



PRESS RELEASE

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PROTECT Names New Board Chair

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Barbara Rottier elected to succeed Chuck Clusen as Chair of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Protect the Adirondacks (PROTECT) has elected Barbara Rottier to serve as its next Chair, succeeding Chuck Clusen, who has led the organization since its formation in 2009.

At its October 3, 2026, meeting, the Board of Directors held its election of officers pursuant to the organization's bylaws. The board unanimously elected Rottier as Chair, bringing decades of experience in Adirondack issues and public service to her new leadership role. She has served on the Board of Directors since 2017.

Rottier previously served as Associate Counsel to the Adirondack Park Agency from 1985 to 2010, and prior to that worked at the New York State Office of the Attorney General in the Litigation Bureau. Early in her career, she worked as a Clerk for the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division for two years. She currently lives in Vermontville, where she is an active member of the community.

"I'm honored to be serving as Chair of this remarkable organization that works tirelessly to protect the natural resources of the Forever Wild Forest Preserve and serves as an advocate for the human communities throughout the Adirondack Park," said Barbara Rottier, Esq.

Clusen served as Chair of the organization since its formation in 2009. He was instrumental in bringing together the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and the Resident's Committee for the Protection of the Adirondacks to form the combined organization now known as Protect the Adirondacks. PROTECT presented the Howard Zahniser Adirondack Award to Clusen during the organization's Annual Meeting on July 11 at Garnet Hill Lodge in North River, NY, recognizing his extraordinary lifetime of leadership in protecting wilderness across the United States and defending New York's Adirondack Forest Preserve. "It has been a joy and highlight of my career to serve as Chair of Protect the Adirondacks. I've enjoyed working closely with Barbara while she served as Vice Chair of the Board and I have complete confidence in her

as the organization's next Chair. I know that she will successfully lead the organization forward into its next chapter" said Clusen, now immediate past chair.

Clusen will continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, having been reelected to another three-year term by PROTECT's full membership in July 2026. "We are grateful for Chuck's leadership over these many years, and we will be leaning on his institutional knowledge and expertise as we carry on the mission of Protect the Adirondacks," said Rottier.

PROTECT's Executive Director Claudia Braymer manages the organization's advocacy efforts, education and outreach, public oversight of state and local agencies, legal action, and engagement with others in the ongoing dialogue about the future of the Park. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm, and I look forward to engaging with Barbara as the new Chair of the Board," said Claudia Braymer, Executive Director of PROTECT.

Protect the Adirondacks thanks Clusen for his many years of leadership and welcomes Rottier as the organization's new Board Chair.

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks is an IRS-approved non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park. Our mission is to protect the Adirondack Park's wild character for current and future generations. PROTECT pursues this mission through a combination of advocacy, grassroots organizing, independent public oversight, research, water quality monitoring, education, and legal action. Protect the Adirondacks was formed in 2009 as the result of a merger between two long-standing environmental conservation groups in the Adirondack Park, the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (est. 1991) and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (est. 1901).

Protect the Adirondacks is managed by a 23-member Board of Directors of Adirondack leaders with expertise in environmental law, local government, Adirondack environmental and cultural history, state agency management, and small business. Protect the Adirondacks maintains an office in a 100% energy efficient, solar-and wind-powered office in Johnsbury in the central Adirondacks. For more information see www.protectadks.org and @ProtectAdkPark.

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