DAB RESPONSIBILITIES & TASKS

- Downtown Banner Program
- Downtown Parking Inventory & Map Updates
- Downtown Flower Planter Program
- Education of Downtown Businesses
 - Sidewalk Sandwich Board
 - Open Flag Policy

VILLAGE BOARD PRIORITIES FOR DOWNTOWN

In order to enhance Saranac Lake as a "**decidedly different**" community, the Village Board decided to invest in the following initiatives to continue to improve the quality of life of residents and visitors:

- Community Enhancement Programming- Free community programming
- Community Enhancement Projects- The three Advisory Boards will identify project(s) to be implemented. Projects will be tied directly to one or more of the following adopted plans:
 - Downtown Saranac Lake Strategic Investment Plan (2019), Arts and Culture Master Plan (2018), and Park Vision Plan (2018).
- Revise and Develop the Downtown Saranac Lake Strategic Plan (2019)

2024 GOALS & INITIATIVES



DAB is committed to implementing existing and new community plans that focus on enhancements to the downtown area. DAB will continue to do this through the following goals and initiatives:

- **Revise and Implement Downtown Strategic Plan-** Edit to create a post-DRI project document for future planning, grants, and needs and then dedicate time as an advisory board to study the plan and make recommendations to the Village Board
- **Coordinate Needs for Streetscape Improvements with Planned Capital Projects-** Adjusting to the needs of the community in the downtown area as various plans take shape and road repairs, sidewalk enhancements, and other planning initiatives are completed
- **Depot Area Development Alongside Opening of Adirondack Rail Trail-** Examine where historic preservation overlaps with current Downtown priorities/initiatives for rail trail connections
- **Continue to host events to attract residents and visitors to Downtown-** Partner with area organizations to increase cross-promotion efforts and capacity
 - Summer series:** Music on the Green
 - Fall event:** Downtown Trick or Treating
 - Winter event:** Light Up Saranac Lake
 - Spring event:** Community Clean Up Downtown Day
- **Improve Appearance of Public Spaces in Downtown-** Name, install signage, and request the village stripe and perform general maintenance for the public parking lot at the corner of Bloomingdale Ave. and Broadway and installation of storm drain in front of Owl's Nest
- **Communicate to Downtown Businesses, Organizations, and Residents-** Continue to help share information regarding village projects, significant community calendar dates, and other initiatives that may impact Downtown

