

## APA has new executive director

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RAY BROOK — The Adirondack Park Agency has hired Terry deFranco Martino as its new executive director.

Martino has spent 23 years working for the Adirondack North Country Association, where she now serves as executive director.

She will fill a seat vacated in spring of 2007 when Richard Lefebvre retired. Two APA staff directors have served as interim since that time.

"Terry Martino brings an incredibly rich background and understanding of the Adirondack Park, its people and its needs," APA Board of Directors Chairman Curt Stiles said in a news release Friday.

"We are extremely fortunate to have someone with Terry's established management abilities, leadership skills and demonstrated success in the key leadership position at the agency."

### PARK RESIDENT

Appointed by the APA Board of Commissioners, Martino's hire was approved by Gov. David Paterson.

A resident of Onchiota, Martino takes the APA helm Aug. 12, the day before the August monthly meeting, at a salary of \$90,800.

Stiles said blending Martino's long-standing relationships with local leaders and APA charter could spark an era of reform.

"The APA's mission and charter are really dictated by statute," he said. "The biggest inhibitor in building consensus in the park is trust, just good old-fashioned honest communication.

"Some of those barriers were built over time, and here is a person able to translate and bridge. This (appointment) says words and behavior are the same thing. We, more than anybody, would like to effect agency (APA) reform."

balance crucial

Martino is away camping for the weekend and could not be reached for comment Friday.

She released a statement through APA thanking Gov. David Paterson, Stiles and APA staff for the opportunity to work with them.

"Throughout my career, I have recognized the tremendous value of balancing economic and community development with environmental stewardship inside the park."

Sen. Betty Little (R-Queensbury) said Martino is someone who could bring all sides of an issue together.

"Terry has the local perspective of those living and working in the park. She's well-versed on the issues the APA takes up. And Terry has the personal and professional qualities that I think will help her bring people together, resolve differences and build consensus."

#### LOSS TO ANCA

Jim Ellis, a director for Adirondack North Country Association, said Martino's departure would leave a vacuum in their operation, at least for the short term.

"It means a huge hole at ANCA. I have worked with people all my life but never with anyone who seems to balance a huge number of initiatives all at the same time and does every one of them well."

But Ellis said her experience will deliver important benefits to APA.

"She's bringing a keen, analytic mind. I think she's also bringing an appreciation of what normal Adirondackers have to face in their everyday work and everyday life.

"All the work she's done up to this point has been focused on economic well-being of the North Country."

#### RIGHT COMBINATION

Garry Douglas, president and CEO of the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce, called Martino's appointment a terrific choice.

"It's a happy surprise. Terry is the perfect combination of things you want to see in that position. She certainly is sensitive to natural beauty of the Adirondacks, and at the same time, she understands the reality of engaging in economic development and creating jobs.

"My hope would be that she will help bring a return to the original charter of APA, which is to demonstrate how people and preserved environment can coexist."

#### WORKS WITH LOCALS

Fred Monroe, director of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and a designee on the APA Board of Commissioners, said Martino works extremely well with local government leaders and will provide strength to APA.

"I think it's a positive development. She has the knowledge, and I think she has always been and will remain open to discussing issues with local government leaders in the park."

The Adirondack Council said Martino could signal a change in weight for APA priorities.

"She's got a lot of experience with local government," said spokesman John Sheehan.

"Terry brings skills that are very much needed — she has a lot of expertise in planning, offering assistance to local government to gain class B jurisdiction in their communities, which gives them more autonomy in terms of what their community looks like in the future."

The shift in workload would allow APA to work on larger-scale Adirondack issues.

#### OVERSAW BUDGET

At ANCA, Martino oversaw every detail of personnel, programs and finances, with annual budgets ranging from \$600,000 to \$2.5 million.

She just completed work coordinating the Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project, accomplished, in part, through grants she helped obtain from the Department of State.

She has been a member of the Department of Transportation Scenic Byways Advisory Board since 1992 and helped secure millions in grant monies from federal and state agencies.

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