

Feldman resigns APA post

By James M. Odatto

Acting Adirondack Park Agency Chair Karen Feldman resigned her post in May after unsuccessful attempts to get paid for the full-time work she was doing at the Ray Brook-based state agency, she told the *Adirondack Explorer*.

"I have other things to do with my life," she said. "I'm not upset. I'm not bitter."

Many people who follow the agency had expected the 61-year-old attorney to be appointed to the top job earlier this year. Her candidacy was somewhat controversial because her appointment by the governor would have broken an unwritten understanding that the APA chair must be an Adirondack Park resident.

Feldman, who lives in Columbia County, said executive staff members for Gov. Andrew Cuomo had tried to help her get appointed as chair to make her eligible for the post's

\$30,000 salary. Instead, she has served as acting chair since last July, limited to the \$5,000 in per diem payments available for APA board members each year.

Cuomo appointed Feldman to the agency in 2013, and she began leading its board last summer, after Sherman Craig resigned as chair. During nearly 10 months without pay, she said, she had been told that her appointment papers were on the governor's desk.

The APA now has the fewest members serving in its history, noted Peter Bauer, executive director of Protect the Adirondacks. The 11-member board includes three state agency commissioners and just five of the

eight citizen members it should have. Of the five, four are serving in expired terms.

"The governor has struggled to find independent people who have a broad range of experience in environmental law and park management," Bauer said.

A Cuomo spokesman had no comment. ■

Karen Feldman