Downtown Business Snapshot



SERVICES

82



RETAIL SHOPS

36



RESTAURANTS

20



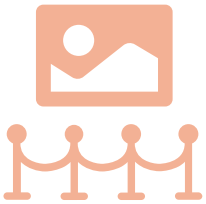
ORGANIZATIONS

12



BANKS

5



ART GALLERIES

5



CHURCHES

7



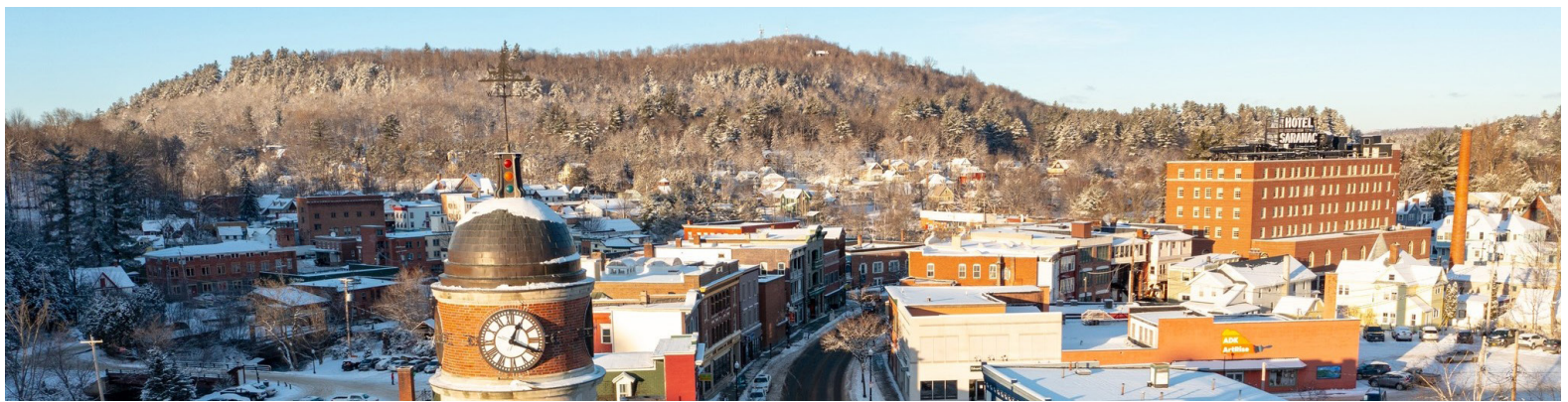
ATTRACTIONS

5



HOTEL

1



New Downtown Businesses

- **Anne's Crepes-** With the French flair that she is known for, Anne Sterling Alsina cranks out savory and sweet crepes
- **Bitters and Bones (Expansion)-** Added seating with a rooftop deck overlooking Broadway and the Downtown
- **Bloom ADK-** Women's clothing store, boutique featuring fun accessories with plenty of local flair
- **Coldwell Banker Whitbeck-** Real estate office for the area
- **Eight Academy Boutique-** Cozy boutique features fine art, an independent clothing line, pottery, jewelry, and vintage homewares
- **Heartwood Studios-** Boutique gift shop and creative studio that designs and crafts many of the products you'll find in the store
- **Jamdots Baking Co.-** Baked goods, soups & sandwiches, delicious coffee and tea options
- **Left Bank Market-** A place to shop for unique and finer foods and freshly baked goods
- **Our Plates-** Chef Charles is serving up dishes inspired by Latin and Southern food

PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD



Parks and Trails Advisory Board

2023 Members

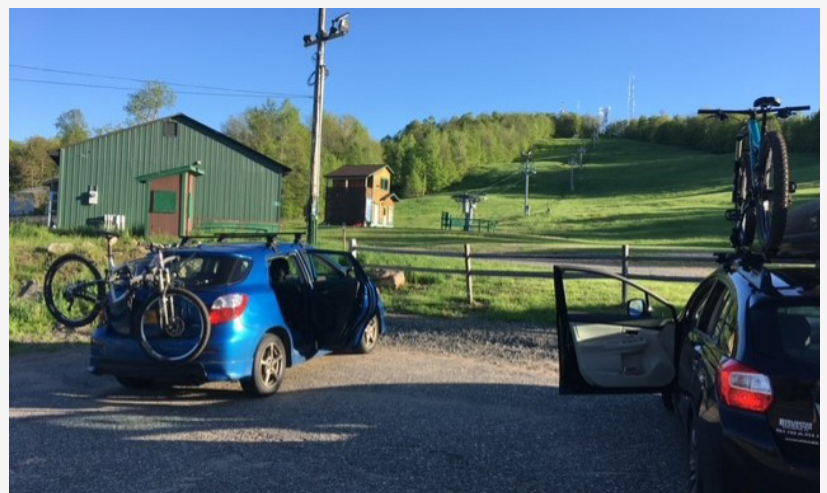
Ezra Schwartzberg, Chair
Steve Langdon, Vice Chair
Rebecca Tandler, Secretary
Stacey Allot
Jimmy Cunningham
Charlotte Lomino
Ashley Milne
Colleen O'Neill
Leigh Walrath

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, and was originally established as the Healthy Infrastructure Advisory Board (HIAB).

PTAB's main focus is on facilitating the implementation of the Village of Saranac Lake Trails Master Plan, the Park Vision Plan and 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



