

Lake George Mirror
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Prominent Conservationist Picked for Commission

By ANTHONY F. HALL

Dr. Dean Cook of northern Lake George has been selected by New York State Governor David Paterson to become the newest member of the Lake George Park Commission.

Cook, a Ticonderoga dentist, would replace Tom Morehouse, also of Essex County, whose term has expired.

The appointment is subject to the confirmation of the New York State Senate.

The Senate's Committee on Environmental Conservation voted on February 24 to forward Cook's nomination to the Senate Finance Committee, which must also approve the Governor's choice before it is brought before the Senate as a whole.

If confirmed, Cook will serve a term that ends in 2017.

"I've devoted forty years to the protection of Lake George and serving as a member of the Lake George Park Commission is an opportunity to continue that work," said Cook.

"I've been heartened by the Commission's efforts to tackle such important issues as stream corridor protections, and I know it has a great potential to contribute to the health of the lake," he added.

Cook's family is one of the oldest in northern Lake George. An ancestor settled in the area in 1796 and the family's property once extended from Baldwin to Hague.

Today, Cook helps maintain the family's 250 acres near Heart Bay that were until recently part of a working farm.

That property, which includes eight guest cottages, has been hailed as a model of sustainable development.

Since returning to Lake George to join his father's dental practice in the 1970s, Cook has served on the boards of the Adirondack Council, the High Peaks Audubon Society, the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, and the Lake George Land Conservancy.

"Dean Cook will be an excellent addition to the Lake George Park Commission," said Pete Bauer, the executive director of The Fund for Lake George. "He holds Lake George and its communities near and dear to him."

Walt Lender, the executive director of the Lake George Association, noted, “Dean Cook will be a passionate member of the Lake George Park Commission. He’s a dogged steward of the lake.”

Cook is a 1962 graduate of Ticonderoga Central School. He attended the State University of New York at Buffalo and Seton Hall before entering the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received his degree in Dental Medicine in 1971. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

The Lake George Park Commission is composed of nine members from each of the three counties in the Lake George basin and a representative of the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.