PTAB ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Rail Trail Signage and Safety:** PTAB worked with Kendra Omerod from the NYSDEC to learn about wayfinding and safety signage along the Rail Trail. Topics covered the jurisdiction of DEC and DOT over the trail, and the existing Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor Report. Concerns were raised about the safety of Fowlers Crossing, especially in a 45mph zone, and plans were made to collaborate with local government and DOT to extend a 30-mph zone or implement other traffic calming measures. Kendra informed PTAB about the strict adherence of the DEC to the Rail Trails Unit Management Plan, which recommends signage throughout the corridor. PTAB drafted a letter to the NYS DOT citing safety concerns over rail trail crossings and presented it to the Village Board.
- **Complete Streets Assessments:** In their analysis of Main Street and Ampersand Avenue, PTAB members Rich and Charlotte focused on creating a pedestrian and cyclist friendly environment. Downtown, they suggested having consistent, narrower vehicle travel lane widths and improving the pedestrian experience by narrowing vehicle entrance travel lanes and widening sidewalks. At both locations, they proposed using bicycle-safe inlet grating and incorporating traffic calming measures at crosswalks to encourage slow speeds where pedestrians are expected to interact with vehicle traffic. These recommendations are aimed to enhance safety and accessibility for all road users.
- **Capital Improvement Planning:** PTAB members worked to prioritize projects for the village's development by reviewing several key documents, such as the Parks Vision Plan, the 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, to guide prioritization of initiatives. The aim was to categorize and prioritize projects that would improve road safety and infrastructure, focusing on areas like intersection improvements, sidewalk improvements, and rail trail connections. PTAB members were encouraged to identify and choose top road safety issues and larger initiatives to focus their energy on for 2024 .
- **Mount Pisgah and Baldwin Park Grants:** Pisgah received funding from the North Elba LEAF grant to purchase and install a new snowmaking pipe at the ski area. While PTAB played only a small role in this initiative, they found it worth highlighting due to the huge positive impact it will bring to Saranac Lake's winter recreation. Baldwin Park received funding to move ahead with the Baldwin Park redesign as well.
- **Playgrounds and Park Improvements:** Andy and his team were able to install new playground equipment at Garwood Park this year and we were able to have a signage template designed for park signage.



COMMUNITY UPDATES

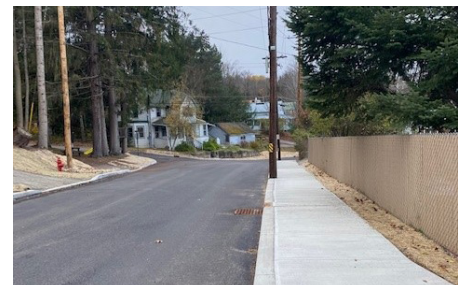
- **BETA-** Completed 0.75 miles of new single track mountain bike trails in the Fowler's Crossing network.
- **SLICK-** Successful 3rd annual Pedalfest in July, despite the torrential downpour! The summer biking series was ran with the LP Outing Club and Hardy Kids. PTAB is working with the Town of Harrietstown to expand the jump line at the bike park. The 2024 Pisgah Pedalfest will take place on June 1st this year.
- **Fireworks Clean Up-** Volunteers removed debris after Winter Carnival fireworks.

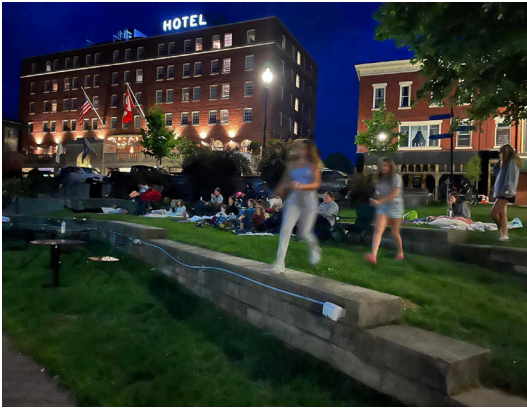
2024 GOALS & INITIATIVES



PTAB is founded on the overarching goal to promote healthy lifestyles through healthy infrastructure in the village. There are several upcoming projects that broaden this mission through implementable actions:

- **Downtown Bike Rack planning & installation**
- **Adirondack Rail Trail crossing safety improvements**
- **Adirondack Rail Trail education signage**
- **Riverside Park Bandshell upgrade study**
- **The return of the Community Bike Ride**
- **The expansion of the Saranac Lake Trail Stewards, volunteer-led trail maintenance**
- **Continuation of Capital Improvement Planning, including a complete streets assessment of Lake Flower Avenue**
- **Expand pollinator habitats in the village and integrate climate change into park planning**





ADVISORY BOARDS JOINT PROGRAMMING/PROJECTS

In order to enhance Saranac Lake as a "decidedly different" community, the Village of Saranac Lake Board of Trustees will invest in Community Enhancement Programming and Projects to improve the quality of life of residents.

In 2023, two outdoor movie nights were offered as part of the programming and one public art installation was made possible as part of the project fund.

2024 GOALS FOR THE CEF COMMITTEE



The selected committee, comprised of two members from each advisory board, is slated to begin meetings in March of 2024 with a primary focus on “activating” Ward Plumadore Park



THANK YOU TO ADIRONDACK RESEARCH FOR THE INDESIGN TEMPLATE